sionaries at Cape Palmas, who, though wholly separate from the Society in all respects other than as residents in its territories, still rendered it important services in the promotion of its views towards the natives, by offering to these last the blessings of religious instruction, and teaching them the arts and learning of civilization.

The Board thus prominently notice these facts in their Report, because one of the most gratifying circumstances connected with the existence of the colony, has been its total exemption from native wars—and one of the most valuable qualifications of Governor Russwurm is the calm, firm and moderate manner in which he has at all times met occasions that threatened collision with the natives. During the last year this has been the more remarkable, because the colony at Cape Palmas has been the only one on the coast in which the military and the natives have not been in hostile array against each other. The enemies of Colonization, in their allegations against it, have always dwelt upon the tendency of a civilized emigration to encroach upon and finally to exterminate the aborigines of the country to which it went—and prophecied the same results towards the natives of Africa, that had been exhibited in the case of the Indians of the western continent. Every thing that disproves this charge must be hailed with peculiar satisfaction by the christian and the philanthropist; and even the politician who looks to Colonization but as the means of removing what he deems to be an evil, will consider it as all the more commended to his favour, by the fact, that its results are in every other respect promotive of the happiness of the human race.

Of course it is not pretended that the settlement of the emigrants at Cape Palmas has wrought such a change among the natives, as to prevent their ever giving cause of offence, or indulging in the propensities towards theft and falsehood, which are the characteristics of savages, and which are the fruitful sources of dispute and war, when they come into contact with civilized man. The people governed by the kings around Cape Palmas, claim no exemption from the charges made against the other natives along the coast—all of whom have had the disadvantage of a three hundred years association with the traders of all nations, which has not been calculated to impart to them one of the virtues of civilization, but has been the competent instructor to apt scholars in all its vices. The course pursued by Governor Russwurm has been such, however, as to prevent collision with the natives, without sacrificing the dignity or reputation of his government. Instead of avenging on the instant, with the strong arm, an act of aggression which circumstances did not permit him to punish without violence, he has awaited the opportunity which never failed to arrive, when the aggressors were at a disadvantage, or were desirous of favours at his hands. He has then demanded reparation, and insisted upon having it afforded by the strict measure of justice. This policy is well known

to the natives—they say among themselves that 'it is useless to do the governor wrong, for he never forgets, and pay day is sure to come some time or other'—and in most instances this consideration either restrains them from the commission of an offence, or makes them, after it is committed, volunteers in its reparation, to avoid a state of suspense and doubt until the governor takes up the matter for himself.

It is impossible to foresee what may be the future relations of the colony of Maryland in Liberia with the great country on whose margin it now presents so slight a mark; but the Board entertain the hope that as it grows with the emigration from America, by its own natural increase, and by absorption into it of the surrounding native tribes, it will be an increasing blessing to Africa, and a striking proof that the contact of the civilized man and the savage is only fatal to the existence of the latter, when the barrier of colour interposes an obstacle to amalgamation which can never be overcome.

Not only have the relations of the colonists and natives during the last year afforded to the Board the highest gratification, but the situation of the internal concerns of the colony have been in the highest degree satisfactory.

Among the most important considerations connected with the colony, is its health. The fear of sickness there has often been sufficient to deter many who would otherwise have emigrated, and it has been the policy of our opponents to exaggerate the mortality in the settlements. In a letter from the Rev. Mr. Minor, of the Episcopal Mission, dated, May 26th, 1840, he says, 'the health of the missionaries is uniformly good, and consequently their ability to labour is much increased.' Dr. Sam. F. McGill, the colonial physician, writes under date of the 26th September, 'it is with great pleasure I am able to announce a state of perfect healthiness in the colony. Since June last, we have had no deaths. Indeed, I do not know that there ever has been a more healthy period than the present.'

In the early periods of African Colonization, ignorance of the best mode of treating diseases incident to the climate, the unsheltered condition of the colonists, and the despondency that at times prevailed in consequence of the privations natural to their condition as first settlers, caused frequent deaths, which instead of being attributed to temporary, and often accidental circumstances, were taken as furnished the standard by which the effect of the African climate on the constitution was forever to be estimated. Now, that the colonists are comfortably housed and fed, and well clothed, and of contented mind, and that experienced physicians are at hand, the mortality among them is not greater in Africa than it would have been had they remained in the United States. In many instances, where intemperate persons have emigrated, their health has improved, and their life no doubt been prolonged beyond what it would have been had they remained in this

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47