REPORT OF THE MANAGERS

OF THE

STATE COLONIZATION FUND,

FOR THE

REMOVAL OF THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOUR.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, BALTIMORE,
January 20th, 1841.

To his Excellency, WILLIAM GRASON,
Governor of Maryland:

THE Report of the undersigned, Managers of the State Colonization Fund, under the act of 1831, ch. 281, respectfully states, that during the last year they have drawn from the treasury the sum of $10,000, being the amount limited by the act of the legislature of the last session; a part of which has been appropriated through the agency of the Maryland State Colonization Society, in the payment of the expenses incurred in the transportation of emigrants to Africa heretofore, and in the maintaining of them there, as authorized by the act above mentioned, and a part in the dissemination of information through the State, as also authorized by the same act. The number of manumissions during the past year has been 128, making the whole number since the passage of the act 2,300. During the past year no emigrants have been sent from the State to Africa; the current of feeling among the free coloured population having turned their attention to the British West India islands, and diverted it wholly, for the present, from other quarters. The undersigned believe, from the events of the last twelve months, that the feeling is increasing among the free coloured people, that this is not their appropriate home, and that, sooner or later, emigration to other lands will be to their happiness and well being. Hitherto they have remained in the United States, with the belief, that by preserving here their numbers undiminished they would ultimately obtain social and political equality with the whites. This has been the abolition doctrine that has been spread among them, and by which they have been influenced heretofore. It is believed now, however, to have lost its weight, in a great measure, and there is a restlessness among the thinking and prudent of the free coloured people, which indicates a thorough change in their feelings with reference to removal. That

emigration to the British West Indies will long continue in favour, the undersigned cannot believe—for the persons wanted there are labourers for the sugar crops—a species of toil, to which the negroes from Maryland are unaccustomed, and in which they must be brought into competition with the emancipated slaves of the island, whenever these last choose to return to the habits of labour from which their emancipation has released them.

The undersigned mention this in no hostility to emigration of the free coloured people to Trinidad and Guiana, but as indicating a probable result, which under any circumstances it would be prudent to provide for, and which has been most fully provided for in the establishment of the colony of Maryland in Liberia, whose prosperity and success thus far is believed to be without a parallel in the whole history of colonization. This colony is now capable of receiving all the persons that may choose to emigrate to it; and, when the restless feeling among the coloured population, already alluded to, becomes disappointed in the results of the West India scheme, will furnish an alternative by which it can be gratified, in a manner promotive, not only of *their* best interests, but of the best interests of the people of Maryland from whom they will go forth.

In the year 1790, there were 8,043 free negroes in Maryland; the late census shews that there are 17,980 in the city of Baltimore alone, and 61,937 in the state of Maryland. This population, which is among us, but not of us—which has no interest in common with us, which is debarred political and social rights, and which can anticipate no change for the better, may well be dissatisfied with their position, and look abroad for a more congenial home. It is the part of a wise policy to provide one. This has been done—and however the free coloured people may, for a while, vacillate in the selection of their permanent abiding place, there is little doubt that they will ultimately prefer removing to a place where the coloured man fills all the offices in the government, rather than to a place where their removal still leaves them under the predominant influences of a white population, in which the coloured man is trusted with power, not as his right, but as a favour. The condition of the coloured population is of great interest, and the undersigned see nothing yet to induce them to doubt the policy of the State in relation to it.

The undersigned transmit, herewith, a copy of the Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, being the last they have issued, which is fully explanatory of their plans and policy, And have the honour to be

Most respectfully,
CHAS. HOWARD,
WM. R. STUART,
F. ANDERSON.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47