It was the wish of the Board in founding the colony to make agriculture the prevailing occupation of all classes, and this has, to a considerable extent, been accomplished; though the demand for the labour of the colonists at the large missionary establishments has drawn the attention of the colonists from their farms more than was expected. The views of the Board, however, in this respect, remain unchanged, and the instructions sent to the agent require him to promote by all means in his power an agricultural spirit among the people.

Cotton has been raised successfully, though as yet upon a small scale. It has been, however, spun, knit, and worn by the colonists.

The sugar-cane has succeeded well, and with the aid of a mill built in the colony several barrels of syrup were manufactured during the past year. Preparations have been made to produce sugar in the coming year.

The coffee tree thrives at Cape Palmas, and it is hoped that coffee will be made an article of export and become a valuable staple.

At the end of seven years, the Board can speak confidently of the temperance principle, which they made a fundamental law of the colony when it was established; and they firmly believe that, under Providence, the remarkable success that has attended the settlement, a success to which history affords no parallel, the harmony that has existed with the natives, and the general comparative prosperity, are to be attributed to the strict observance of the colonial laws in this particular. By none can the importance of the temperance principle be more highly appreciated than it is by the emigrants themselves.

The advantages of the geographical position of Cape Palmas are more and more perceptible every year: and as the legitimate trade on the coast of Africa increases, the situation of the colony in a commercial point of view becomes more and more important.

As the point where the African coast changes its general direction from south-west to the north of east, Cape Palmas is, of all other places, the place of rendezvous for any armed force which may be stationed in these seas. It is nearly central between the mouths of the Niger, and the mouths of the Senegal and Gambia. It is on the direct route from Europe and this country to the former river, and is a point made by all vessels bound for the great Bights of Benin and Biafra. It is hoped that it may, for these reasons, participate in the aid afforded incidentally to colonization by the general government in its efforts to suppress the slave trade.

The erection of a light-house at Cape Palmas has often been suggested by the traders on the coast, and a subscription for the purpose has been offered by many of them. It is believed that before long this will be accomplished.

During the last year the United States' ship-of-war Cyane, Captain Latimer, visited Cape Palmas, and Captain Latimer's account of the colony, transmitted to the navy department, furnishes the evidence of an impartial and intelligent eye-witness of the prosperity of the colony. It will be found in the Appendix to this Report.

The population of the colony at this time is about five hundred and fifty, exclusive of the missions. All the emigrants are comfortably settled in homes of their own, and are engaged in occupations that furnish them

with support. Nearly all are more or less engaged in agriculture, which is the exclusive employment of many of them. There are a number of mechanics, some of whom were such before they left this country, and others have been made such by the exigencies of their new situation.

There is at Cape Palmas, one uniformed company of artillery, and another of infantry, and the colonists who do not belong to either of these, are enrolled in the general militia. The whole are well armed.

The last despatches from Cape Palmas announced, very much to the regret of the Board, the wish of the present Governor, J. B. Russwurm, to resign the situation which he has held for the last five years with so much credit to himself and usefulness to the Society. The Board have declined for the present to accept Mr. Russwurm's resignation, for considerations which they have urged upon him, and which they believe will induce him to retain his place as Governor for another year.

The Board have been fully justified by experience in the policy which five years since led them to appoint a coloured man their agent in Africa and the Governor of their colony. Indeed, those who at first doubted the prudence of the course pursued by the Board have since followed their example, and a coloured man is now Governor at Monrovia, as well as at Cape Palmas. All the officers, of all grades at Cape Palmas, are coloured persons.

The relations of the colonists with the natives are peaceful. It is the determination of the Board of Managers that they shall remain so, if peace can be preserved by a conciliatory policy, and by avoiding all causes of difference and collision.

A colony has therefore been formed capable of self-support, self-government, and self-defence—and at an expense which, in comparison with the result, is trifling indeed. It is in no spirit of self-glorification, but as a simple statement of a fact, that the Board say, that no record of similar success, in the same time or at the same cost, is to be found in the history of colonization as far back as it can be traced.

The next great question is, as to the result which the scheme of colonization, thus far successful, is to produce. The mere establishment of a colony of free coloured people from the state of Maryland on the coast of Africa, although a matter of curious interest, was not sufficient to justify the outlay and labour necessary to accomplish it. Such was not the purpose of the Society nor of the people of Maryland when they embarked in the undertaking. It was in ulterior results that colonization, as originally advocated, found its interest.

It was early seen that, with the increase of the free coloured population, there grew into existence a class of people, who were in the midst of us, but not of us: and who, prevented by colour from becoming one people with us, could never hope for social or political equality with the whites, while they remained in this country. On this subject all history was full of admonition. In what more solemn shape indeed could a warning be given than in the recent riots in the non-slaveholding state of Ohio.

Colonization, as known here, was therefore devised to promote the removal of the free people of colour of the United States, with their own

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47