states of the Union; and there is no reasonable prospect therefore of an outlet in that direction; and the far west of our continent is the already appropriated home of the descendants of the pilgrims. To what other place can the free man of colour look for a home therefore, when the hour of departure comes, than Africa. One has been prepared there for him already. And it is folly and madness for him to despise it: for the day will come when it will be the triumph of colonization that it has prepared a home in the land of his forefathers for the free coloured emigrant from America.

We have spoken of the policy and feeling of Maryland. Within the last eight months, two Conventions of her citizens have been held on the subject of the coloured population. The first was held in Baltimore in June, and was composed of the friends of colonization. The last, a Convention representing the slave-holders of Maryland, has just closed its session at Annapolis.

The Convention of the friends of colonization was called in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last annual meeting at Annapolis. It was fully attended, and every county in the state sent delegates. The purposes of colonization, as herein briefly stated, were avowed and discussed, and the value and importance of the plan was recognized on all sides. The following resolutions were adopted, as embodying the opinions and the principles of action of the colonizationists of Maryland; and, of the truth of the warning given in the last, circumstances, since occurring, have certainly afforded ample corroboration.

"1. *Resolved*, That this Convention look to the removal of the free coloured people and manumitted slaves of Maryland with their own consent to Africa, as the legitimate object of the colonization system.

"2. *Resolved*, That the idea that the coloured people will ever obtain social and political equality in this state is wild and mischievous; and by creating among them hopes that can never be realized, is at war with their own happiness and improvement.

"3. *Resolved*, That while it most earnestly hoped that the free coloured people of Maryland may see that their best and most permanent interests will be consulted by their emigration from this state; and while this Convention would deprecate any departure from the principle which makes colonization dependant upon the voluntary action of the free coloured people themselves,—yet, if regardless of what has been done to provide them with an asylum, they continue to persist in remaining in Maryland, in the hope of enjoying here an equality of social and political rights—they ought to be solemnly warned, that in the opinion of this Convention, the day must arrive, when circumstances that cannot then be controlled, and which are now maturing—will deprive them of the freedom of choice, and leave them no alternative but removal."

The Convention of slave-holders, after a session of several days, adopted various resolutions embodying what they held to be required for the protection of their peculiar interests. These resolutions, accompanied by a memorial from the Convention, have been presented to the Legislature now in

session; but no action has been had upon them up to the date of this Report.

Among the measures suggested by the Colonization Convention, none excited more interest than the establishment of a regular packet between Baltimore and Cape Palmas, and the Board of Managers have been diligently engaged in making collections for the purpose of building or buying a suitable vessel. It is believed, that notwithstanding the difficulties of the times, enough money will be raised to enable the Board to send out the fall expedition of the present year in a vessel of their own.

The colony having been founded, it is now the principal object of the Board to establish a regular intercourse between this state and Maryland in Liberia, as the best means of overcoming the prejudice that exists in the minds of the free coloured people to emigration—where this arises from ignorance and misrepresentation—using indeed for the purpose the same means which, in the case of the patriarch of old, were alone sufficient to overcome his incredulity as to the prosperity of his descendants in Egypt.

The Board are satisfied from their experience that the packet will not only enable them to carry out the emigrants from the state at regular intervals in a vessel manned by citizens of Liberia, but that it will materially assist in the trade, which has for some time past been gradually increasing, until it has materially aided in defraying the expenses incident to the colony. The Board believe that the colony in a few years will be wholly independent of aid from this country,—capable to defray the cost of its civil list—military defences, and internal improvements; and that nothing will aid in bringing about this desirable event more effectually than the Cape Palmas packet.

Appended to this Report is the balance sheet of the Society's operations from the commencement of the Society—from which it will be seen, that there has been contributed by individuals, and by the gain on the trade of the Society, the sum of $39,235 09 to promote the objects which the state had in view when it passed the law of 1831.

Since the last Annual Report the Board have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Dr. James Hall, as their general agent. Dr. Hall is well known by reputation as the founder of the colony and its Governor for the first two years of its existence. He is well and intimately acquainted with the trade of the Western Coast, the habits and customs of the natives, and the disposition of the colonists; and he therefore brings to the performance of his duties important qualifications which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find united in another individual. On Dr. Hall devolves also the editing of the Colonization Journal.

There remains a subject to be noticed in this Report, which the Board approach with reluctance and regret, but which it is necessary to explain fully, that the friends of colonization in the state may know the manner in which those to whom they delegate power perform their duties. It relates to a difference which has arisen between the Board and two of the Missionary Societies having missions at Cape Palmas. To its more perfect understanding it is necessary that the Board should go into some detail of their

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47