United States and Great Britain favourably affects the interests of the State Society and its colony. In the first place the number of vessels of war that must be kept on the coast, to furnish there the guns stipulated in the treaty, will create a closer relation between the United States and Africa than has ever yet existed. Africa will cease to be an unknown and mysterious region, the abode, as the ignorant of the coloured people feign to believe, of huge serpents and ferocious beasts. Its villages, towns, bays and rivers will become known to the officers and crews of the vessels, and grow to be familiar things, by the frequent report of them, in this country. Kind relations will spring up between the settlements of colonists on the coast and their naval visitors—the coloured man will be seen exercising creditably the powers of government, and he will have a pride in himself and his new country, which will tell in the prosperity of the settlement, until colonization will see accomplished its great result—the removal of the free coloured people, not only with their own consent, but with their own means to Africa; and emigration from Europe to America and emigration from America to Africa will be on the same footing.—Again, the presence of a national squadron on the coast will encourage trade from this country, and the facilities of intercourse will be doubly increased thereby—and prejudices be removed in proportion.—And again, as the multiplication of colonies is recognised on all hands as the most efficient mode of putting a stop to the slave trade, and as it is to destroy this that the squadron provided in the treaty is to be kept on the coast, there is a unity of purpose between the colonizationists and the government, which must necessarily create a feeling by which the feebler of the two must be benefited. The treaty therefore is a source of great gratification to the society.

In their last Annual Report the Board of Managers mentioned with painful regret the difficulties which had grown up in the colony between the missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. and the Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church, growing out of the refusal of the Board of Managers to modify the fundamental law of the colony, established before the missionaries went there, and known to them, so as to exonerate from military duty persons connected with the mission stations, other than missionaries themselves, or *white* persons in their employment, who had been exonerated, *ex gratia* by the Board from the beginning. So totally distinct did these two associations determine to keep themselves from the society and its colony, that the respected secretaries in this country both avowed, that even if the destruction of the colony was the alternative, the missionaries could not, consistently with the principles on which their missions were conducted, aid the colonists either by arms, or by advice in the use of them, against hostile attacks from the natives. This was mentioned in the last Annual Report, and stated as a reason why the Board could not permit to grow up in their territory communities of civilized natives around the mission stations, owing no duty to the society or the colonial government, and while enjoying the protection of the laws, exonerated from defending them against aggression.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Am. Board of Commissioners for foreign Missions, there was a report of a committee recommending the withdrawal of the mission of that body from Cape Palmas. It was with regret that this

Board saw in the report statements, to the accuracy of which they could by no means subscribe, and which are calculated, (though this Board by no means believe they were so intended,) to prejudice the State Society and its colony in public estimation.

So far as the society is concerned, the Board can only say that, with unvarying purpose they have always advocated missionary labour among the natives about the colony—have invited all christian missionaries of all denominations to make the colony their home—have given lands to such as came—have aided them whenever they would accept aid—have instructed the agents in Africa to cherish them by all the means in their power—have done every thing which their duty permitted to maintain with them the most friendly relations—have made no law that has directly or indirectly affected them since they went there, except one respecting trade, intended for the protection of the colonists—and in fine can see, at this time, no real cause for dissatisfaction on their part. It is very true that the Board have been applied to, as already stated, to modify laws which were in existence when the colony was established, and known to the missionaries when they went there, and that the Board have declined to do so. But in this the Board have acted with, at all events, an *honest* judgment, and with a single eye to the prosperity and safety of the colony.

So far as the *colony* is affected by the report above mentioned, this Board refer to the reply of Dr. McGill while he was in this country, and which with the report itself will be found in the Appendix. So far as this Board are advised, they feel safe in endorsing the statements as to facts made by Dr. McGill.

If this Board were at all inclined to assume the attitude of complainants in their discussions with the American Board, grounds would not be wanting,—and the following is mentioned to show how much mutual forbearance is essential in this as in all other cases. In August last some natives of King Freeman's Town, within the colonial limits, indeed adjoining the town of Harper, stole property of considerable value belonging to the American Board: to the recovery of this the laws and power of the colony were quite competent, and the Rev. Mr. Griswold, then the agent of the American Board in the colony, was asked by several whether he did not intend to apply to the colonial authorities for redress. His reply was in substance, that if he never got his property he would not make such application. When the Vandalia sloop of war came down the coast however, he applied to Captain Ramsay, and Lieutenant Ring was sent ashore, who summoned King Freeman, the old chief at the head of the Cape Palmas tribe, to appear at Fair Hope, the mission house, where he was sentenced arbitrarily to pay a certain number of bullocks and so many croos of rice as an assessment of damages for the wrong done by his people. This was in the sight of the court house at Harper, in the presence of the colonists and natives, and at the instance of the Rev. Mr. Griswold. There was no pretence that the colonial government was not competent to afford redress. It was not only not applied to, but that it never would be applied to was openly declared. That the Board would submit to a repetition of such conduct from any one was of course out of the question, if they could prevent it—and it became their

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47