painful duty to the people of whom they are striving to make a nation, whose trust under Providence, is yet in this Board, to inform the American Board, that unless the most peremptory orders were given to missionaries to prevent the recurrence of similar conduct, this Board would be obliged to rescind the grant of the mission premises, and request the instant withdrawal of the missionaries of the American Board from the territory of the society.

It gives this Board very great satisfaction in being able to state that the reply which they have received to their communication on this subject from the Rev. Mr. Anderson, the estimable and distinguished secretary of the Amercan Board, is every thing that they could ask, and is in a tone and temper which this Board most highly appreciate and admire. Mr. Anderson's letter enhances the regret which this Board feel at the difficulties which seem next to inevitable, when even the very best white missionaries from the United States are thrown in contact with the black man from this country wielding power in Africa.—Copies of the correspondence will be found in the Appendix.

From the information that they have received from the colony, this Board, while they cannot help thinking the interference of Captain Ramsay wholly uncalled for, and regret that it was not preceded by an enquiry, that they are satisfied would have prevented it, are bound nevertheless to say that from all they have learned they are satisfied that it was not intended by him in either discourtesy or unkindness; but that acting upon representations made to him, he believed he was doing a good to all parties when he undertook to pass sentence on King Freeman. The Board have corresponded with the navy department on the subject, and have every reason to believe that such an occurrence as is here detailed will not take place again, but that the presence of the United States vessels of war on the coast will have no drawback to the beneficial influences already referred to.

It is believed, though no official assurance has been yet accorded, that the Episcopal Board of missions will retain possession of their premises in the colony and continue their missionary labours: and it is with very great satisfaction that this Board have heard by the last advices from Africa that the Episcopal Board have now lent their valuable aid to the instruction of the children of the colonists, one of their missionaries having opened a school for the boys, and his wife one for the girls. This is indeed doing good: for it is strengthening the weak hands of her returning children, to whom Africa must at last be indebted for the great blessing of christianity.

The Board do not think it out of place to express here the opinion, the result of their observations, that on the line of the west coast, along which the colonies of free coloured people from this country are extending, missionary labour can be best performed by men of colour,—and to the rearing up of such this Board would gladly see more effort devoted. In the first place, the coloured missionary would possess his full mental and physical capacity in Africa, which the climate prevents the white man from having—and in the second, there would exist none of that jealousy between him and the colonists from this country, that in the case of a white missionary grows out of the relative positions that the two races occupy in the United States.

The Board can well understand why the missionary societies, including



abolitionists as well as colonizationists, should be averse to any connection in any way in this country with those who are antagonists of abolition; but the Board believe that to pursue the same policy in Africa to the extent that has been done, is short-sighted and ill-judged. For certainly it is better for missionaries to live in harmony with the government of the country in which they reside and to have a common interest with it, than to be engaged constantly in irritating discussions with those in authority.

In looking at their present position, the State Society have every reason to be satisfied with it, and they have to acknowledge with heartfelt emotion their gratitude to the Divine Being who has protected their infant settlement, and blessed it with peace and happiness from the commencement until now. They see no cause to relax in their efforts, and they urge on the friends of the coloured man in America, and of Africa, to be persevering in the prosecution of the great scheme of colonization, in the confidence that under the Almighty's care it will accomplish the great objects for which it was intended.

It is now several years since the State Society had so far accomplished the object which the state had in view in the adoption of the policy indicated in the acts of 1831, as to have established a colony on the coast of Africa capable of receiving and furnishing the means of support to any number of free coloured people that it might be desirable to send there. But the indisposition of the free coloured people to emigrate, the temporary diversion in favour of Canada and the West Indies, and the untiring efforts of the abolitionists directed against the colonization society and its colony, seemed to thwart the policy above mentioned at a time, when in truth the doubts attending the scheme had been removed and the difficulties overcome, and when the colonies at Cape Palmas offered every inducement to emigrate to those who valued true liberty and independence. But the Board believe that the tide has now turned, and that there will gradually set towards Maryland in Liberia the current of the free coloured population, the removal of which with their own consent to Africa was the wise policy of those who passed the laws of 1831, and have since maintained them. By the time the present appropriation is expended, the Board trust that enough will have been done to induce an emigration at the expense of the emigrants themselves—and this will be the perfect fruition of colonization. At present, to judge from the recent expedition, it would seem as though the only limit of emigration was the means of the society to transport.

The Board cannot close this Report without rendering to their General Agent, Dr. Hall, the founder of the colony, the credit which is due to him for the success which has attended the society's operations. To absolute devotion to the cause he adds an intimate acquaintance with the subject in all its bearings both here and in Africa, and a prompt business capacity, which the Board could not hope to find in any other individual, and in the notice thus taken of him the Board only perform the duty that they owe to him.

By order of the Board,

JOHN H. B. LATROBE,

*President of the Maryland State Colonization Society.*

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47