homes of their infancy to new ones in a strange land. All that Colonization can do is to prepare such homes. The rest must be the work of circumstances, whose operation is as sure as the coming of to-morrow, although, from day to-day, it may be as imperceptible as the flow of one second of time into another.

The part which Maryland has taken in African Colonization will hereafter be one of her proudest recollections. When the History of the Nations now rising up in Africa shall be written, the name of Maryland will be proudly prominent. Foreseeing the coming of the time, when, the free colored portion of her population must meet the destiny, which ever awaits the weakest of two distinct races, that cannot amalgamate, who occupy the same soil,—the State undertook to provide for them a home, where they might enjoy, in peace and honour, the free institutions of the land which they were obliged to leave. Not only did she furnish means for transporting those who were willing to emigrate, but she has taught them to govern themselves in their new abodes; and, even now, has the satisfaction of knowing, that those, who, on this side of the Atlantic, aspired to no political power, were incapacitated from the enjoyment of any, fill with dignity and credit all the offices of government, at Cape Palmas. Should then, the future, unhappily, bring evil days, to her free colored people, Maryland will be entitled to the credit, and the high honour, of having done all that was in her power to provide against them. All this, as already said, will be told to the lasting honour of our State, and in terms of the warmest gratitude, by those who shall hereafter write the History of Maryland in Liberia. Even now, it is not unacknowledged by the objects of her solicitude; and the strongest hold which the State Society has over the Colony at Cape Palmas grows out of the sense of benefits conferred.

It has been, at times, the duty of the Board to notice, not always agreeably, the relations which existed between the missionaries and the government of the Colony. It is with the sincerest pleasure that the Board are now able to say that they are of the most satisfactory character, and that there is nothing to disturb the perfect harmony which should exist between those, who, in different ways, are laboring in the same great cause.

Before closing their Report, the Board have thought that it would not be uninteresting to the Society to learn, somewhat in detail, the situation of the Colony and the manner in which it is governed.

The territory of Maryland in Liberia occupies the Sea coast, as already stated, from Fish Town on the north-west, to Tabou, some 8 miles east of the Cavally river, a distance of about 40 miles, and extending indefinitely into the interior. The principal town is Harper, which is located on Cape Palmas proper, a rocky promontory, evidently, at some remote time, an island, extending into the ocean about half a mile, by a fourth of a mile at its greatest width, and in a direction oblique to the mainland, to which it is united by a low and sandy beach. The acute angle, formed by the Cape and the main, makes an excellent harbor, and receives the Hoffman river, a small stream navigable for a few miles only by boats, and soon losing itself in the numerous tributaries, which, near its head, drain the surrounding country. Harper contains the Government House and offices, and the public store, and its inhabitants are such of the

Colonists as are occupied in trade or the mechanic arts. Its population is about 800. The soil of the Cape is thin, but sufficiently good for the gardens of the colonists. Descending from the Cape landward, the road now known as the Maryland avenue crosses the beach, already mentioned and pursues its course for a distance of between three and four miles to Mount Tubman, which at this time may be called the frontier settlement. To the right, after leaving the beach, is the station, formerly occupied by the Presbyterian mission, of Fair Hope, the Methodist Episcopal mission house of Mount Emory, and the Ladies School; and opposite to these is the Public Farm. Further on, the farm lands of the colonists begin, and continue, without interval on the Maryland avenue, and Hance road, and Holmes road, parallel thoroughfares, to Mount Tubman Village. Close to this last is the Episcopal mission of Mount Vaughn, situated on a gentle eminence, around which and the Hill on which Mount Tubman stands, the clearings extend on every side. The Maryland avenue, which is the principal highway of the Colony, as well as the parallel and cross roads, are graded and bridged, and kept clean and in order by the adjacent proprietors. The avenue forms an acute angle with the sea shore, and between the two lies Sheppard lake, a fine sheet of water, which extends some 10 or 12 miles in the direction of the Cavally river.

On the Cape, besides the town of Harper, is the native town of the King of the Cape Palmas tribe, and small villages of his people are scattered here and there on the mainland, the relations of the colonists and natives being such as to permit the occupation of territory in this manner, with rare differences between them; a feature of Colonization in Africa which is its peculiar characteristic.

At the extremity of the cape is the light house already spoken of, and Fort Howard; and opposite to the government house, which is nearer the main land, there is a small battery, which commands the landing place and the native town, this last being situated on the pitch of the cape landward.

Fort Tubman is a strong stockade, capable of resisting any force that could be brought against it by the natives.

The military of the colony consists of two uniformed companies, one of infantry, and one of artillery, well drilled and disciplined, and an un-uniformed militia, which meets weekly for the purpose of inspection.

The local government of the colony consists of an agent and assistant agent, appointed by the society, who hold their offices for two years,—a secretary appointed by the agent, annually, and a vice-agent—two counsellors, a register, a sheriff, a treasurer, and a committee on new emigrants, elected by the people. There are minor officers appointed by the agent. The judiciary consists of the agent and two justices of the peace, the latter of whom are taken in rotation from the body of justices, so that each justice is made familiar with the performance of judicial duties.—A single justice of the peace has jurisdiction, criminally, over minor offences, and in all civil cases, where the claim does not exceed twenty dollars.

Male colored people are entitled to vote if they hold land in their own right, or pay a tax of one dollar for the support of education. No one can sit on a jury who does not know how to read and write.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47