Palmas, and the Board acknowledged with grateful reverence, the protection of the only power that could have caused such results to be produced. In the Appendix (No. 4,) will be found a letter of the Rev. Mr. Seys, himself long an agent in Africa, and well qualified to judge, dated August, 1844, which is now referred to, as exhibiting the condition of the Colony at this time.

When to this statement the fact is added, that the Society having accomplished all these results, with ten thousand dollars per annum from the State, and such assistance as trade and individual contributions afforded, was entirely free from debt at home and abroad, there was truly every reason for congratulation and thankfulness.

On the 17th November, 1844, the Chipola sailed with sixty emigrants from Baltimore, and in the following year, on the 15th of November, the Kent sailed with fourteen emigrants. The small number of emigrants by the Kent was attributed to the loss of Mr. Roberts, the Society's agent for collecting emigrants, who died at a time when his services were most required, and whom it was found impossible immediately to replace.

The Kent carried out the frame of a schooner, with a suitable mechanic to superintend its construction in the Colony, for the double purpose of furnishing a coasting vessel that was much wanted, and of giving a good model for future constructions.

In 1845, the Legislature incorporated the Chesapeake and Liberia Trading Company; and this act of kindness and liberality afforded the means of carrying out at last the suggestion of the Colonization Convention of 1841, in regard to the Liberia packet. The stock was taken and the vessel was built, and the Society's expeditions are now sent in the regular trader, which twice or thrice a year sails from the Chesapeake. The difficulty between the United States and Great Britain, in regard to Oregon, made the project lag for a time, however, and it was not until the summer of 1846 that the company got well under weigh. The packet was then contracted for, was launched in the beginning of November, and on the 3d of December, 1846, sailed on her first voyage to Africa. The Board became a stockholder in the packet company to the amount of the contributions that had been received towards building it, $2,000; on which, in two years, the dividends have been $565.

In 1846 the Board received the first returns, those for 1845, under the tariff law. From these it appeared that the exports of the Colony had amounted to $21,013 33, against $19,836 of imports, leaving the balance of trade in favour of the Colony; and though it may seem like applying large terms to small things, yet, in the working of the laws of Maryland in Liberia, the development of all the great principles of political economy have been as plainly visible as the working of bees in their hives of glass, and statesmen might gather lessons from the illustrations of principles that have been afforded at Cape Palmas.

In 1846 large additions were made to the territory of the Colony; Tabou, Tahoe, Grand Bereby, Little Bereby and Bassa, were purchased from the native Kings, and, since then, the purchase of Garraway, to windward, has added a most important point to the Society's possessions, and given them a coast on the Atlantic of one hundred and thirty miles.

Since 1846 the sailing of the Liberia Packet has afforded the emigrants, whom the Society could obtain, the means of reaching the Colony, and their numbers, and the times of the sailing of the Packet, will be found in the Appendix, (No. 2.)

Since then, too, the affairs of the Colony have gone on in the quietness of a prosperity, interrupted but once, when a dearth of provisions, among both natives and colonists, caused temporary complaints. Even this, however, was of advantage. Attention was turned at once to agriculture, which had before been in a degree neglected for the pursuit of more profitable employments, for the time being; and the probability of a recurrence of the difficulty has now become of remote contingency.

Governor Russwurm has visited the United States in the interval and given to the Board the benefit of his suggestions and counsel, and has returned to Africa with their highest appreciation of his merits and their fullest confidence.

The duties which devolved upon the Courts, on the first establishment of the Colony, were easily performed by the agent; and the system which made him Chief Justice, with two associates from the magistracy, was found to operate well and satisfactorily. But, in time, the increased duties of the office made it necessary to separate the executive and the judiciary functions of the government, and an Ordinance was passed, establishing an independent judiciary, the first Chief Judge of which, William Cassell, was one of the Colonists by the Ann; who, returning to the United States, had prepared himself for his office under the instructions of counsel of eminent professional ability. The Board took this occasion to revise their system of laws, which was found to result in little more than a reprint of the volume containing it, with the addition of the code relating to property, which made it complete. The fact that, after an experience of more than twelve years, so little of change was required, was the best praise that could be given to the excellence of the work in the first instance.

Of late, the Colonists have complained of the rate at which the licenses were fixed, and of the existence of the paper currency.—On these subjects, the Board addressed them at length, leaving the matter however to be decided by themselves, if after hearing the reasons which were given they still desired a change. Their opinion was to be expressed at the coming general election, of which the Board has as yet, however, received no information.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1850