

the people an attachment to their home in Africa and its institutions, which is at the bottom of a patriotism that is daily developing itself, and must finally secure to Maryland in Liberia an honorable position as one of the great family of nations. The Report, already referred to, exhibits the detailed statements which justify what is here said.

The Colony owes its existence to the State of Maryland. While the earlier settlements at and about Monrovia, now forming the Republic of Liberia, were made with means obtained, mainly, from individual contributions throughout the country, Maryland, unwilling to depend upon any contingency that she might obviate, and feeling that the whole subject of her colored population, slave and free, was of such delicacy, that all extraneous interference with it, directly or indirectly, was to be deprecated with jealous care, took the matter of Colonization into her own hands, and appropriated two hundred thousand dollars for the preparation of a place to which the free colored population and emancipated slaves, within her borders, might emigrate when occasion required.

There was wisdom and humanity in what the State of Maryland thus did, as well as great political forecast. In 1831, few persons deemed that slavery, as a topic of national interest, would cause the excitement, which has, until recently, prevailed over the length and breadth of the country. Few persons then anticipated a foreign immigration, amounting to half a million a year, and coming at once into active competition for bread with the free colored people, who had for years been filling stations to which they seemed to have a prescriptive right, and from so many of which we have since seen them excluded.

But those, who then had the interests of the State in their keeping, seem to have had a clear perception of coming evil days,—and the Legislature of that period provided against them well and carefully, humanely and honorably. Assuming, as the State did, the control, virtually, of the whole subject, and avowing the policy of Colonization, abolitionism was kept down; and while other States were disturbed and excited, the people of Maryland enjoyed a total exemption from all agitation in regard to it. They have been affected neither by the jealous apprehensions of the South, nor the blind fanaticism of the North. In 1831, too, the time was foreseen, when the free colored people would, themselves, admit, that their true interests required them to seek a place of permanent abiding beyond the reach of the crowding competition of free white labor. Against this time, the State of Maryland, at that early day, felt called upon to make provision. The people to be affected by it were innocent of the exigency. They had no share in bringing it about. Their fathers had served our fathers for generations; and it was our duty, with the power in our hands, to provide for the welfare of those, whose claim upon us, in part, grew

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

**D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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