

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings be sent to the acting Governor of Maryland in Liberia, for promulgation in the Colony; and also be published in the Colonization Journal, and the papers of the city of Baltimore.

WILLIAM F. GILES,
Recording Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY, }
Baltimore, October 31st, 1851. }

Address of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society to the Citizens of Maryland in Liberia.

For the first time in your history, Death has stricken, in the midst of you, the head of your local government. Separated from you as they are, and hearing of the event long after its occurrence, the Board have, nevertheless, deeply felt, and most sincerely deplore, the loss of the late Governor of Maryland in Liberia.

Governor Russwurm's position was a peculiar one. He was the first colored Governor of a Colony from the United States on the Coast of Africa. If white men have ceased to hold office or exercise authority among you, it is because he illustrated the capacity of your race to fill the highest political office with an ability that could not be surpassed. Had he failed in this, had he fallen short of what was expected of him, you would have been the losers in the opinion of the world; and the slander which has so often charged you with political incapacity, would, for a season, have been looked upon as sustained.

But Governor Russwurm was fully competent to all the emergencies of a situation that called, in an eminent degree, for calmness of temper and a perfect judgment.

You are one of the few Colonies of the world whose annals derive no interest from wars with the savages around you; and, that this has been your fortunate exemption, is due to the discretion and wisdom, under Providence, of him who is no more.

Under these circumstances, your grief at his death should be mingled with gratitude to his memory.

The Board, esteeming him as highly as they did, will take measures to erect a monument above his grave, which they will commit to your keeping, that it may be preserved by you and your descendants, in token of the estimation in which those he served held the first colored Governor in Liberia.

This is the only occasion that the Board have had to address you as a community. They regret the sadness of it, and they unite with you in sorrow for a loss which, felt by them as it is, in America, must be felt still more by you, the fellow-citizens of the dead, in Africa. In the long career of happiness and prosperity which is already opening to Liberia, its highest offices will doubtless be often filled by worth and talent. But great and distinguished as these may be, their possessors may always resort with profit to your earliest history to gather from the records of Governor Russwurm's life the most admirable examples of prudence, wisdom and integrity.

On behalf of the Board of Managers,

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 1852-53