

But, in 1847, the Colony, established by the State Society, at Cape Palmas, in 1834, and wholly independent of the elder Colonies, now constituting the Republic, was not in a situation to follow the example that was thus set to it. Neither in population, nor resources, was it capable of standing alone: and it continued, therefore, to hold with the State Society the relations that had all along existed. It soon became apparent, however, that the time for the independence of Maryland in Liberia, would have to be hastened more than had been contemplated in the ordinance for their temporary government carried out by the first settlers. The *prestige* was on the side of the *Republic* in the minds of the colored people in Maryland even, and against the Colony. On the coast also, distinctions were made to the prejudice of the latter. The course to be pursued, therefore, by the Board became one of some difficulty. It is true, their colonists had been virtually governing themselves for many years. The Board had rarely occasion to address to them even words of counsel. Sometimes, in matters where their charter and ordinances left the power in the hands of the Board, action in Baltimore was necessary. But this was rarely. Still, the Colony had been in the enjoyment of advantages, growing out of the connection with the Society, which it would find it difficult, at first, to dispense with. The great care which the Society had always taken to provide work for its people in Africa—to carry on trade for their benefit,—to sustain them when necessary,—and which care, to a great extent, independence would deprive them of, made the Colony more dependent on the Society in Maryland than it would have been had the people been earlier thrown, in these particulars, more upon their own resources. And yet the time for a change in many respects had certainly arrived. The first thing done was to call the attention of the colonists to the fact that the State's appropriation was drawing to a close—that the facilities that it afforded might not be continued if it were not renewed, and even if it were renewed, the Board might no longer feel themselves justified in employing it for other purposes than the transportation and settlement of emigrants. In due season, and sometime afterwards, the suggestion of early independence was made, and the Colonists were told to accustom themselves to the idea of it, and to try to realize the new position in which it would place them. As was to have been expected, the public mind in Maryland in Liberia became excited:—and the subjects thrown out for their consideration were very freely and thoroughly discussed. Some of the papers, which, during this period, came from Colonists would do honor to the ablest and most experienced statesmanship,—not only in the soundness of the ideas they contained, but in the language in which they were clothed. Parties were formed while the discussion was going on: one desiring to annex the Colony to the

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers  
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