

Republic as a County, and the other desiring independence as a State, in view of a confederacy with the Republic, considered also as an independent State, after the plan of the original confederation of the United States, and looking forward to a constitutional federative Republic hereafter, when the multiplication and growth of the several settlements, made and to be made, warranted the expensive organization of a general government. At one time, and the Board are now referring to a period of several years, it was hoped that the Republic might be willing, forthwith, to enter into such a confederacy, which might then be made simultaneously with the independence of Maryland in Liberia. But public opinion in the Republic did not seem prepared for this, and the idea was for the season abandoned. Finally, and when they thought that it was proper so to do, the Board referred the whole matter to a select committee, which, after great deliberation, and with the amplest evidence before them, came to the determination to leave the question of Independence to the Colonists themselves, as one in regard to which they had by this time become the most competent judges. The Report of the Committee,—the resolutions adopted by the Board, and the correspondence with the Colony on this occasion, will be found in the Appendix. From this it will be seen that the Board propose, in the event of independence, to continue for a limited period, to afford aid to the Colony in the payment of the civil list; but, that, with this exception, the means of the Society will be appropriated exclusively hereafter, and whether there shall be independence or not, to the transportation and maintenance of emigrants: the Board, in this, acting upon the conviction, that the time has arrived for the people at Cape Palmas, whether as Colonists, or claiming nationality, to rely upon their own resources for the support of their government and all the other expenses proper to a free and well ordered community. Should the people determine, as it is supposed they will do, upon independence, the question of their relations with the present Republic will be in their own hands. The despatches of the Board were taken out by the Linda Stewart, in November, and the result of the action upon them in the Colony, must, before long, be known in Baltimore. They contain so fully the views of the Board in regard to the early policy of the new Government, should such be formed, that it is unnecessary in this place to do more than refer to them in this connection, in the Appendix.

When the Colony at Cape Palmas was established it was in view, of course, of its becoming ultimately an independent state. Circumstances have hastened the time at which this seemed proper to be done. These circumstances and the course of the Board in consequence, are deemed of sufficient importance to justify the space which they have been permitted to occupy on this occasion.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

**D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1852-53**