

In their last Report the Board announced the lamented death of Governor Russwurm, and published the resolutions adopted by them on the occasion. The resolution which provided for the erection of a marble monument over his remains, with an inscription, doing justice to his talents and his virtues, has since been so far executed, that the Shirley carried out the monument with the proper instructions for its erection.

Since the death of Governor Russwurm, and up to the date of the last advices from Cape Palmas, his place has been filled by Dr. Samuel Ford McGill, with distinguished ability; and Dr. McGill is the more deserving of the commendation of the Board, because he has continued to hold the office against his inclination and at personal sacrifice to himself.

His last despatches are of the 12th July last, and contain assurances of the continued peace and welfare of the Colony. They announce the gratifying fact that an arrangement has at length been concluded by which the native town, that has since the formation of the settlement, occupied the third of the eminences landward of Cape Palmas, is to be removed, and the tribe occupying it transferred to a new town to be built on the left bank of the Cavally river, opposite to Denah. This has long been a desideratum, and that it has been at last accomplished is due doubtless in a great measure to the firmness and energy of the Governor. In Governor Russwurm's lifetime it was deemed of so much importance that at one time the question of effecting it compulsorily was agitated at the Cape. Since then, however, the increasing strength and moral power of the Colony have brought about the removal in a much more desirable manner than was thus contemplated. As another proof of the influence which the Colony is acquiring, it may be mentioned that the natives have consented to place the Sassa Wood ordeal, which has been so long their disgrace, and so long a matter of annoyance to the colonists, so far within the control of the authorities at the Cape as to enable them in all probability ultimately and wholly to abolish it. It may seem perhaps strange that at the end of eighteen years, the Colony has not been able, of its own accord to abate what have certainly been nuisances. But the policy of the society has been peace, at almost any price, with those to whose good will, in the first instance, they owed a foot-hold in their soil, and to whose forbearance they were, for so many years, indebted for being able to maintain it. This policy has, without abating the dignity of the Colonial government, or operating in any respect to the injury of the Colony, preserved it from the wars that have unfortunately prevailed elsewhere; and the Society look upon a continuance of it as one of the best guarantees of the safe and rapid extension of the territorial limits of Maryland in Liberia.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

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