

The Board having been informed by Dr. McGill that it would not be practicable for him to continue to hold the office of Governor, have addressed him a letter in which they release him from his charge, in the event of his persisting in his determination to withdraw from it, and have appointed Mr. William Cassell to fill the vacancy. Mr. Cassell emigrated to Cape Palmas in 1834, and was one of the first settlers of the Colony. After some years he returned to Baltimore, and was appointed clerk in the office of the State Society. Here his intelligence, probity and industry were highly appreciated, and the Board, contemplating a separation of the judicial and executive functions which had previously been united in Governor Russwurm, proposed to Mr. Cassell that he should prepare himself for the office of Chief Justice by reading law. This he did under the instructions of Hugh D. Evans, Esq., in Baltimore, and in due season left the United States once more for Africa, where he has ever since discharged the duties of his office with honor and usefulness. With the aid he will have from the officers connected with the Government, the Board doubt not that he will be able to fill his new position as well as he has filled his recent one. Among these officers, is Mr. Wm. A. Prout, and the Board have placed in the Appendix a letter written by him during the late political discussions in the Colony, as a specimen of what Colonization has done, when joined to natural ability, in developing the powers which make statesmen out of individuals having none but the humblest opportunities for acquiring information.

It will be seen from the foregoing that no year of the Society's existence has been marked with more important events on both sides of the Atlantic than that which has just ended. Colonization in Maryland has been affected by the spirit which seems to pervade the whole country in regard to the cause. With a deeper interest in the result than any other State in the Union, Maryland was the first to embark in it through the action of her Legislature. The Colony that has been founded under her auspices, stands now on the threshold of Independence. Its life, compared with the youth of other nations, has been all sunshine; for looking at its unexampled success, at its peaceful progress, its hopeful promise, it seems to have basked in His smile, without whose smile the wisest projects of men come utterly to naught. That it may still rest upon the people of Maryland in Liberia, whatever their future political condition, must be the earnest prayer of those who have been the Agents in placing them in Africa, and who now humbly and gratefully thank the Giver of all good for his blessing on their undertaking.

JOHN H. B. LATROBE,
President.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

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