

pendent government of the Republic of Liberia, your committee are satisfied that this Board cannot do better than to adopt in its general principles, that precedent.

They suggest therefore, to the Colonists, as the basis for future arrangements between them and this Board, the formal agreement heretofore entered into between the Parent Society and the Republic of Liberia, with such modifications as seem to be called for by the peculiar circumstances of the Colonists of Maryland in Liberia. The chief of these have reference to the continuing for a limited period, to extend aid by this Board towards the payment of their civil list.

Your committee deem it but right and reasonable, that the whole expenses of their government should not be immediately thrown upon the Colonists; and after mature consideration, they recommend to the Board, that (all other matters being satisfactorily arranged) the Board shall agree to contribute towards the payment of the salaries of the officers of the new government for the term of four years after its organization, the following amounts, viz:

For the salary of the Governor, six hundred dollars.

For the salary of the Secretary of State, three hundred dollars.

For the salary of the Chief Justice, one hundred dollars.

The said amounts to be paid semi-annually on the drafts of the respective officers.

The committee recommend the adoption of the subjoined resolutions.

Respectfully submitted, [Signed,] CHARLES HOWARD.

Resolved, That this Board do recommend to the citizens of Maryland in Liberia, to take measures for ascertaining by a deliberate and solemn vote of the people, whether it be their wish to establish a separate and independent government; and if their decision be in the affirmative, that they proceed to call a Convention to frame a Constitution, to be afterwards submitted to the people for adoption, and that they appoint one or more commissioners to visit this country, with power to arrange and settle with this Board, the future relations between the new government and the Maryland State Colonization Society.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing Report and Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Maryland in Liberia, for the information of the citizens in the Colony.

After much discussion the Report and resolutions were, on motion, unanimously adopted and ordered to be transmitted to Dr. McGill, Governor of the Colony.

Office of the Md. State Col. Soc. }
Baltimore, November 20th, 1852. }

WM. F. GILES, Cor. Sec.

Letter from WM. A. PROUT, Esq. Sec. of Md. in Liberia, to the President of the Society, referred to in the Annual Report.

HARPER, CAPE PALMAS, April 12, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter dated January 7, 1852, came safely to hand. I was greatly pleased at its contents, as they set aside every doubt or cavil relating to the opinion and wishes of the Society as to the course this Colony should take in a future action on the subject of union or confederacy.

I cannot say that this important subject has ever been faithfully argued in the Colony, although attempts at its discussion have been made. Had the people been equally divided on this head, and the popular feeling been less opposed to county annexation, illustrations of the subject would have been given, no doubt, more at length; but in this case there were fears of an abuse of liberty which might have occasioned civil commotion. The opposition expressed to county annexation, I cannot say, is the effect of any extravagant prejudices prevailing in the Colony against the Republic, nor can I say that myself, among others, am free from local feelings or prejudices. These things are universal, and discover themselves mostly when the interest of the place to which a man owes his birth or rearing, is likely to be involved in some difficult measure. Aside from this, I must plead the absence of any thing like prejudice in the people both here and the Republic.

Nearly all the people have decided on independent State union. They are sensible that a right once conceded is never regained, particularly on a side, in favor of which, the balance of power and influence, is always likely to preponderate. A concession like this would strip them of their local rights, and unlettered as many

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers 1852-53