

their arrival for the usual time, and in the usual way. But the means of the Society will be withdrawn wholly from the support of such as have no claims as new emigrants. The Board are aware, that there may be suffering consequent upon this determination. But they cannot help it. A community that is twenty years old, that has been aided, as has been that of Cape Palmas, that is not cumbered from time to time with persons unable to support themselves in the shape of new emigrants,—should be able to take care of its own poor. At all events it will have hereafter to do so.

If what is here said seems harsh, it does not represent the feeling of the Board,—which is that of kindness wholly—the measures which they now propose being such as they think are peremptorily called for by the best interests of the Colonists.

By this time the subject of independence must have become familiar at Cape Palmas, for it is many months since the probability of it was suggested. The Colonists therefore ought to be able to form an unbiassed and correct judgment of what is proper to be done. If there are any who hesitate because they prefer to be supported from on this side of the Atlantic, than to support themselves, it is proper that they should see this cannot be allowed; and that, whether dependent as a Colony, or independent as a State, the time for self reliance has arrived; and hence the length and emphasis of my remarks on this part of the subject.

I do not dwell upon the arguments in favor of independence. They are well set forth in the Report of the Committee, even if they have not been already urged and considered among you at Cape Palmas. Circumstances, rather than a conviction of the ability of the Colonists to assume at once the responsibilities of a nation, have determined the Board in this behalf. Still, if ever independence was declared under favorable circumstances, this will be the occasion. The Society here will continue to exist, and all the means at its command will be appropriated to increase the numbers and the strength of the new people. The money raised in Maryland will be applied to send emigrants to Cape Palmas only—and for the next four years the Society will make a contribution annually in aid of the civil list. The Squadron of the United States on the coast will extend its countenance to your Colony, as well as to its elder sister, and with the treaty with the latter, which cannot well be refused, relations may be established, leading ultimately, it is hoped, to a close political union as suggested in the Report of the Committee. With an admirable commercial position, with a climate comparing favorably with any other on the coast, with a country productive and improveable, agriculturally and commercially, all that is wanting to make Cape Palmas what it should be, is energy and a proper spirit on the part of its citizens. Free and independent, with good laws well administered, capable now, as ever, of self defence, there is no reason why the natural advantages of the new nation should not attract to it an intelligent population, increasing the intelligence which it already possesses, and securing for it ultimately the respect and countenance of other nations.

The Board would not advise, that for the present, the Colony, if declaring independence, should address itself to political affairs, to the extent of negotiating treaties with any other country than the neighboring Republic. The task would be expensive, and uncalled for by any immediate necessity. The recognition of the independence of Maryland in Liberia by England, say, and France, will come soon enough, following as a matter of course the recognition of the Old Colony. Let the Colonists thrive as the result of their own efforts. Let them recollect that it is through the portals alone, furnished by the Colonies from the United States, into the interior of Africa, that that new and virgin market can be opened for the over production of manufacturing civilization. Let them pursue with a conviction of its importance their mission in this great matter of Africa and Africa's sons. Let them cultivate the land. Let them invite trade from the interior. Let their public men act wisely and honestly. Let economy characterise their government. Let peace, the consequence of kindness and forbearance towards the natives, prevail within their borders. Let all this be, and rely upon it, without being distracted by temporary glitter in the shape of national notoriety, which would be wholly distinct from national prosperity—the new nation of Maryland in Liberia will be sought out, and cheered and encouraged and carried forward by internal worth and circumstances accumulating every day, with resistless power, to an elevated and most honorable position in the eyes of all men. Be they true to themselves, and a fair destiny for its people, is among the few things of the uncertain future, that may be safely predicted.

Say to the people, that here in America, there are signs of the moving of the

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers 1852-53