

stitution submitted to them. After mature deliberation, the Board were satisfied that this was a matter to be left exclusively to the calm and deliberate decision of the people themselves; and that any attempt to compel them by treaty stipulations to adopt a system in opposition to their own judgment and wishes, would be as unwise as it would be nugatory. The Board therefore made no attempt to exact from the Commissioners, any conditions whatsoever on this point; but felt it at the same time to be their duty to remonstrate earnestly and affectionately with the people against such a change in their organic laws, and respectfully to request a reconsideration of their decision. The Board are happy to state that their appeal was listened to; and that on the final adoption of their Constitution, the people of Maryland in Liberia, to their high credit be it spoken, voluntarily restored to that instrument the temperance prohibitory clauses to which they had at first objected.

On the 5th of July, 1854, Governor Prout sent his first message to the first Legislature of the State of Maryland in Liberia. This document, the Governor's Inaugural Address, and his annual address to the Legislature of August 7th, 1855, all shew that the new Government is working well; and they will favorably compare with many state papers emanating from the Chief Authorities of communities claiming for themselves a far higher grade of civilization than they are willing to allow to the young nations of the Western Coast of Africa. The latest direct accounts received from Cape Palmas, are of the last named date; and the Board are happy in believing from all the information which has reached them, that the new state prospers, and that it will continue to thrive. The feeble Colony planted at Cape Palmas in February, 1834, only twenty-two years ago, has grown to the rank of an independent and self-governed State;—the destinies of her people are entrusted to their own hands; and the Board cannot doubt that if they are true to themselves, "the power which has made, will preserve them a nation," and that the same providence which has so mercifully guarded and preserved them, will continue to watch over and protect them.

As was stated in former reports, Dr. Samuel F. McGill was, upon the death of the lamented Governor Russwurm, appointed by the Board to discharge the duties of Governor of the Colony, and Agent of the Society, which he continued to do with marked ability and fidelity, up to the time of the change in the system of government. Deeming it most conducive to his interests to return to Monrovia, he had some time previously made arrangements for his removal thither; but at the urgent request of the Board, he

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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