twenty-two years. The town of Harper stands on Cape Palmas, a bold ocean promontory, connected with the main land, by an isthmus not wider at one place than about one hundred yards. On this promontory between the town and the isthmus stood a native town of about one thousand inhabitants. On the main land, near the isthmus, were two other native towns, containing together, about the same population. These native settlements, thus stood between the town of Harper, and the farms and agricultural establishments of the colonists. The natives acknowledged the jurisdiction of the latter over them; but with few exceptions, they continued in the observance of their old manners, customs and habits; and practically they remained distinct communities, separate from, and alien to the American settlers. Under such circumstances, and with communities who still looked on themselves almost as of distinct races, brought into such close and inconvenient proximity, there would naturally arise frequently recurring complaints of wrong or injury on one side or the other, and a disposition on both to look upon their neighbors with some distrust. Efforts were repeatedly made to induce the natives to cede their towns, and remove to other locations but without success; and it is not to be wondered at that open war finally occurred.

After suffering the loss of the lives of a number of valuable citizens, and considerable destruction of property, the Americo-Africans found themselves in danger of being overpowered by the combination of much superior numbers of the native tribes; and in this emergency, made an urgent appeal for assistance, to the Republic of Liberia. Most providentially the valued General Agent of this Society, Dr. James Hall, the founder, and for many years the Governor of the Colony at Cape Palmas, had at this juncture availed himself of the opportunity afforded by the sailing of the new Colonization ship on her first voyage, to revisit the scene of his former labors. He was at Monrovia when the application for aid was received from Cape Palmas, and when the Government and People of Liberia, with every disposition to extend relief to their neighbors, found themselves embarrassed to provide the means for acting with the promptness which the emergency required. Dr. Hall, not less from his own high standing, and the confidence reposed in him personally at Monrovia, than from his official relations with the Maryland State Society, was enabled to remove all difficulties, and within five days after, a competent military force of one hundred and fifteen uniformed men was embarked on board of the M. C. Stevens, and despatched to Cape Palmas, accompanied by the distinguished Ex-President Roberts as Commissioner of the Republic. Under their auspices, hostilities were at once terminated, a treaty on equitable

terms, was speedily entered into between the contending parties, and peace was entirely restored. The Board have unanimously passed a resolution, approving the action of Dr. Hall, of whose conduct in this emergency they cannot speak too highly.

The difficulties in which the State had been involved, seem to have satisfied the people of Maryland in Liberia, of the propriety of uniting their destinies without further delay, with those of their more powerful friends and neighbors. Accordingly, under the authority of their Legislature, the question of annexation to the Republic of Liberia was submitted to a vote of the people; and they being unanimously in favor of the measure, overtures were made, which soon resulted in the incorporation of Maryland in Liberia, into the Republic of Liberia, as one of the Counties into which the latter is divided,—each having its due representation in both branches of the legislative body.

Looking to the future, and believing in the indefinite and rapid expansion of the Americo-African Nation, this Board have desired to see a form of Government adopted there, somewhat similar to our own. They have feared that with the great extent of territory which they even now possess, it will be found difficult for one Central Government to continue to manage judiciously all its local as well as general concerns; and have supposed that by a Union like ours, of independent States, the prosperity of all would be best promoted. We still are of opinion, that some form of Government, substantially the same, will be resorted to; either forming a Confederacy, with Sierra Leone and the European Settlements below Cape Palmas, or by dividing the Republic into separate States, or by giving to the Counties, the full and absolute control and management of their own purely local and domestic affairs. But as in the opinion of the people themselves, the time for this has, at any rate, not yet arrived, we think that our former Colonists have acted wisely in taking the course they have done. The Republic of Liberia, having been acknowledged by, and having formed relations with the great Powers of Europe, had acquired a prestige and importance in the eyes of the world, which over-shadowed any other settlement not enjoying the same advantages. She had gained such strength, as to be above all apprehension of danger from any native tribes,—her Literary, and we may soon say her Collegiate Institutions afford the means of a liberal education, whilst a regular line of Steamers, plying between Europe and her ports, give evidence of the increasing importance of her commerce. To avail themselves of such advantages, the best and most intelligent class of emigrants were naturally rather disposed to locate themselves within her bor-

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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