ders; and even some of those who had established themselves at Cape Palmas, were becoming dissatisfied with what seemed to them their inferior position as a community, and disposed to avail themselves of the greater field for their energies, which Liberia appeared to offer. Under these circumstances, we doubt not that the union which has taken place, will be attended with happy consequences to both the parties which formed it. Maryland in Liberia will continue to enjoy whatever advantages for commerce and for agriculture its geographical position, soil and climate may give to it, whilst the Republic now extends her jurisdiction along an unbroken line of Coast of some five hundred miles in extent; and has the opportunity of establishing a homogeneous system of laws respecting trade, currency, foreign relations, and various other subjects, so important to the welfare of her citizens. The subsequent accounts from Africa are all favorable; and the Board trust that a career of advancing prosperity and improvement, is now opened to all the extensive settlements of the civilized descendants of the sons of Africa.

The operations of the Maryland State Society at home, during the last two years, have, we regret to say, been more limited than we could have desired; but much has nevertheless transpired in that time, of great interest to the general advancement of the cause of Colonization. The first and most striking of these, was the munificent donation by Mr. John Stevens, of Talbot County, Maryland, of upwards of Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars, to be appropriated to the building of a vessel, to be held in trust exclusively for Colonization purposes. It was first proposed by Mr. Stevens, that the Maryland State Society should become the recipients of his bounty, and be the beneficiary owners of the vessel; but he was advised that we would not be justified in undertaking to keep such a ship constantly employed; and that whilst, if she were to run at least once a year from some port in the Chesapeake, she would afford all the facilities desired for sending out such emigrants as were likely to offer from Maryland, a much greater amount of good would be effected by his giving the control of the vessel to the American Colonization Society. The title to the ship was accordingly vested in three Officers of that Society, to be held in trust for it; whilst by the stipulations entered into by them with the Maryland State Society, we secure the right to transport our emigrants by her. The "Mary Caroline Stevens," so named at the request of Mr. Stevens, was built in Baltimore, and sailed thence on her first voyage at the close of the month of November, 1856. She has since continued to make regular voyages from Baltimore, whence she will probably always take her

departure. She is now on her third trip, and has proved herself to be admirably adapted, in every respect, to the purposes for which she was designed. As the State of Maryland has done more for Colonization than any other State of the Union, we have the proud satisfaction now to record the name of John Stevens, a citizen of Maryland, as that of the individual whose donation to the cause far exceeded at the time it was made, the amount of any other that had then been realized. Others had devoted property, to be appropriated to the cause after their death, but Mr. Stevens was the first to give such an amount during his life; nor does it diminish the lustre of his munificence, that his example has since been followed, and that the American Colonization Society have had gratefully to acknowledge a donation of even greater magnitude.

The period has now arrived, when it will become necessary for the State of Maryland to decide upon her future policy in regard to Colonization. That policy has for more than a quarter of a century, been one which may justly challenge the admiration of the world for its noble and forecasting philanthropy. Not confining herself to the object of removing from her borders, such of the free colored population as were disposed at once to emigrate, the State has always kept prominently in view, the necessity of providing a place for their establishment, which would have the capacity to receive, and be attractive enough to invite, the whole of that class of her population, whenever circumstances should make it apparent, as it has never been doubted would be the case, that their own welfare, as well as the prosperity of the State, were incompatible with their continued residence amongst us, and with their rapid increase. The liberal appropriations made by the State since the year 1831, have accordingly, with her sanction, been devoted as well to the removal of all such voluntary emigrants as could be obtained, as to the building them up into a community capable of self-support, self-government, and of an indefinite expansion in territory and in the accessions to their population which might be expected to be received from this country. The measures adopted for this purpose, have been fully explained in former Reports, have received the active co-operation of the Board of State Managers, and have met with the approbation of every successive General Assembly.

Maryland has always stood in the foremost rank of the supporters and advocates of Colonization. In 1831, she manifested a liberality of which there had been no previous example, and the course of policy then adopted she has continued to pursue, with undeviating consistency. Nor has she been unsustained in her

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1858