noble proceedings. One by one other States have avowed the same sentiments, and followed her example; and it is the proud boast of Colonizationists, that their objects commend themselves to the favor of all sections of the Union, and are recognized as entitled to the support, both of the North, and of the South. Among the slave-holding States, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky, and among the non-slave-holding, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Connecticut and Iowa, have all like Maryland, made liberal appropriations in support of Colonization.

The appropriation made by the Act of 1852, ch. 202, expired with the year 1857; and upon the action of the Legislature at their present session, must in a great measure depend the future operations of this Society. The dissolution of our political relations with our former colony, has not affected our powers and privileges in reference to emigrants; as our right to send them, and to provide for them by adequate donations of land are by the compact made with the State of Maryland in Liberia, and confirmed by the Republic of Liberia, expressly secured. We regret that the prejudices of the free colored population of Maryland, their indisposition to believe that those who advise their removal are actuated by friendly feelings towards them,—their unwillingness to give credit to the statements made to them whether by the white man or the black, of the real condition of their brethren in Africa,—and the tenacity with which in spite of all their experience, and of what is daily passing before their eyes, in all parts of the country, they still cling to the hope, that they may at length be allowed more toleration, and may be placed in a position of greater comfort in this country then has heretofore been the case, have continued to operate, to prevent much emigration from Maryland during the last two years. The friends of colonization have always maintained that the irresistible force of circumstances must sooner or later require the free colored population of the United States to seek for the means of happiness elsewhere than in a country where the position they occupy is such an anomalous one as it is here. We have never urged or advised the adoption of coercive measures to drive them from among us; but we have clearly seen that in the slave-holding states, as their numbers increased so likewise would the unwillingness to tolerate their continued residence; whilst in the free states, as the white population became more numerous, and the competition for employment greater, the black race would inevitably be crowded out of many of the walks in which they had been accustomed to find the means of livelihood. That such anticipations were well founded, the history of the country for years past has amply proved. In the free as well as

in the slave states, successive acts of legislation have demonstrated the growing dissatisfaction at the increase of the free colored population; whilst the increasing demand for employment by the whites has closed against them, many avocations which were formerly looked upon, as almost exclusively belonging to them. Even in the newly settled western states, with their sparser population and consequent greater demand for labor, the erection of legal and constitutional barriers against the admission of the free people of color, are seen to be among the first and most prominent objects which claim the attention of the citizens. And whilst the objection in the Southern states to the increase of free blacks in their midst are rapidly gaining strength, so do the obstacles to their finding an asylum elsewhere, within the wide borders of the Union; and were the free blacks of Maryland alone, amounting by the census of 1850 to 74,723 in number, now propose at once to remove from the State, there is, it may safely be affirmed, not a single State in the Union, however loudly her citizens may proclaim their philanthropy, and their sympathy with the blacks, that would be willing to give admittance and shelter to such a body of immigrants.

We are therefore confirmed in the belief, however they may be disposed to resist the conviction, that the time must soon come when the free blacks of Maryland will see that their comfort, if not the very preservation of their race, will require them to seek homes elsewhere. We think it equally evident, that it will be in vain for them to expect to find such homes within the broad limits of the United States; whilst it is, we believe, admitted by themselves, that the efforts made to provide an asylum in the Northern British Dominions, have proved that no resting place awaits them there. It is in view of this state of things, that as citizens of Maryland we look back with unmingled feelings of satisfaction, to the course pursued by our State; and rejoice in being able to point to an asylum secured by her liberality, where all of her colored population may be gladly welcomed,—may permanently remain in peace and security,—and where the career of advancement in every pursuit is thrown open to them with the most absolute and entire freedom. And having done thus much, we cannot for a moment suppose that Maryland will pause in her efforts, or will ever abandon the enterprise she has so long and so warmly cherished.

The General Assembly will, it is presumed, decide at the present session, upon the future policy of the State. The great work of providing a place, adequate to the reception, whenever required, of the whole free colored population of the State having been accomplished, any further appropriations that may be made will be

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1858