CONSTITUTION

OF

MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, held on the 22d of November, 1833, Mr. Latrobe, from the committee on the subject of a Constitution and Form of Government and Digest of Laws for the territory that may be acquired by said society in Africa, to be called Maryland in Liberia, reported the following form of a Constitution, which, after being read and considered, was on motion by Dr. Baker, unanimously adopted:

The Maryland State Colonization Society of Maryland, one of the United States of North America, to all persons to whom these presents shall come—*greeting:*

Whereas, the Maryland State Colonization Society, desirous to hasten, as far as they can, the period when slavery shall cease to exist in Maryland, and believing that this can best be done by advocating and assisting the cause of colonization, as the safest, truest, and most efficient auxiliary of freedom, under existing circumstances, have determined to establish a settlement or settlements, of free coloured people and emancipated slaves, under the auspices and control of the state society, at or near Cape Palmas, on the west coast of the continent of Africa, to be called Maryland in Liberia: And whereas, it is not less the desire of the society that the evil of slavery should be removed from Maryland, than that the emigrants to Africa should find their happiness and prosperity promoted by their change of home; and that, through their instrumen-

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

1. The Declaration of Rights,
The Constitution of the
State of Md. in Liberia
(rough draft, engrossed copy, printed copy)