Done at the office of the Maryland State Colonization Society, in the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

In testimony whereof, the president of the said society hath hereunto set his hand, and caused the seal of the said society to be affixed hereto, by order of the Board of Managers.

GEORGE HOFFMAN, [L. S.]
President of the Maryland State Colonization Society.

WITNESS:
JOHN H. B. LATROBE,
Cor. Sec. of the Maryland State Colonization Society.
JOHN HOFFMAN, Treasurer.
JAMES HOWARD, Recording Secretary.

NICHOLAS BRICE, V. P.
NATHANIEL WILLIAMS, V. P.
ALEXANDER NESBIT, V. P.
MOSES SHEPPARD,
PETER HOFFMAN,
SOLOMON ETTING,
CHARLES HOWARD,
CHARLES CARROLL HARPER,
SAMUEL BAKER, M. D.
JOHN J. HARROD,
E. G. EDRINGTON, M. D.
WILLIAM GEORGE READ,
F. ANDERSON,
Managers.

AN ORDINANCE

FOR THE

Temporary government of the territory of the Maryland State Colonization Society in Africa, called Maryland in Liberia.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted and ordained, by the Maryland State Colonization Society,* That the territory of Maryland in Liberia shall be divided into townships, each of which shall contain, as near as may be, a superficies equal to nine square miles; and, hereafter, a certain number of townships shall be made to constitute a county.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted and ordained,* That the estates of proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, or grand-child, to take the share of their deceased parent, in equal parts, among them; and where there shall be no children, or descendants, then in equal parts to the next kin, of equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother, or sister,

of the intestate, shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parent's share; and there shall, in no case, be a distinction between the whole and half blood: saving in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life; (that is to say, land and the improvements thereon, in which, at any time during marriage, the intestate had an absolute and unqualified ownership,) and one-third part of the personal estate, (that is to say, all the property held by the intestate at the time of his decease, other than real property,) after the payments of the debts of the intestate.

SEC. 3. *Be it enacted and ordained,* That estates in the said territory may be devised, or bequeathed, by will in writing, or any written instrument, expressing an intention to devise or bequeath, and describing the property intended, so as to identify it, signed by him, or her, in whom the estate may be, (being of full age) and attested by two witnesses, signing the same in presence of each other, and in the presence of the testator. And real estates may be conveyed by any instrument describing, so as to identify it, the estate to be conveyed, and shewing the intention of the person making the conveyance, to convey, signed and delivered by the person (being of full age) in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses.

SEC. 4. *Be it enacted and ordained,* That before such wills shall take effect, they shall be proved, by the testimony of one or both of the subscribing witnesses, to have been executed by the Testator, when he was of sound mind and understanding, before the register (hereinafter mentioned) of the district of the said territory, in which the testator resided, and deposited, with the register's certificate that it has been proved, endorsed thereon, for record among the records of his office.

SEC. 5. *Be it enacted and ordained,* That before such conveyances shall take effect, according to their tenor, they shall be acknowledged before a justice of the peace, (hereinafter mentioned) of the said territory, and deposited for record with the register of the district of the territory, in which the land lies, which is intended to be conveyed: it being the duty of the register, to note, on the back of said conveyance, the time of its being deposited for record. All deeds of real estate by way of pledge, shall be executed, acknowledged and deposited for record, as above, before they shall have any effect.

SEC. 6. *Be it enacted and ordained,* That personal property shall pass by delivery, except where the sale or conveyance thereof is by way of pledge, or where the person conveying the same

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)