territory, shall have conditionally, for him or herself and family, a farm lot, containing five acres of land, which shall be his or her own, absolutely, upon condition, that, within two years after receiving it, he or she puts, or causes to be put, improvements upon another lot, to be designated by the agent, equal to those which were upon his or her lot, when it was first given to him or her, or which were afterwards put there, for him or her, at the expense of the government. Or, if within two years after he or she shall have received a vacant unimproved lot, should he or she select such, or the agent in his discretion give such, he or she shall clear one acre of it, and erect a substantial native house thereon, to the satisfaction of the agent. If these conditions should not be complied with, the lot shall be forfeited and belong again to government. Unmarried men, of full age, shall have each a half farm lot upon the same conditions as above. If the man marries, or if he has the whole of his half farm lot in good cultivation, he shall have the entire farm lot, of which he before had but one-half. If a man, a member of a family that already has a lot, marries, he shall have a lot upon the same conditions that lots are given to new emigrants, as above.

The agent may, in his discretion, if an emigrant desires, give to him or her, instead of a farm lot, a town lot: but in such case, the town lot must be cleared, fenced, and a good house, to be approved by the agent, must be built upon it within one year, or the same shall be forfeited. Any emigrant, who is the absolute owner of a farm lot, may have a town lot, at the discretion of the agent, on paying a price therefor, and clearing, building on, and fencing the same, within one year: and an emigrant, who is the absolute owner of a town lot, may have a farm lot, at the discretion of the agent, on paying a price therefor, and performing the same conditions that are imposed upon new emigrants.

When an emigrant receives a lot in the first instance, the agent shall give to him a certificate, containing the condition on which he is to become the absolute owner: and when the condition is complied with, the certificate shall be exchanged for an absolute deed.

Persons holding town or farm lots are to keep the streets and roads contiguous thereto clear and in good travelling order, to the middle thereof, and to cultivate such trees as may be planted or left standing there for shade.

In the first settlement of the territory, assistance may be afforded to emigrants in clearing, fencing, and building on their own lots, at the discretion of the agent; and, when necessary, on their arrival,

rations shall be given to them for their support; provided no person shall receive rations for a longer period than six months after his arrival.

Should the agent deem proper, he may cause long native houses to be built, in convenient places, in which new emigrants may be received on their arrival, remaining there until they can get a house built on their own lots, or otherwise provide for their own accommodation, provided that they shall not be entitled to remain in the said long houses longer than six months from the time of their arrival in the territory.

Sec. 36. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That no person shall own land in the territory, who does not reside therein.

Sec. 37. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That until a more full code shall be prepared, the following general rules shall regulate the punishment of offences, not hereinbefore provided for, in the territory:

Murder, rape, setting fire to a house at night, in which a person or persons then reside, shall be considered capital crimes, and shall, on conviction, be punished with death; trading in slaves shall also be punished with death. Sedition, mutiny, and insubordination to the lawful authorities, shall be punished by the court of sessions, on conviction, by exile, fine and imprisonment, labour on the public works, or farm, with a clog, and close imprisonment at night, or all or any of these punishments. Quarrelling, riot, Sabbath breaking, drunkenness, and profaneness, may, upon conviction in the court of sessions, be punished by fine and imprisonment.

Carnal illicit intercourse with native women shall be punished, on conviction, by fine and imprisonment, for the first offence; and a repetition of it shall be punished, on conviction, by fine and imprisonment, labour on the public farm or works, and close confinement at night.

All other criminal offences, cognizable by the court of monthly sessions, may be punished by fine and imprisonment, labour, with a clog, on the public farm or works, with close confinement at night, and exile, in the discretion of the court, and according to the nature of the crime.

Criminal offences, cognizable by justices of the peace, shall be punished by fine and imprisonment, labour on the public farm, and close confinement at night. In case of failure to find security for good behaviour, when required, the person so failing shall perform such labor on the public farm, with close confinement at night, as

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)