the agent may deem proper, until he shall find security, or the object, for which it was required of him, shall have been answered.

Persons failing to find security to appear at court to answer criminal charges against them, may, at the discretion of the agent, be compelled to work on the public farm, and subjected to close confinement at night, until the meeting of the court.

Sec. 38. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That it shall be the duty of the agent to cause to be cleared and cultivated, in each township, a public farm, of such extent as he may think desirable, to be under the management of a person appointed by the agent, unless before appointed by the state society.

Persons who are, at any time, without means of support after the period has elapsed during which they are permitted to draw rations; persons sentenced by the proper authorities to work on the public farm,—shall be made to work in the cultivation of this farm, and its produce shall be applied to their support, in the first instance, and afterwards to the use of the government.

In the first organization of a settlement, the agent may require, if he thinks it necessary for the public good, that all male persons, in good health, shall labour for a time on the public farm, for the general support.

Attached to each public farm, there shall be one or more long native houses, for the accommodation of the labourers; a part shall be allotted to the accommodation, expressly, of persons labouring under sentence of the law, which shall be strong enough to confine them at night.

Sec. 39. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That the power of pardoning offences belongs to the agent.

Sec. 40. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That bed and bedding, wearing apparel, cooking utensils, an axe and a hoe, shall in all cases be exempted from liability for debts incurred by their owner.

Sec. 41. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That no person shall reside in the territory, without permission of the society, or the agent.

Sec. 42. *And whereas*, Although circumstances require, that the government of the said territory should remain in the state society for the present, yet the time is looked forward to, when the people shall assume the government to themselves exclusively; and as it is the desire of the state society, to prepare them for that period, in such a manner, as will best guaranty their prosperity, as an independent people; and whereas it is proper, that the course contemplated by the state society, should be clearly explained in the

beginning, for the satisfaction of those who may abandon their present country, for Africa, the country of their fathers, therefore,

Be it enacted and ordained, That, so soon as there shall be five thousand male inhabitants in the territory in Africa, governed by the state society, upon giving proof thereof to the agent, they shall receive authority, with time, and place appointed, to elect representatives to represent them in a general assembly; provided, that for every five hundred male inhabitants there shall be one representative, and so on progressively; with the number of male inhabitants, shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty-five, after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the assembly itself: *provided*, that no person shall be eligible to be elected as a representative, unless he has resided three years in Maryland in Liberia, and shall hold real estate in the territory, in his absolute possession; nor shall any person vote for a representative, who is not qualified, as prescribed for voters, for the offices herein before enumerated.

The representatives, thus elected, shall serve for the term of one year, and in case of the death of a representative, or his removal from office, the agent shall cause a new election to be held by his constituents, for a member in his stead, to serve the residue of the term.

The general assembly or legislature, shall consist of the agent, legislative council, and house of representatives. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office three years, any three of whom to be a quorum; and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the agent shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together, and when met, they shall nominate ten persons, not of their own body, having the qualifications of representatives, and return their names to the state society, five of whom the state society shall commission to serve as aforesaid; and whenever a vacancy shall occur in the council, by death, resignation or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid for such vacancy, and return their names to the state society, one of whom the state society shall appoint and commission, for the residue of the term; and every three years, at least six months before the expiration of the time of service of the members of the council, the said house shall nominate the ten persons qualified as aforesaid, and

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)