AN ORDINANCE

FOR THE REDRESS OF INJURIES IN THE COLONY OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

Be it enacted and ordained by the Maryland State Colonization Society, That the following principles and rules shall have the force of law in the Colony of Maryland in Liberia.

TITLE I.

OF INJURIES.

1. An injury is an unlawful damage done to another, and is the proper subject of an action. It does not, generally, depend upon the intention of the wrong-doer whether an act is an injury or not. A bad design is not necessary to the existence of an injury, although it is to the existence of a crime. The object of actions for injuries is to redress the injured party, not, like that of prosecutions for crimes, to punish the guilty.

2. Every act which is prejudicial to the interest of another is an injury, unless it be warranted by some law.

3. An omission is not generally an injury, but where a party is bound by contract, official duty, or law, to do an act, and omits to do it, or where, in consequence of an omission, an act of the same party, otherwise harmless, becomes prejudicial to the interest of another, such omission is an injury, for which an action will lie.

4. Every person is liable to an action for all injuries committed by himself or his wife.

5. Every person is liable to an action for all damages which arise from the negligence, carelessness, or unskilfulness of himself or his wife at any time, or of his agents or servants while employed in his business; and also for all damages committed by any animal belonging to him, or under his care or charge, provided such damage be one which such animal was likely to commit, either from

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)