AN ORDINANCE

FOR THE BETTER MAINTENANCE OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

Be it enacted and ordained by the Maryland State Colonization Society, That it shall be the duty of all white persons above the age of fourteen years, who shall hereafter arrive in the territory called Maryland in Liberia, except the commanders, officers, and other persons attached to vessels of war, and the masters, supercargoes, officers, and seamen of merchant vessels, and such passengers on board such merchant vessels as merely touch or call in the course of a voyage, and do not intend to remain in the territory more than ten days, to report themselves to the Colonial Secretary as soon as conveniently may be after their arrival, and to sign, in his office and presence, an engagement of the tenor and effect following in a book to be kept for that purpose, that is to say:

MARYLAND IN LIBERIA, TO WIT:

KNOW ALL MEN that we whose names are hereunto subscribed do declare and acknowledge that the Government of the territory known by the name of Maryland in Liberia, is rightfully vested in the Maryland State Colonization Society, and in the agents and officers appointed by them, or otherwise, under the authority of the constitution of Maryland in Liberia, adopted on the twenty-second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, and we do, and each of us for himself or herself doth, declare and solemnly promise that during our stay in the said territory, respectively, we will submit ourselves to the said constitution, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, which constitution and laws we acknowledge to be the laws of the land; and we do further engage and solemnly promise that during our stay in the said territory, we will conduct ourselves respectfully towards the said Government, and peaceably towards the citizens and inhabitants of the said territory.

And be it enacted and ordained, That if any person bound by the provisions of the first section of this ordinance to sign the aforesaid engagement, shall remain in the colony ten days without so doing, it shall be the duty of the Governor to cause such person to be arrested and taken to the office of the Colonial Secretary in order to subscribe the same, and any such person refusing to submit to such arrest or to subscribe the said engagement, shall be put into close confinement in such place and manner as the Governor shall direct, until he or she shall either subscribe the said engagement, or give security to the satisfaction of the Governor to remove from Maryland in Liberia at the first convenient opportunity, and, in the mean time to be of good behaviour, which security shall be in the following form, that is to say:

MARYLAND IN LIBERIA, TO WIT:

We do hereby bind ourselves to Maryland in Liberia that the above named shall depart from the territory called Maryland in Liberia, at the first convenient opportunity, and at farthest before the day of next, unless licensed to remain longer by the Governor upon new security given, and also that the said during (his or her) stay in the said territory, shall in all respects, obey the laws of the land under penalty of dollars to be paid by us, or any of us—

Witness our hands this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

And be it enacted and ordained, That the blanks in the above mentioned bond shall be filled up at the discretion of the Governor, and the bond shall be forfeited, and the whole penalty may be recovered, in case the party for whom the security is given shall be convicted of any offence against the laws, or shall apply for redress of any injury he or she may have received, to any power other than the Government of Maryland in Liberia, the offenders being within the jurisdiction of the said Government, or if such person shall not leave the Colony within the time limited for that purpose.

And be it enacted and ordained, That if any person for whom such security shall have been given, shall be truly unable to depart from the Colony before the day appointed in such bond, the Governor being satisfied that such inability is real, and not fraudulent, may license such person to remain for another limited period, taking new security in the same form from the same or other sureties.

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)