State Colonization Room.
Baltimore Janua. 12. 1841.

To his Excellency William Grason
Governor of Maryland.

The report of the undersigned managers of the State fund, under the act of 1831 Ch. 281 - respectfully state that during the last year they have drawn from the treasury the sum of ten thousand dollars being the amount limited by the act of the Legislature of the last session - a part of which has been appropriated through the agency of the Maryland State Colonization Society in the payment of the expenses incurred in the transportation of emigrants to Africa heretofore, and in the maintaining of them there, as authorised by the act above mentioned, and a part in the dissemination of information through the State as also authorised by the same act - The number of manumissions during the last year have been one hundred and twenty eight - making the whole number since the passage of the act twenty three hundred - During the last year no emigrants have been sent from the State to Africa, the current of feeling among the free colored population having turned their attention to the British West India Islands, and diverted it wholly, for the present, from other quarters. The undersigned believe from the events of the last twelve months, that the feeling is increasing among the free colored people that this is not their appropriate home, and that sooner or later emigration to other lands will be to their happiness and well-being - Hitherto they have remained in the United States with the belief that by preserving here their numbers undiminished they would ultimately obtain social and political equality with the whites - This has been the abolition doctrine that has been spread among them, and by which they have been influenced heretofore. It is believed now, however, to have lost its weight, in a great measure, and there is a restlessness among the thinking and prudent of the free colored people which indicates a thorough change in their feelings with reference to removal. That emigration to the British West Indies will long continue in favor the undersigned cannot believe - for the persons wanted there are laborers for the Sugar crops - a species of toil, to which the negroes of Maryland are unaccustomed, and in which they must be brought into competition with the emancipated slaves of the island, whenever these

last choose to return to the habits of labor from which their emancipation has released.

The undersigned mention this in, no hostility to emigration of the free colored people to Trinidad and Guiana, but as indicating a probable result, which under any circumstances it would be prudent to provide for, and which has been most fully provided for in the establishment of the Colony of Maryland in Liberia whose prosperity & success thus far is believed to be without a parallel in the whole history of Colonization. This colony is now capable of receiving all the persons that may choose to emigrate to it, and, when the restless feeling among the colored population already alluded to becomes disappointed in the results of the West India scheme, will furnish an alternative by which it can be gratified in a manner not only of their best interests, but of the best interests of the people of Maryland from whom they will go forth.

In the year 1790 there were 8.043 free negroes in Maryland: the late census shews that there are 17.980 in the city of Baltimore alone, and 61.937 in the State of Maryland. This population which is among us but not of us - which has no interest in common with us, which is debarred political and social rights and which can anticipate no change for the better, may well be dissatisfied with their position and look abroad for a more congenial home. It is the part of a wise policy to provide one. This has been done - and however the free colored people may, for awhile, vacillate in the selection of their permanent abiding place there is little doubt that they will ultimately prefer removing to a place where the colored man fills all the offices in the government, rather than to a place where their removal still leaves them under the predominant influences of a white population - in which the colored man is trusted with power, not as his right, but as a favor. The condition of the colored population is of great interest, and the undersigned, see nothing yet to induce them to doubt the policy of the State in relation to it.

The undersigned transmit, herewith, a copy of the ninth Annual report of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, being the last they have issued, which is fully explanatory of their plans and policy - And have the honor to be,

Most Respectfully

Signed &c Chas. Howard
Wm. R. Stuart

Maryland Historical Society
The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers
X. Manumissions and Emigrants
B. Manumission Books, Copies
1841