the last two years, have, we regret to say, been more limited than we could have desired; but much has nevertheless transpired in that time, of great interest to the general advancement of the cause of Colonization. The first and most striking of these, was the munificent donation by Mr. John Stevens, of Talbot County, Maryland, of upwards of Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars, to be appropriated to the building of a vessel, to be held in trust exclusively for Colonization purposes. It was first proposed by Mr. Stevens, that the Maryland State Society should become the recipients of his bounty, and be the beneficiary owners of the vessel; but he was advised that we would not be justified in undertaking to keep such a ship constantly employed; and that whilst, if she were to run at least once a year from some port in the Chesapeake, she would afford all the facilities desired for sending out such emigrants as were likely to offer from Maryland, a much greater amount of good would be effected by his giving the control of the vessel to the American Colonization Society. The title to the ship was accordingly vested in three Officers of that Society, to be held in trust for it; whilst by the stipulations entered into by them with the Maryland State Society, we secure the right to transport our emigrants by her. The "Mary Caroline Stevens," so named at the request of Mr. Stevens, was built in Baltimore, and sailed thence on her first voyage at the close of the month of November, 1856. She has since continued to make regular voyages from Baltimore, whence she will probably always take her departure. She is now on her third trip, and has proved herself to be admirably adapted, in every respect, to the purposes for which she was designed. As the State of Maryland has done more for Colonization than any other State of the Union, we have the proud satisfaction now to record the name of John Stevens, a citizen of Maryland, as that of the individual whose donation to the cause far exceeded at the time it was made, the amount of any other that had then been realized. Others had devoted property, to be appropriated to the cause after their death, but Mr. Stevens was the first to give such an amount during his life; nor does it diminish the lustre of his munificence, that his example has since been followed, and that the American Colonization Society have had gratefully to acknowledge a donation of even greater magnitude.

The period has now arrived, when it will become necessary for the State of Maryland to decide upon her future policy in regard to Colonization. That policy has for more than a quarter of a century, been one which may justly challenge the admiration of the world for its noble and forecasting philanthropy. Not confining herself to the object of removing from her borders, such of the free colored population as were disposed at once to emigrate, the State has always kept prominently in view, the necessity of providing a place for their establishment, which would have the capacity to receive, and be attractive enough to invite, the whole of that class of her population, whenever circumstances should make it apparent, as it has never been doubted would be the case,

that their own welfare, as well as the prosperity of the State, were incompatible with their continued residence amongst us, and with their rapid increase. The liberal appropriations made by the State since the year 1831, have accordingly, with her sanction, been devoted as well to the removal of all such voluntary emigrants as could be obtained, as to the building them up into a community capable of self-support, self-government, and of an indefinite expansion in territory and in the accessions to their population which might be expected to be received from this country. The measures adopted for this purpose, have been fully explained in former Reports, have received the active co-operation of the Board of State Managers, and have met with the approbation of every successive General Assembly.

Maryland has always stood in the foremost rank of the supporters and advocates of Colonization. In 1831, she manifested a liberality of which there had been no previous example, and the course of policy then adopted she has continued to pursue, with undeviating consistency. Nor has she been unsustained in her noble proceedings. One by one other States have avowed the same sentiments, and followed her example; and it is the proud boast of Colonizationists, that their objects commend themselves to the favor of all sections of the Union, and are recognized as entitled to the support, both of the North, and of the South. Among the slave-holding States, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky, and among the non-slave-holding, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Connecticut and Iowa, have all like Maryland, made liberal appropriations in support of Colonization.

The appropriation made by the Act of 1852, ch. 202, expired with the year 1857; and upon the action of the Legislature at their present session, must in a great measure depend the future operations of this Society. The dissolution of our political relations with our former colony, has not affected our powers and privileges in reference to emigrants; as our right to send them, and to provide for them by adequate donations of land are by the compact made with the State of Maryland in Liberia, and confirmed by the Republic of Liberia, expressly secured. We regret that the prejudices of the free colored population of Maryland, their indisposition to believe that those who advise their removal are actuated by friendly feelings towards them,—their unwillingness to give credit to the statements made to them whether by the white man or the black, of the real condition of their brethren in Africa,—and the tenacity with which in spite of all their experience, and of what is daily passing before their eyes, in all parts of the country, they still cling to the hope, that they may at length be allowed more toleration, and may be placed in a position of greater comfort in this country then has heretofore been the case, have continued to operate, to prevent much emigration from Maryland during the last two years. The friends of colonization have always maintained that the irresistible force of circumstances must sooner or later require the free colored population of the United States to seek for the means of happiness elsewhere than in a coun-

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XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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