try where the position they occupy is such an anomalous one as it is here. We have never urged or advised the adoption of coercive measures to drive them from among us; but we have clearly seen that in the slave-holding states, as their numbers increased so likewise would the unwillingness to tolerate their continued residence; whilst in the free states, as the white population became more numerous, and the competition for employment greater, the black race would inevitably be crowded out of many of the walks in which they had been accustomed to find the means of livelihood. That such anticipations were well founded, the history of the country for years past has amply proved. In the free as well as in the slave states, successive acts of legislation have demonstrated the growing dissatisfaction at the increase of the free colored population; whilst the increasing demand for employment by the whites has closed against them, many avocations which were formerly looked upon, as almost exclusively belonging to them. Even in the newly settled western states, with their sparser population and consequent greater demand for labor, the erection of legal and constitutional barriers against the admission of the free people of color, are seen to be among the first and most prominent objects which claim the attention of the citizens. And whilst the objection in the Southern states to the increase of free blacks in their midst are rapidly gaining strength, so do the obstacles to their finding an asylum elsewhere, within the wide borders of the Union; and were the free blacks of Maryland alone, amounting by the census of 1850 to 74,723 in number, now propose at once to remove from the State, there is, it may safely be affirmed, not a single State in the Union, however loudly her citizens may proclaim their philanthropy, and their sympathy with the blacks, that would be willing to give admittance and shelter to such a body of immigrants.

We are therefore confirmed in the belief, however they may be disposed to resist the conviction, that the time must soon come when the free blacks of Maryland will see that their comfort, if not the very preservation of their race, will require them to seek homes elsewhere. We think it equally evident, that it will be in vain for them to expect to find such homes within the broad limits of the United States; whilst it is, we believe, admitted by themselves, that the efforts made to provide an asylum in the Northern British Dominions, have proved that no resting place awaits them there. It is in view of this state of things, that as citizens of Maryland we look back with unmingled feelings of satisfaction, to the course pursued by our State; and rejoice in being able to point to an asylum secured by her liberality, where all of her colored population may be gladly welcomed,—may permanently remain in peace and security,—and where the career of advancement in every pursuit is thrown open to them with the most absolute and entire freedom. And having done thus much, we cannot for a moment suppose that Maryland will pause in her efforts, or will ever abandon the enterprise she has so long and so warmly cherished.

The General Assembly will, it is presumed, decide at the present session, upon the future policy of the State. The great work of providing a place, adequate to the reception, whenever required, of the whole free colored population of the State having been accomplished, any further appropriations that may be made will be applicable to the transportation of emigrants to Africa, and to providing for them there, for a limited period, say of six months, a shelter, support, and medical attendance; and perhaps in part towards aiding in the keeping of an office here for the purpose of disseminating information, and paying a small salary to an agent in Africa. We confidently trust in a renewal of the State's appropriation, not doubting that the whole subject will receive from the Legislature that attentive consideration which its importance demands, and such action as will be responsive to the wishes of the people of the State; and in conformity with the warm interest which they have always manifested in the cause of African Colonization.

The Board have frequently referred in former Reports to the tenacity with which the free blacks of this State cling to their old homes and associations, and their unwillingness to abandon them, in the vain hope that in some unforeseen manner, their condition here will become ameliorated. This feeling is a natural one; but it must at length give way, as the experience of year after year but more fully demonstrates that every where in the United States, the increase of the white population tends only to augment the embarrassment and difficulties of the position of the free blacks. This conviction is, we believe, slowly making its way to the minds of the latter; and as they cast their eyes abroad in search of happier homes, they are, we think, becoming more and more impressed with the idea that in Africa alone, and by an entire and absolute separation from the white race, can these be found. To the first named causes is owing the small emigration during the last two years, whilst the concurring testimony of those who are most familiar with the views and feelings of the free blacks, lead us to the conclusion that this state of things cannot be of much longer duration.

Since the last published Report of the Board, there have been sent from Maryland:

June 1, 1856, per the Elvira Owen, to Cape Palmas:		
From Dorchester County, ...	3	
From Charles County, ...	1	– 4
Nov. 30, 1856, per M. C. Stevens, to Monrovia:		
From Baltimore, ...	1	
May, 1857, per ditto, to Cape Palmas:		
From Charles County, ...	3	
Nov. 1857, to Monrovia:		
From Somerset County, ...	30	– 34
Total from Maryland, . .		38

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

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

1858