the first, and of $90,000 for the second year, to aid in the deportation of the free people of color from Virginia, passed at its last session the House of Delegates, but was rejected in the Senate by a small majority. The managers cannot doubt that the general sentiment of the State is in favor of such an appropriation, and that it will soon be granted.

Nearly half the colonists in Liberia have emigrated from Virginia, and many citizens of that State have sought aid from the society for removing thither their liberated slaves during the last year. The Legislatures of Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and New York, have taken the cause of this society into consideration, but have not (though it is hoped they soon will) aided it by pecuniary appropriations.

Abundant and explicit testimony, founded on personal observation, in regard to the character and prosperity of the colony, has, since the last anniversary, come before the public, both from enlightened foreigners and respectable and disinterested citizens of the United States. It may be well to record here the opinion of an English officer who spent three years upon the African coast, (though perhaps already known to this meeting,) "that the complete success of the colony of Liberia is a proof that negroes are, by proper care and attention, as susceptible of the habits of industry and the improvements of social life as any other race of men; and that the amelioration of the condition of the black people on the coast of Africa, by means of such colonies, is not chimerical." He adds: "A few colonies of this kind, scattered along the coast, would be of infinite value in improving the natives."

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The intelligent master of the ship James Perkins "did not hear, while at the colony, a discontented expression from any one," but found "all with whom he conversed apparently happy, and pleased both with the country and government."

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*Seventeenth annual report—January* 20, 1834.

The board regret to state that the health of the colonists, particularly of those who arrived in the early part of the year, has suffered severely; and the mortality among the emigrants by the latest expeditions has been unusually great. By the return of Dr. Mechlin to the United States, within a few days past, certain facts on this subject have come to the knowledge of the board, which they deem it their duty to submit to the general meeting. From the Lafayette, Roanoke, Jupiter, American, Ajax, and Hercules, were landed 649 emigrants, of whom 134 have died. Though emigrants of no particular class, and from no particular section of the country, have been exempt from the fatal effects of the fever, the greatest mortality has occurred among those who had resided farthest to the North, and in the most elevated portions of our own country. The managers have sought to ascertain the true causes of this heavy and unexpected calamity, trusting that they would be found such as should not be permitted to weaken the efforts or dim the hopes of the society.

Dr. Todsen, a physician of much experience in the diseases of the African climate, deemed it necessary in the spring, for the benefit of his health, to visit the United States; and, in the course of the summer, Dr. Hall, his



only associate in medical practice, returned to this country for a similar purpose. The duties of physician for the whole colony were thus thrown upon the colonial agent, Dr. Mechlin, who, owing to toils and exposures during a visit to Grand Bassa, had suffered severely under repeated attacks of disease, and now, while the sick were widely separated from each other, many of them at Caldwell, nine miles from Monrovia, found it impossible, even had all other concerns been neglected, to attend duly to their necessities. The emigrants from the most southern States felt confident that they would remain unharmed, and therefore unnecessarily exposed themselves to the various exciting causes of the fever, and, when seized by it, relied for remedies rather upon the judgment of some of their own number, than upon the advice of those whose experience would have proved a far safer guide.

The loss of so many lives is then, in the opinion of the board, to be attributed rather to the extraordinary unhealthiness of the season, the want of medical aid, and the incautiousness and use of improper medicines on the part of the emigrants, than to the general and permanent character of the climate.

The managers are confirmed in this opinion by the colonial census just received, which, though certainly unfavorable to the health of the colony, will not induce those to despair of success who are familiar with the history of colonization. The number which had been sent to the colony before the arrival of the expeditions above mentioned as so severely afflicted, was 1,872 persons; and the actual population of the colony (not including the recaptured Africans) in 1832, 1,697. The whole number of emigrants, including the expeditions of last year and the recaptured Africans, (a part of whom only were removed from this country,) has been 3,123, while the present population of the colony is stated to be 2,816. About fifty of the colonists are believed to have been absent in the country at the time this census was taken. Now, it should not be forgotten that the early emigrants were exposed to almost every variety of hardship and suffering; that several fell in a contest with the natives; that from twenty to fifty at least have returned; that some have perished by disasters upon the rivers and at sea; that all have had to contend with difficulties inseparable from their enterprise in an untried climate and on a distant and uncultivated shore; and, finally, that neither the information nor the pecuniary means of the society have at all times been such as to enable it adequately to fulfil the dictates of its own benevolence.

While the facts just stated must excite painful emotions in the breast of every member of this society, while all will feel that human life is not to be wantonly exposed or lightly regarded; neither, the managers may be permitted to say, on account of ordinary or temporary calamities, should a great cause, undertaken from the purest motives and for purposes of large and lasting good to mankind, be abandoned. The history of colonization in America proves how impotent were events, in themselves most afflictive and disheartening, to arrest the progress of settlements founded by men who grew wise in adversity, and gathered resolution and strength from defeat. The genius of our nation, sprung from the colonies of Plymouth and Jamestown, rebukes the despondency which would augur destruction to Liberia, because dark clouds have hung over it and many valuable lives perished in laying its foundations. Nearly one-half the first Plymouth emigrants died in the course of four months. The first three attempts to

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

2. Report of Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland
H.R. report no.283, 27th Congress
3rd session, Washington, D.C. 1843