Art. IV. There shall be a board of directors, composed of delegates from the several State societies and societies for the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States. Each society contributing not less than one thousand dollars annually into the common treasury shall be entitled to two delegates; each society having under its care a colony shall be entitled to three delegates; and any two or more societies uniting in the support of a colony, composing at least three hundred souls, to three delegates each. Any individual contributing one thousand dollars to the society shall be a director for life.

Art. V. The society and the board of directors shall meet annually at Washington, on the third Tuesday in January, and at such other times and places as they shall direct. The board shall have power to organize and administer a general government for the several colonies in Liberia; to provide a uniform code of laws for such colonies, and manage the general affairs of colonization throughout the United States, except within the States which planted colonies. They shall also appoint annually the executive committee, to consist of seven, with such other officers as they may deem necessary. Any two members of the executive committee, with the chairman, shall form a quorum for the transaction of ordinary executive business; but all appropriations of money, or measure involving the expenditure of funds other than for the payment of debts previously contracted by order of the executive committee, shall be approved by at least four members of the executive committee. The officers of the society shall be *ex officio* members of the board of directors, and shall have a right to speak, but not to vote. The said board of directors shall designate the salaries of the officers, and adopt such plans as they may deem expedient for the promotion of the colonization cause. It shall be their duty to provide for the fulfilment of all existing obligations of the American Colonization Society, and nothing in the following article of these amendments shall limit or restrain their power to make such provisions by an equitable assessment on the several societies. Whenever a meeting of the board of directors shall be regularly called, and there are not at least six members in attendance, in such case five members of the executive committee, the chairman being one, with such directors, not less than two, as may be present, shall constitute a board, and have competent authority to transact any business of the society; provided, however, the board so constituted shall carry no question unless the vote be unanimous.

Art. VI. The expenses of the general government in Africa shall be borne by the several associated societies, according to the ratio to be fixed by the board of directors.

Art. VII. Every such society, which has under its care a colony, associated under the general government, shall have the right to appropriate its own funds in the colonization and care of its emigrants.

Art. VIII. The board of directors shall have the exclusive right to acquire territory in Africa, to negotiate treaties with the native African tribes, and to appropriate the territory and define the limits of the colonies.

Art. IX. The president and vice presidents of the society shall be elected annually by the society.

Art. X. It shall be the duty of the president (or in his absence the vice presidents, according to seniority) to preside at meetings of the society, and to call meetings when he thinks necessary.

Art. XI. The board of directors and the executive committee shall have power to fill up all vacancies occurring in their respective numbers during the year, and to make such by-laws for their government as they may deem necessary, provided the same are not repugnant to this constitution.

Art. XII. This constitution may be modified or altered, upon a proposition to that effect by any of the said societies, transmitted to each of the societies three months before the annual meetings of the board of directors, provided such proposition receive the sanction of two-thirds of the board at their next annual meeting.

Art. XIII. The representatives of the societies present at the annual meeting adopting this constitution shall have the power to elect delegates to serve in the board of directors until others are appointed by their societies. The delegates shall meet immediately after their election, organize, and enter upon their duties as a board.

Art. XIV. All sums paid into the treasury of the American Colonization Society shall be applied, after defraying the expenses of collection of the same, and a ratable portion of the subsisting debts of the society, to the advancement, use, and benefit of the colony of Monrovia; and the agent of the society, or governor, shall reside therein.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA,

Adopted by the board of directors of the American Colonization Society, January 5, 1839.

The American Colonization Society hereby grants to the colonies or settlements in Liberia, on the western coast of Africa, under its care, the following constitution:

Art. I. The colonies or settlements of Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, Millsburg, Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, and such other colonies hereafter established by this society, or by the colonization societies adopting the constitution of the American Colonization Society, on the western coast of Africa, are hereby united into one government, under the name and style of the commonwealth of Liberia.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

Art. II. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a governor and council of Liberia, but all laws by them enacted shall be subject to the revocation of the American Colonization Society.

Art. III. The council shall consist of representatives to be elected by the people of the several colonies or settlements, and shall be apportioned among them according to a just ratio of representation. Until otherwise provided, Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, and Millsburg, shall be entitled to six representatives; and Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, to four representatives—to be apportioned among them by the governor.

Art. IV. The representatives shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of the council, and in going to, or returning from the

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