Court to permit manumitted slaves to remain in the State. The sixth authorizes manumitted slaves to be hired out until their wages pay the expense of their removal. The seventh requires the Treasurer to borrow $20,000 to make the first year's payment, and the eighth apportions the annual payments among the several counties and the city of Baltimore.[1] The remaining sections of the Act have no immediate bearing on the present topic.[2]

The harshness that prompted the above legislation soon gave way to the kindly feeling that had always influenced the people of Maryland towards the colored population. In but a single instance was the Sheriff called upon to remove a manumitted slave beyond the borders of the State.

Cotemporaneously with the passage of the Act of 1831, the State Colonization Society, which had previously existed as a voluntary association, was incorporated by the Act of 1831, chapter 314.

The charter, the extent of whose powers in the present connection it is important to note, especially authorized the incorporators "to purchase,

[1] Although the Act of 1831 left the amount to be drawn by the commissioners, from the treasury annually, after the first year, to their discretion, yet the second section which apportions the sum of $10,000 as the annual contribution of the several counties and the city of Baltimore, was held to limit the commissioners to that amount. See Act of 1852, ch. 202.

[2] The law of 1831 was prepared by Henry Brawner, from Charles County, one of the ablest members of the Legislature.

have and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee, or otherwise, any lands, tenements and hereditaments by gift, grant, bargain and sale, devise, or other act of any person or persons, body politic or corporate whatsoever . . . and to occupy, use and enjoy, or sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, all such lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods or chattels, in such manner as they shall determine the best adapted and most conducive to the object of colonizing, with their own consent, in Africa the free people of color in Maryland, and such slaves as may be manumitted for the purpose, and which is declared to be the sole and exclusive object of the said Society."

It was under this charter that the State Society took it upon itself to acquire, by purchase, territory in Africa and to exercise a power that had the incidents of sovereignty.

The first use made by the Commissioners of the State fund was to charter the ship Lafayette for Liberia, as already mentioned.

The accounts brought by the Lafayette on her return were so very unsatisfactory that the commissioners determined to suspend further emigration for the present; and the active promoters of the cause in Baltimore became, for a season, greatly discouraged. Colonization, however, was not to be abandoned because of temporary mis-

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XV. Pamphlets (not in original collection)
16. Maryland in Liberia, by J.H.B.Latrobe, March 9, 1885, Baltimore