The "turbulence and insubordination" of the first colonists has already been referred to, as well as the comments of the Memorial Volume in that connection. To obviate all excuse for like conduct by the emigrants to Cape Palmas and their successors, it was determined that they should carry with them a constitutional form of government, assented to in writing by each individual, to which later arrivals in the territory would necessarily be subject; and to this end Messrs. Read, Anderson and Latrobe had, on the 2nd of October, 1833, been appointed a committee to prepare "a constitution and form of government and digest of laws for the settlements of Maryland in Africa, with instructions to request the coöperation of David M. Perine and Hugh Davy Evans."[1]

On the 22nd of November, 1833, Mr. Latrobe, from the committee, reported a draft of a constitution and bill of rights to a full meeting of the Board of Managers, which unanimously adopted them.

The object of the State Society and the principles upon which it acted are so well set forth in the preamble to the constitution, that this part

[1] Mr. Perine's engagements did not permit him to act on the committee; neither did Mr. Evans'; although, at a later date, Mr. Evans became a member of the Board, and drew almost all the laws that the Society enacted.

of the instrument properly forms a part of the text.[1]

"The Maryland State Colonization Society of Maryland, one of the United States of America, to all persons to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

"Whereas, the Maryland State Colonization Society desires to hasten as far as they can the period when *slavery shall cease to exist in Maryland, and believing that this can best* be done by advocating and assisting the cause of colonization as the safest, truest and best auxiliary of freedom under existing circumstances, have determined to establish a settlement, or settlements, of free colored people and emancipated slaves, at or near Cape Palmas, on the west coast of Africa, to be called Maryland in Liberia; and whereas, it is not less the desire of the Society that the evil of slavery should be removed from Maryland, than

[1] "The meeting at which the Constitution was adopted, last Friday, was a very interesting one. By the time the documents presented to the Board of Managers were adopted, it was dusk, and two candles were brought into the large grand jury room in which the Board had met. The Constitution had been engrossed on a skin of parchment, with the seal of the Society attached, and Mr. George Hoffman, the President, was the first person called upon to sign it. He wrote his name in quite a John Hancock style, and then said, 'May the blessing of Heaven rest upon the work that we have now commenced.' The room, by this time, was quite dark, except around the two dim candles, and the remark of the President was wholly unexpected; but as soon as it was uttered there was a simultaneous Amen, in which all present most fervently joined."—*From a memorandum made the same evening.*

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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