accepted the offer of Mr. Oliver Holmes, Jr., of Baltimore, as special agent, to proceed to Africa and receive from Dr. Hall the property of the Society, and to act as temporary governor. This he did on the 4th of February, 1836.

The temporary character of Mr. Holmes' appointment, however, made it necessary to provide for a successor to Dr. Hall, as agent and governor. Hitherto white men only had had charge of colonies from the United States in Africa. The Board were satisfied that the time had now come to place a colored man in charge; which would relieve the colonists from the imputation of being still slaves in Liberia, under a white overseer, and at the same time vindicate the belief of the Board in the competency of the emigrants to exercise with credit the functions of government. After mature deliberation they selected Mr. John B. Russwurm, of Monrovia, as Governor of Maryland in Liberia; nor had they ever any occasion to regret their choice. His salary was fixed at $1,000, and $500 was added for the maintenance and support of his household and estate as governor.

It had not been long after Dr. Hall's arrival at Cape Palmas, in 1834, before he pressed upon the Board of Managers the importance of a coin for the colony, suggesting something like the Hay-

tien coin, so much below the standard Spanish dollar that it would not be exported. "At present," he said, "every colonist, in order to purchase provisions or pay a native for work, is necessitated to have on hand a full assortment of merchandise." There were many difficulties in regard to a coin, however, and nothing was done at the time; but it occurred to the Board of Managers that as tobacco had been made a currency in Maryland; cotton, for the production of which the soil was well adapted, might be made the currency, for the time being, of Maryland in Liberia; and, accordingly, the Board passed an ordinance "to promote the growth of cotton in the colony of Maryland in Liberia; to afford a circulating medium for the same, and to provide for the general welfare thereof." The ordinance provided for an inspector of cotton, made clean cotton a legal tender, at ten cents a pound, and provided in detail the machinery required to give the ordinance effect.[1]

The Board of Managers had more than once requested the government to order vessels of the United States, on the African station, to visit Cape Palmas instead of being confined to Monrovia; and in December, 1836, the Potomac cast anchor in the

[1] This ordinance never went into effect. By the time a sufficient quantity of cotton had been raised in the colony, another plan was adopted that obviated its necessity.

Maryland Historical Society

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