Constitution of 1833, Maryland in Liberia was, and of right ought to be, sovereign and independent of all authority not provided therein; that the constitution, and the laws, ordinances and treaties made under its authority were the supreme law of the land, to which all persons within the territory ought to conform; that emigrants from the United States and all persons born in the territory owed allegiance to the government of Maryland in Liberia and to none other; that residents merely, owed a temporary allegiance, without prejudice to the rights of the natives under the deeds from their kings and headmen, or treaties with them. The ordinance then declared who should be regarded as citizens; and enacted that the Government of Maryland in Liberia held its right of government and property in trust for the benefit of the citizens; and that no other person or persons in America had any beneficial interest in the government or property, which ought to be held and exercised for the purpose aforesaid.

The reason for the above ordinance was a difficulty that, in 1838, grew out of a fine imposed by a court-martial upon a colonist employed as a teacher in the Congregational Mission. The question of the sovereignty of the government of the colony was then discussed with one of the Secretaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign

Missions, who visited Baltimore for the purpose; when the views expressed in the above ordinance were maintained, and were referred to in a letter from the American Board, dated July 11th, in which it was "recognized that the agents of the State Society at Cape Palmas were the government of the territory ceded to the Society by the native owners and occupants; and that the missionaries and the assistant missionaries of the Board of Missions, residing in the territory, owed the same sort of deference to the government thus instituted as would be expected from foreigners in America."

In 1841, a similar question arose in regard to the right of Governor Russwurm to require civilized young men, in the employment of the Mission from Cape Coast and Sierra Leone, to perform military duty. When the matter was brought before the Board of Managers, the Governor's right was maintained.

Looking back, after the lapse of so many years, we may regret the necessity of raising this particular question, which led ultimately to the removal of the Congregational Mission; but the condition of the colony seemed to admit of no alternative. It is well stated by the committee. "The colony," it says, "being very small in numbers, with imperfect means of defence, and surrounded

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