great cause, and made its munificent donation of two hundred thousand dollars for the transportation and reception of emigrants in Africa; and the state society was incorporated with ample powers to accomplish the ends which it had in view.

It was early foreseen that a difficulty would arise in the limited capacity of the present settlements to receive emigrants from Maryland to the extent that, hereafter, might be desirable. The parent society, acting for the entire Union, was bound to apportion the number of emigrants, that Liberia was capable of accommodating, among the applicants from the different states; when, if the quota of Maryland should not be equal to her demand, a check might be given to emigration, at times when it might be most prejudicial. Indeed, a very small increase of the number of emigrants would have produced this effect during the present year.—With a view, therefore, to this anticipated emergency, the state society determined to form a new colony, which, increasing in its capacity to receive in the same proportion that the spirit of emigration increased at home, would be the means of placing the state beyond the reach of any circumstances over which it, or the state society, could have no control.

There were reasons, besides that above mentioned, which particularly moved the state society to undertake, by itself, the establishment of a new settlement, under its own auspices. It had so happened, that the present colony of Liberia had assumed rather a commercial character in the course of its brief, but valuable, existence. The wealth, that some of its settlers had acquired, was owing to the trade which they carried on with the natives and with the vessels that frequented their harbor. It was the desire of the Maryland State Society to see agriculture made the object of primary importance,—not only as placing the means of their own sustenance in the hands of the colonists, and rendering them independent of remote places or the native inhabitants for food; but because nine-tenths,

if not a far greater proportion, of the emigrants from this country would make better farmers than traders:—besides which, instead of having all their bad feelings brought into play by the artifices of a petty native traffic, engendering vicious habits by the intervals of idleness that it afforded, the emigrants, finding employment, in agricultural pursuits, from the moment of their arrival, and occupied with healthful labor, would have their minds in the best state to receive and preserve those sentiments of religion and morality, which it was the wish of the state society should form the character of the population. It was believed, also, that an agricultural community, spreading itself to the interior, would not only present better examples to the surrounding heathen, whom it was designed to bring to Gospel light, but would afford greater facilities for a rapidly increasing emigration from this country, than could be afforded by trading towns, however prosperous they might be. Of the soundness of these views, the Board of Managers had ample assurance, in the endeavors of the parent society to introduce an agricultural spirit into Liberia.

There was another object, which the board of managers thought of much importance, and which they proposed to combine with emigration from Maryland; and which could best be effected *at the commencement of a settlement*, and for which exclusive control was necessary. This was the establishment of the temperance principle, as a fundamental one—prohibiting any person from leaving Maryland for Africa, who would not first agree to forbear the use of ardent spirit, except in case of sickness; and holding any person ineligible to office in the colonial government, who either used or trafficked in it. An opportunity was offered of founding a nation upon the principle of temperance, and the board of managers thought it wise to lay hold of it.

It must not for a moment be supposed, that, in determining to form a new settlement, under the auspices of the state society and subject to its control, the board of managers intended either rivalry or opposition, in