

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Governor and Council of Maryland:

The Report of the Board of Managers appointed under the second section of an act of Assembly, passed at December session, 1831, chapter 281, entitled, "An Act relating to the people of color of this State," respectfully represent.

The number of persons of color removed from Maryland to Africa during the past year has been 140. They have been all sent to the settlement of the Maryland State Colonization Society, called Maryland in Liberia.

Hitherto, great opposition has been encountered among the free people of color to removal to Africa: and, with every effort that they have been able to make, neither the agent of the Board nor the agent of the State Society has succeeded, at times, in removing the impressions against colonization created by the calumnies of its enemies.

It is the opinion of the agents and many well-judging and observing citizens of the counties in the State, that this condition of things was owing to the active but secret efforts of the abolitionists, who, considering, as it is well known they do, that colonization, if successful, must destroy their wild and impracticable schemes, have sedulously devoted themselves to follow and defeat the agents of the Board of Managers and the State Society, as the best mode of forwarding their views and plans in a state where public opinion and the strong feelings of the community would not tolerate for an instant the open promulgation of their doctrines. The importance of the colonization plan is made the more evident by these efforts of the abolitionists to paralyze its operations.

Within the last year, a great change has evidently taken place in several of the counties, among the free people of color; and when the last expedition was in preparation, there were upwards of one hundred and twenty applicants for a passage to the Colony—eighty-five of them were sent. The greater part of the remainder were prevented, by want of time, from getting ready; but, with many others, are preparing now to embark in the spring. The agent reports that, hereafter, he expects to be able to obtain as many emigrants as it will be desirable to send in any one year.

The Board attribute this change wholly to the labors of the agents, and to the success of the Maryland Colony in Africa. The Board