

isted here the African colonies offered to them homes where they could enjoy far greater prospects of happiness and advancement than they could ever hope for in this country; and whilst we have never advocated any attempt to compel them by stringent measures to remove, we have always avowed our belief that the time was rapidly approaching when the growing pressure upon them arising from the increase of the white population and the consequent competition for the means of livelihood would require them to leave the State, whether such departure were hastened by unfriendly legislation or not. In anticipation of such a state of things the Colonization Society has confined its efforts to aiding in the removal of such of the free people of color as it could find willing to emigrate, but chiefly in the preparation and establishment on the coast of Africa of a colony adequate to the reception of as many as may hereafter resort to it. The Society has succeeded in establishing and building up such a colony at Maryland, in Liberia, now a county of the Independent Republic of Liberia.

The officers and managers of the Colonization Society have seen with regret some of the proposed enactments introduced for the consideration of the honorable the General Assembly in reference to the colored population, deeming them to be more stringent and coercive than there is any occasion for adopting. But as they have always considered that it was not within their province to interfere in any manner with the measures of police regulation which the Legislature might be pleased to enact, so at this time they have forborne to offer any expression of their opinion of the measures proposed. They leave this matter where it properly belongs, in the hands of the General Assembly and of its constituents. They beg leave, however, respectfully to pray that one provision of a proposed enactment, especially relating to the Colonization Society may not become a law. It is that which proposes to repeal in part the appropriation made by the Act of 1858, chapter 425. As has already been stated, the Board of State Managers have not during the past two years drawn from the Treasury any part of the sum of \$10,000 which, under the last mentioned law, they were authorized to receive had they required it for the purpose of carrying out the design of the said Act. But I am instructed respectfully to represent to the honorable the General Assembly, that if it is intended that that legislation of the present session is designed to be such as to impose further restrictions on the free people of color residing here. Humanity would seem clearly to dictate that the whole past policy of the State in providing for their comfortable establishment should not, at such a juncture, be departed from. In the name, therefore, of the Maryland State Colonization Society, as well as of all others who feel an in-