

These remarks are made in this place with a view of showing that while the society has, as it most gratefully acknowledges, been able to promote the great and useful undertaking in which it is engaged, mainly through the assistance derived from the State and the wise forethought of its policy, the society has contributed also, to an important extent, in the promotion of the objects which the State had in view in its legislation on the subject.

Inasmuch as these questions have been propounded by the committee, questions which it has afforded me the highest satisfaction to answer, it may be perhaps permitted me to express my earnest prayer that no legislation adverse to the present policy of the State, under existing laws, may take place, which shall in any wise weaken the hands that have for years been laboring without compensation, to carry out the views which were entertained when the colonization laws, as they are termed, were passed, and whose point and results were annually detailed at the meetings of the society during the sessions of the Legislature in Annapolis. Upon the legislation of the State, upon its settled policy as it was understood, there are now near five hundred emigrants on the coast of Africa. Now they are weak. They now hang on those who placed them there, and on whom they depend. To repeal the law, to take away the fund, would be followed by melancholy consequences to them; and I trust, that satisfied from the answers now given, that the funds in question have been in a faithful stewardship, they will not be impaired, but that the law will be permitted to remain until, by its terms, these funds shall be exhausted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. H. B. LATROBE,

*President of the Md. State Colonization Society.*

February 17th, 1840.