

3d It is believed that there has been but one instance in which the Managers of the State Colonization fund have caused to be sent out of the State elsewhere than to Africa, under the provisions of the law of 1831, manumitted slaves who refused to go to Africa. This was a case which occurred in Charles county, when the Sheriff removed the Negroes and obtained his expenses for doing so, under the law in question.

The act of 1831, and its supplement 1832, ch. 145, contemplate that the Managers of the State fund shall notify the Sheriff of all persons who refuse to leave the State after they have been manumitted, and require the Sheriff to remove them forcibly, on receiving the necessary expenses from the Managers. The duty thus imposed upon the Managers of the State fund, is one that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for them to perform. After receiving notice of the manumission from the proper officer in a distant county, the next thing to be done is to ascertain the willingness of the Negro to emigrate. This must be done by personal conference with him, and for this purpose an agent must be dispatched to see him. In many instances he gives in his name as an emigrant, and a place is prepared for him in the next vessel. When the agent calls on him to get ready to start, he has disappeared, or has obtained a permit to remain under the act. Often this permit is obtained in the first instance, and when the agent calls on the Negro, he finds it useless to say any thing to him on the subject of emigration. While the agent is on a visit to Allegany county for instance, manumissions take place in St. Mary's, or Worcester; so that it is impossible, without the employment of agents in every county in the State, at an expense that would leave nothing to be appropriated to the removal of the emigrants, to carry this part of the law of 1831 into operation. With the greatest desire, however, to carry out the policy of the State in regard to it, both the Managers of the State fund, whose services have always been rendered gratuitously, and the Board of Managers of the Society, have done all in their power to promote emigration, and have an agent, whose employment consists in traversing the State from county to county.

The committee will be struck with the small number of these manumitted, who have been transported to Africa. This is to be accounted for by the fact that the law of 1831 authorises the Orphan's Court and Baltimore city Court to grant permits to manumitted slaves of "extraordinary" good character, to remain in the State, which is frequently done; and that in other instances, the manumitted slave remains unnoticed in the community—keeping the fact of his freedom as much as possible to himself—and not disturbed by those who have no especial interest in doing so, relying, in fact, upon his insignificance for exemption from the operation of the law.