

The act of 1831, not only provided for the removal of manumitted slaves and free colored people of Maryland, but it prohibits slaves from being brought, and free colored persons from coming, into the State—both which provisions were consistent with the policy of the law, which was to prevent any increase from abroad, of the colored population, while an outlet was provided, by which its numbers would gradually become diminished. Various supplements to the act of 1831 were passed, however, from time to time, authorising slaves to be brought into the State under particular circumstances, upon the payment of a tax, so that although the removal of free colored persons and manumitted slaves by the Colonization Society, was going on, and large numbers of slaves were removed by sale to the south and southwest, yet the reduction in the number of the colored population was not as great as it would have been, had the original policy of the State been maintained.

At the time the law of 1831 was passed, the State Colonization Society looked to the colonies on the coast of Africa, founded by the American Colonization Society, for the reception of the manumitted slaves that might be sent from Maryland, and such free colored persons as chose to emigrate—and they accordingly sent to Morrovia the first expedition that sailed from Baltimore, consisting of one hundred and fifty persons. Circumstances that it is not necessary, and which it might seem invidious here to mention, satisfied the State Society, that they could not consistently with their duty to the emigrants, who relied on their representations, send another expedition to the same place. The alternative then presented itself of abandoning the whole system established by the law of 1831, or of founding a separate colony for the reception of emigrants from Maryland. The latter course was adopted. The next expedition was sent, therefore, to Cape Palmas, where land was purchased from the natives, and the colony of Maryland in Liberia founded on the 22nd of February 1834. Its history since that day, has been one of uninterrupted prosperity. Its community, of upwards of five hundred emigrants, is happy and thriving. Its position, in a commercial point of view, is unequalled in Western Africa. Its soil is fertile—its climate salubrious to the colored race. The natives around are on good terms with the emigrants. Salutary laws, administered wholly, and with excellent discretion, by colored officers, are in operation, and all visitors to the coast, without a single exception, have joined in praising the colony of Maryland in Liberia, as nobly illustrating the wise policy in which it had its origin, and making known in a distant land, the State from which it sprung. Its formation was, as already mentioned, a work of necessity, and it has since been maintained by the aid of the State and by voluntary contributions, the amounts received from both sources being stated in the documents transmit-