

“These remarks are made in this place with a view of showing, that while the society have, as they most gratefully acknowledge, been able to promote this great and useful undertaking in which they are engaged, mainly through the assistance of the State, and the wise forethought of its policy,—the society have also contributed 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 friends that have been labouring for years without compensation, to carry out the views which were entertained when the colonization laws, as they are termed, were passed,—whose labours, their 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 800 emigrants on the coast of Africa. Now they are weak. They now hang on those who placed them there. To repeal the law—to take away the fund, would be followed by melancholy consequences to them; and I trust that the funds in question 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,

JOHN H. B. LATROBE,

Prest. Md. St. Col. Society.”