My dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th. instant in which you inform me that the venerable head of the Catholic Church, Gregory the 16th. the present Bishop of Rome, being solicitous to promote the welfare and happiness of his Catholic Children throughout the world has requested the Right Rev. Dr. Kenrick Coadjutor Bishop of Philadelphia to send as soon as possible two Catholic Missionaries to Liberia to minister to the spiritual wants of the Catholic portion of the inhabitants of that Country, and to diffuse the blessings and consolations of Christianity among them - and you enquire whether the Md. Colonization Society would be willing to take any measure to further the above object and thus to afford an additional inducement to the Catholic people of the United States to emigrate to Liberia.

In reply it is proper for me to state that the Maryland Society and the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas are distinct from the American Col. Society and the settlements about Monrovia - altho' both Monrovia and Cape Palmas are in the section of the African Coast to which general consent has for many years given the name of Liberia - and that the Colony at Cape Palmas is intended for the use of Emigrants from Maryland alone. When the first emigrants left this State they took with them a written Charter, one of the fundamental articles of which is in the following words: "All

men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God, according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no one shall be hurt, molested, or restrained, in his person, liberty or estate, for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience nor for his religious professions or sentiments, provided he does not disturb the public peace, nor obstruct others in their religious worship; and all persons demeaning themselves peaceably, as good members of the community shall be equally under the protection of the laws; and no subordination or preference of any one sect or denomination to another, shall ever be established by law; nor shall any religious test be required as a qualification for any office or trust in the community; and all religious societies in the community, shall have at all times the exclusive right of electing their public teachers, and contracting with them for their support and maintenance." And not long after the establishment of the Colony the Board of Managers passed the following Resolution which is still in force, and under which the missionaries of the Presbyterian Episcopal and Methodist Churches have established themselves on the territory of the Society.

"Resolved, also that the Board of Managers offer to the members of all religious denominations every facility in their power to establish schools and enter upon the field of Missionary labour within the jurisdiction of

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

I. Minutes
A. Records of the Meetings of the Board of Managers

4. June 1838--October 1851

1841