Baltimore November 20th 1852

To Samuel D. McGill
Acting Governor of
Maryland in Liberia

Dear Sir,

Your despatches of the 12th July were received this morning. The sailing of the Linda Stewart to Monrovia affords an opportunity for an immediate reply.

Along with this letter you will find copies of the report of the Committee of the Board to whom was referred the question of the independence of the Colony - together with the resolutions passed thereon by the Board, at its meeting to day.

You will see that the question, certainly a very momentous one, is referred to the Colonists themselves; and as they are the most deeply interested in it upon them will rest the responsibility of deciding it.

It is not impossible, judging from the tone of your despatches now before me, that there may be some among the Voters, who, influenced by the renewal of the State's appropriation may vote against independence under the impression that for six years at least things will be permitted to go on in the old way, the Society continuing to pay the civil list and to afford all the facilities that have heretofore been found so convenient. Should there be any such persons however it is proper that they should be

disabused on this point. At the end of twenty years the Colony, if ever to stand alone, ought to be able to stand without help. And so far as the Society are concerned the experiment as to their ability so to stand is about to be made - independence or no independence - the appropriation of the State being confined exclusively to the transportation of Emigrants and Office expenses on this side of the Atlantic, and any aid given to the Colonists in the payment of their civil list being taken from such voluntary contributions as can be obtained in this country. On this point you cannot speak to the Colonists too emphatically. As Colonists or as Citizens of a free Republic, they must now throw aside the garb of infancy and stand and walk as men. whatever may be the responsibility which will rest on the Board in coming to this conclusion they have determined to assume it. Indeed the feeling of the Board leans to aiding them more if independent, than if still Colonists. The amounts mentioned in the Report of the Committee shew the extent to which the Board will go - and in no event I think I can safely say, will they go further.

Hereafter, the Board will confine the appropriation of the State, as already said to the transportation of Emigrants including the support of such as require it after their arrival for the usual time, and in the usual way - but the means of the Society will be withdrawn wholly from ~~that~~ support of such as have no claims as

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

5. February 1852--April 1864

1852