William A Prout Esq.
Cape Palmas

Baltimore Novemb. 20. 52

Dear Sir,

Your very able and interesting letters have all been received, and read with the attention that was their due. My Official despatches are so long, that I have not time to go over their contents just now. You will see them because they are to be made public as they affect the great question of independence and annexation. You understand the whole subject thoroughly – and have argued it clearly and well and your letters have done you great Credit with the Board. If you act as you write you have high position and honorable esteem before you

Independence is the thing unquestionably – then a treaty – then a Confederation. You are wrong about the Government trading – utterly wrong – so too, about letting none but Citizens trade. I see through this; but the policy is too short sighted for one who can see as far as you can – the liquor notion should be given up too – Rely on me. I appreciate your talent – go with you strongly when you are right – but you can get wrong. Generally, your notion of a Constitution is admirable. – Give no pay to your Representatives though – there is a

principle due – and do not think of any diplomacy further off than Monrovia for years. Take it for granted that I have read every word you have written – by myself and and be satisfied with a short brief letter, like this, which is about the best compliment I can pay you. Recollect a confederated Republic can alone preserve the republicanism of Liberia

Respectfully
Jno. H. B. Latrobe

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