Mr Latrobe
Pres.

Wm Watkins
Chairman
Colonization Society
Dec 5/12 1826

Balt Dec. 11th 1828

Mr Latrobe, sir,

You will pardon the liberty assumed in sending you these lines when you reflect they are the effusions of a heart deeply interested in the subject of colonizing the colored Americans on the western coast of Africa. The Memorial presented to us on last evening for our adoption contains in it, as many of us think, several objectionable features; and cannot be considered as exhibiting the true sentiments of those whose feelings & interests it ought to represent. It was not to be supposed, sir, that the one reading of the Memorial in an audience composed of individuals so unenlightened, & under circumstances somewhat unfavourable, could be sufficiently understood to justify us in giving it our unqualified approbation. Think not sir from the circumstance of your receiving a majority in favour of that instrument, that it has the decided approbation of the people of colour; or that after it shall have been published in its present form a majority would not be prepared to disavow it. Many we believe, who while their passions were warmed, voted in its favour would on a more mature deliberation of its contents withhold their approbation. The majority did not, nor could they in so short a space of time examine the sentiments therein contained. but feeling with the writer of this a desire to promote the general object held in view, voted in its favour. But sir if it be not asking too much we would pray a modification of that instrument in several particulars, before it is presented to the public. All the exceptionable features alluded to are not recollected we therefore forbear remarking upon any, untill we shall have been favoured with a second reading of the memorial. (we do not say publicly) We are of the opinion that even two or three of us permitted to examine the memorial we might be able to point out some particular

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

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