J. H. Latrobe Esqr
or
The Board of Managers of the Maryland
State Colonization Society

Recd Septr
July 12th
1832

Monrovia July 12th 1832

To the Maryland Colonization Society.

Honoured Dear Sirs,

You will please pardon the presumption of an old New Citizen, in his attempting to advise with you on a subject of such importance, as the one I find you so deeply engaged in, with such a combination of talants, as I well know must be associated together, which needs not the advice of one so incompetent as myself; but from my long acquaintance with you, and with those, whose cause you have taken in hand, and the experience that I have had in this part of the world, after five years serious thought, and hard labour by which I have derived much benefit to myself and family, in like, with many others, of my Brethren.

I learn with pleasure that there has been some enquiry made by the Board of the Maryland Society, viz. Whether it would be best to have a separate settlement, exclusive, of the present: and where the most likely situation could be obtained: and what would be the most efficient mode of effecting one.

The first I will try to answer, in the following way, if you wish your labour to tell, something when you have done it, take notice that the old people of Maryland has had some advantage in the scale of understanding, to that of the Southrens, tho the former are much the smallest number; that, makes things, somewhat unpleasant, and with the want of experience and talants in our present Agent makes it more so. There are few that are doing much in the advancement of life but a great number are going back; and one grand reason of this is, that this place above all other is about the poorest, that you can name, on the Coast of Africa. In Monrovia it is an Emphatic Rocky Gravelly Mountain, nearly surrounded by an unbounded mangrove swamp, as noxious as death itself to a stranger, and renders us solely dependant for a subsistence; there is no Trade in our vicinity, many speaks of the St Paulo River; it is a fine river, but it abounds with but little commerce or inhabitants, the natives about us are a lazy Idol people, and how our Agents do to spunt about it to such a degree, I cannot find out unless it is to perpetuate there salaries they have got a number of the new Emigrants, here now heaped upon each other starving, to death, the Agent takes no pains to set them to work—

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

1832