for a livelihood they take the fever, and a number of them half perish to death with hunger. The ground is much more fertile about Caldwell and Millsburg, but both those places is so much surrounded by marshes, that the inhabitants are allways laid up or nearly so with diff^t complaints, so that they do not cultivate one fourth as much, as serves them to live on. Mr Wesh man was here he used to set an example, but there is nothing of the kind now, no, not so much as a garden, and if it was not for the little comerce that is carried on by a few, the one half the people would have to leave the place or perish, so that at once makes it necessary for a new settlement, if one can be had, preferable to this on the Coast. ——

Secondly. The most likely situation (I have said something on this subject before, in answer to a letter written me, by Mr Lawson, at that time I was much taken up with the Island of Bulama, but on further information, I have learnt that it will not suit, nor can it be obtained without much expense therefore I leave that out of the question) in my judgment is to be had between the River Sestos and Cape Palmas, Cape Palmas was the most desirable, but there is a place about half way between the two by the name of Sero; or Sero River, a desireable spot which I think may be easily obtained, the natives wish the Americans to come there very much, and settle, the natives are mild in there manners and industrious withall, the surrounding country is very fertile producing Rice and Oil in the greatest abundance with all kind of stock, Iron & Camwood & a nice harbour for small vessels the River Navigable to some distance in the interior; if the Maryland board were to obtain that place, I think in two years they might be able to support those emigrants, at one fourth of the expense, that is done here at the present time, only let their agent be a man of experience, but not a speculator on his own account, but let his interest be solely devoted to the improvement of the Colony, and union among his subjects; there, such a place as the above could scarcely help furnishing every necessary of life; I am told that it is a fine healthy and pleasant country, scarcely ever a case of sickness occurring unto strangers there like unto this place, (Monrovia).

The most efficient mode to obtain this place, in my judgment would be for the Society to send out a small vessel with Emigrants, with suitable supplies, say for six months, with a portion of Arms and ammunition, accordingly for the defence of the place; let her, stop here, and take a number of the Maryland's, that I know will be ready to go in Eight & Fourty hours notice, they would be well calculated, to enter into the duties of a New settlement. Docr Hall, that is here now, I think to be a man, calculated, in a very great degree, to fill that situation, and if he would accept of it, he is a good Physician of Noble experience; and is seasoned to the climate. He could contract a purchase, I dare say, as easey, as any one you could send. I am much pleased with his manners and disposition; Our present Agent is no more than a boy to him in point of judgment. In addition to the above I should delight in becoming a member of such a settlement, it would be an inducement to draw many of our Countrymen, ~~friends~~ men out of Battle, I would associate with an Agent, in an attempt to purchase or contract for it, the place is a suitable distance from this, say about 3 day's sail with a good breeze. The cost and expences of that settlement in three years time would not exceed, the expences of the same number if they should be sent to this place, my conclusion arises from the cheapness of the necessaries of life, and the great advantage over this place of obtaining them, this place now is greatly dependant on that for her P. Oil & Rice live stock &c.

I find the settlers in Liberia are weak enough, after having been driven to this place, to be disputing about the superiority of the States from which they came; the Maryland Society has it in their power now, to put that dispute in relation to her people out of the way in future, and be able in a few years to be the superior abroad as well as at home, for my part I know that she is not wanting at home; then let us be benefited by her talents and philanthropy abroad, as a children who will ever feel grateful to a gracious and tender parent. Situate us well at the first start, and we under the fostering hand of a kind providence, will be able and willing I trust, to spread it back again to the old States. The Maryland Society or the Board of managers will please receive the above and pardon the apearance with the respects of.

Your unworthy Servant and Citizen

J. L. McGill

P.S. When you have taken thought on this subject you will oblige me by a few lines on the same.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

1832