effort to get up a meeting of the coloured people of Baltimore with a view of addressing them on the subject of Colonization. But the attempt met with a prompt and universal resistance from the coloured people themselves — I then proceeded to visit several of the counties on the Western Shore. And delivered public addresses in the following places viz: Leonard Town, where there is a large Auxiliary Society and about fifty dollars in its Treasury, Port Tobacco at which place an Auxiliary Society has since been formed, Upper Marlboro where I organized an auxiliary Society Bladensburg, Vansville, Brookville, New Market Frederick Town, Annapolis and at a Camp meeting in Anne Arundel Co. I found the white population in all these places friendly to the enterprise, and willing to co-operate with me But I had the mortification to discover that the coloured population had imbibed very erroneous views and entertained very hostile feelings towards the Colonizing scheme. And there is strong reason to believe that these hostile feelings are very much fostered and confirmed by means of false bills circulated through the instrumentality of emissaries from Baltimore

One grand obstacle to our success among the coloured population is their want of confidence in the plan arising from the belief almost universal among them — that it originated in the sordid motives of fear and interest, and that it is designed to make the bondage of those now in slavery more hopeless and perpetual, and these prejudices are confirmed by the representations of many respectable and intelligent white persons who have somehow, taken this strange and mistaken views of the subject

In order to disabuse ourselves of this calumny I would respectfully suggest to the Board to make a public demonstration of their views on the subject of slavery so plain that the most obtuse intellect cannot misunderstand it, and so explicit and unequivocal that the most malicious cannot pervert its meaning

Let a general meeting of the State Society be called for the avowed object of discussing the propriety of petitioning the Legislature to pass a law for the gradual Abolition of slavery on condition of removal beyond the limits of the U. S. If the State Society were to determine on such a petition, and if this example should be followed by the various county auxiliaries, I am inclined to believe that it would secure the passage of such a law. But whether the prayer of the petition should be granted by the Legislature or not — the very attempt on the part of the Society to secure its passage could not fail to conciliate the good-will of the coloured people, and stop the mouths of those gainsayers amongst the white population who are perpetually assailing us with the false charge of being the advocates of perpetual slavery. —

I acknowledge the receipt of the following sums of money viz: Queen Anne Co. C. S. $30 Salisbury C. S. $15.86 Lewistico C. S. $10.50 Upper Marlboro C. S. $5 Frederick Co. C. S. $20 — Total ——— — $81.30

My expenses have been — - - - - - - - - 174.37

93. 7

Although I have not actually received as much as I have expended in your service, yet I am happy to say that there are monies in the Treasuries of the Societies formed through my agency, which when received will I presume, amount to a sum much more than sufficient to cover the deficiency

Respectfully Yours

R. S. Finley

J. H. B. Latrobe
Secretary M. C. S.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

1832