economical manner than they are at present in this colony, but whether sufficiently so, to promise a material reduction for a few years, from the present expense per head, experiment alone can determine. You state that the present expense of transportation & support here is $50.00 per head & that it must be materially reduced from that sum or colonization from Maryland must cease altogether. If you predicate your estimate of the expense upon the statements of the Washington boards, or upon their charges to you for the support of former emigrants? how is it possible that you can expect a reduction in the price by still sending them here?

It is not to be supposed that the Agent here will permit your agent to manage emigrants in a better manner & at a less expense than he does those sent out by the parent boards. It would be reflecting too much upon his own management. All funds for the management of emigrants must necessarily be more or less subject to his control. You cannot expect to have the absolute management of your funds, when the location & general direction of ~~an expedition~~ the yearly annual emigrants is in other hands than your own Agent. It would not be policy in the Agent here to permit any peculiar disposition of your people, as mutual jealousy & rancour would be the immediate consequence.

You consider it incumbent on the colonists after a few years from the establishment of a new settlement to support their own government. This you will see is far from being the case within this Colony. Independent of all civil officers of the peace, School teachers, the various agents in our other settlements & the occasional employment of Sub-Agents & assistants, the following sums are paid out by the Society to colonists employed by the Agent here. To Wm Rapsomer as Editor & Colonial Secy. 800.. besides what he receives all moneys arising from Subscriptions to the paper. A. D. Williams 600.. to Elizabeth Johnson as Stewardess 800.. to S W Prout as private Secy & Colonial Reg. 500.. besides what he receives all fees for the registry of Deeds, Bonds, Wills &c. to James M Thompson as clerk 300.. & J H Minor as Col. Printer 300.. — Show whether expenses like the foregoing could not be lessened or greatly curtailed I leave you to determine. With a proper form of government they doubtless could — but not where the power of the Agent is absolute & sovereign as ~~that of~~ yours. Where the people have no share in the administration of the government they will not voluntarily give it their support. I think you will find the constitution of this Colony very defective & yet it calculated to infuse a spirit of patriotism into the mass of colonists from America — Of this the more intelligent class seriously complain. & will I fear ultimately complain in a manner disadvantageous to themselves & the cause of colonization.

I regret that I am unable to afford you more necessary information upon the subject of the actual expense of emigration & yearly settlement provided you look a separate establishment as that appears to be the main object in question. But this much I may safely assert that let the expense be what it might, the condition of the emigrants would be materially benefited thereby —

On the recovery of my health should I become possessed of any information that would be of utility to you I will with pleasure communicate the same — —

Most respectfully Yours James Hall

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

1833