Letter there before they left the M. State

Rev
William McKenney
Sent for the Colonization Society
Baltimore
Md

NEW-YORK
SHIP
APR
14

Rev William McKenney
Colonization Rooms
New York

At Sea Jany 14th 1834

Dear Bro McKenney

We have had thus far, a boisterous, tedious, and most unpleasant passage; nor can we form any correct idea when it will end.

For your own edification, and the benefit of the M C S, and not with any intention to murmur on my own part, I will mention some of the incidents which have already marked our voyage. Soon after we left the capes, the Capt became engaged in the cabbin, and poured out a dreadful volley of oaths and blasphemies, expressed in the most vulgar and uncouth manner. As soon as the storm abated in a degree – I observed that it was exceedingly unpleasant to some of us who were his passengers and confined to his cabbin to hear such oaths and bitter imprecations – that we would deem it a peculiar favour if he could refrain from such epithets. He imediately flew into a more violent rage and cursed us all (and me in particular) in the most vulgar and outrageous manner. I made no further reply. The Doctor after the storm had blown over, observed that it would be necessary that there should be an explanation from me to the Capt, as we were much dependant on him and it was necessary that we should be on friendly terms. I had not offended; but expressed my willingness to, so forward among the emigrants rather than continue in the cabbin under such circumstances. The storm however seemed to subside measurably; but on all occasions the Capt would pour out his oaths & blasphemies against heaven & earth. In the midnight hour he would rave & swear, and bawl out horrid, and the most vulgar blasphemies – He would curse religion, and all concerned in its delusions. He would beat his poor old cook in the most cruel manner, cursing him almost every time he appeared in his presence. This continued until Christmas morning before the Capt was up. He observed that they would have the emigrants brought aft with their fiddle, and have a powerful dance. To which I ~~replied that I would~~ peremptorily objected; by saying that I should at least enter my most serious protest against such a course. I also, begged him as a favour to forbid the cook from mixing with the emigrants, except when he was compelled to go among them to transact his business; and informed him that the day before, I heard him turning religion into ridicule, and using most unbecoming language before the emigrants. He sprang out of bed in a most violent rage, and for the first time, spoke well of his cook.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834