'tis hardly to be hoped that they will elect a man at once intelligent & honest. Even suppose he does not commit any open flagrant dishonest acts, still you can hardly expect them to elect a man who is not in some way interested in trade & then all the Agency funds must pass through his hands as merchant. Cells labourers mostly purchase of his own or friends shop & the Agency charged not over a hundred per ct upon an average. This is starving things at best: but you may get an honest & then receive a few thousand dollars worth of drafts. It is but reasonable to suppose that a man whom you should think fit to appoint as Agent would rather a more pedacious selection, than the canaille which does & can will constitute a majority of our Colony. Let the new Agent act as commander of the Militia, judge of the Courts & in fact as governor of the Colony but then let the Colonial Secretary or some one in whom the Agent can have full confidence act as Agent for your Society. The other day when we expected trouble with the natives I suggested the colonist to elect a couple of Counsellors pro tem. in order to insure unanimity of feeling among them. None in case of any decease at this time according to the Ordinances, the first Counsellor would succeed me as Agent. If his fitness for performe the duties of the office you can judge, as you doubtly recollect one Thomas Jackson who came out with Prout in the Lafayette. In case of any accident of this kind at this time, I have executed an ordinance signed by three colonists, appointing the Col. Sec'y, Mr Thompson & James Benson acting Agents with equal powers. Benson you know, he is a man of integrity & African extraction. & Mr Thompson is fully capable of transacting any business which would the station would impose on him. Of this Gentleman I ought to speak more particularly as he will soon be a prominent individual in this colony. He is an English lad, a native of Demerara; went to England when quite young & received a very through English education & also acquired considerable knowledge of the Latin classics. He afterwards spent some years in New York & emigrated to Liberia in the Ship Hunter, July 1832. He was then offered a situation in the counting house of Messrs Waring & Taylor, but being disgusted with the manners of trade in Monrovia he accepted the appt of Colonial Book keeper, with help the Colony offered by Mr Taylor. He also officiated as our lay reader for the free Episcopalians in Monrovia. He is a man of more intelligence than any native of Liberia. (Rapsman excepted) very modest & unassuming & certainly possesses more purity of heart than any coloured person man I ever encountered. I have been thus particular in speaking of Mr Thompson as I consider it of the first importance that you should know what timber you have here in case of the decease of your future Agents, & also that you may know in whom confidence you may place when schisms & internal commotions embroil & disturb this little community.

I have made particular observations as it regards the quantity of provisions necessary for the support of adult individuals for six months. Necessity has compelled me to appropriate upon our present colonists & I believe I can

judge very correctly of the amount necessary at an general average. — Three pounds of meat per week is a fair allowance: during sickness they do with less, but in the convalescing stage more is required. Six quarts of bread stuff is also required. less will not suffice. — 1/2 pint of Molasses per week to each person. This might be dispensed with except in case of sickness but I think as the season is so trifling & the new emigrant seldom enjoys tolerable health for the first six months that it ought to be allowed. About 1 lb of Tea for every four persons for six months might be sent. 1 Bbl Vinegar for every 100 adults. & 4 lbs of Soap to each person for the whole six months. This last is an indispensable article. — — To serve the business up both for their maintenance here six months, & the voyage which may be three months: for every 100 adults (two children under 12 are equivalent to an adult) there should be put on board 50 Bbls Salt provisions. 13 of which should be pork. 13 Beef & 24 of mess beef inspected Nos 1 or 2 mackerel. — 86 Bbls flour or kiln dried corn meal. This would allow 2 qts per week to each adult. The other four qts should be of rice furnished here. (This should be confined to corn meal on the passage, as the flour is best during the first weeks after their arrival). 6 Bbls Molasses. — 25 lbs Bohea or Souchong Tea. 1 Bbl Vinegar. — 400 lbs Soap. (the same kind that Mr Shipperd sent with the expedition) Now this is the proportion in which goods should be sent out with each expedition, unless they are provided per contract with the Capt in which case a deduction of 1/4 th part of the meat, Bread Stuff & Molasses should be made. — On the other hand, in case you provide for them on the passage it will be necessary to add four qts of bread stuff ~~to each person~~ or what is better as they cannot well cook ~~on the passage~~, about 4 lbs of Navy bread to each individual per week. For above I have stated the amount necessary for eight months at two qts per week. I say eight months as it would be unsafe to calculate upon a shorter passage than two months. Particular directions should be given to the Capt or whom may have charge of the expedition not to allow more than the above, & no other stores should be put on board for them: because, as your local Agent begins I must continue, or suffer the odium. & first opinions colonists are apt enough to grumble without cause. The above allowance is greater by 1 qt of Bread stuff & 1 lb Meat to each individual per week than has uniformly been allowed at Cape Mesurado.

You may think that I ought to furnish rice altogether after their arrival instead of demanding flour & meal: but when you consider that they have not been accustomed from exclusive rice diet & that they suffer long indispositions if not disease if you will readily see that some change of variety in diet is absolutely necessary & consider two thirds of rice to one of their accustomed bread will be a fair proportion. — Besides when the expedition should arrive there might be trouble with our neighbours or there might be a famine in the land & in either case prudence would dictate that a reserve one third should be already furnished. — I have for the last three months dealt out 4 qts rice & 1 qt of flour to each, besides dividing from 5 to 10 Bushels of Cassada among the whole lot, & at that rate they grumble & fly children of Israel.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834