I am sensible that I have also failed, as it regards any statement of rations, when carried to Port this was owing to my not being able to commence this account on the passage. I of course left it to the Agency with. that out rations ~~on the passage~~ until we arrived at Cape Mesurado, I negotiated him to keep an exact account of the amount provided each week, & he informed me that he had done so, but he never gave it me or if he did I was so low when he left that I did not take cognizance of it. Thompson also neglected to note the same during my sickness & I of course deemed it of no use to commence after the provisions were so nearly half expended. I have also not deemed it expedient from the same cause to furnish you with receipts of the amount left at Monrovia & Grand Bassa. But I trust you will be entirely satisfied when you see that the provisions provided for 50 persons six months, have with the addition of the rice & palm oil enabled Thompson not only support the emigrants on their passage from America here, but 80 instead of 50 for six months after all public work was finished — Mr Thompson has also erred in his copy of the contingent expenses from the book, in not specifying the quantity of each article advanced. Should this be required hereafter you can know it. The cask paid Mr McGill was as you will see for expenses of dealing out rations & getting emigrants on board when the vessel went up from this place — The articles after the use of Stores, Store & defence of the Colony are charged to the Society, being so disposed permanently appropriated. Should however any of them be used as stock in trade the Society will be credited therefore. Of the available funds on hand you will perceive by looking over the list of stock & invoice that they are by no means all current trade goods, but such as they are I shall be accounted for in six months since. That you may account the more readily for the supplies in the power of the Agency I shall give you a sketch of which is exclusive the mercantile transactions with vessels on the coast. Most of them were to a decided disadvantage, but were necessary in order to obtain any thing like an assortment of goods. The Expedition fitted out by the S.C.P. has set all these matters right & have now the stuff in my own hands.

You will perceive Mr Thompson's certificate of the balance due the Agency from Colonists does not include five dollars paid Brown for two Boys Shop. or for the money paid for Merchandise at Cape Mesurado I said your Thompson's certificate is strict, which I trust will be satisfactory although not exactly orthodox with business folks. I could not well notice the provisions used in the House until the 1st of June, from then till the 1st of Sept the provisions consumed & the other incidental expenses of housekeeping cost. each person 46 cents to about 150 dollars. No Wine or Porter has been used except in case of sickness or company from vessels or on 4th of July festivals. As our foreign business increases I should think that expense of the last should month increase, unless you see fit to confine guests to water. Salt meat & rice: if so I am content. For the first year or two your Agent might well get along with six hundred dollars for every first cost. but in case he was not well supplied & was obliged to purchase here he would have any plain or loose money. (I mean rather his company would like plain) If you see fit to restrict the amount allowed to five hundred dollars per annum. I can live on it much as I can live. My diet consists almost wholly of rice & plantains. That you know there is a check, have no money & have to feed. besides all the filching & begging from the Colonists & natives, which amounts to a shilling since when there is but one goose to pick. —

I cannot close this sheet without again begging the Genl. inspectors to have an eye to the circumstances which I am obliged to dispatch business & exercise all charity —

Very respectfully yours John Ayres

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834