quite unprepared, having no houses ready to accommodate them, but I trust we shall agree to have some kinds of a shelter prepared. I shall erect houses for them on the pick lick farm, about half a mile from town near where their farms will be laid off. You spoke of the quantity of lands, that it was less than that allowed at Cape Mesurado. I think it is full enough & morally more than any one man will cultivate. Should a man of substance feel disposed to carry on a large plantation, why we might give him almost any quantity ~~he wishes~~. It would be of public utility & would call for patronage. I allowed the first settlers a town lot, & then permitted them to choose a two acre lot on a beautiful plat of ground near the mission house with a right to their acres more remote after their two acres were decided; or to take five acres at once more remote. The major part chose two acres & most of those lots are fenced in & some nicely covered with vegetables. Should any Colonist have entirely cultivated his five acres & require more I should think he ought to have it given him; but this will not occur once in a hundred cases. Besides in such few cases as do occur he would prefer to purchase his neighbours farm than to take a quantity elsewhere & this he will doubtless be able to do for a song, as none in their wouldst sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.

In your communication you mention the Board will provide a Schooner of from forty to fifty tons after the model or fashion of the Margaret Mercer. Now I should be extremely sorry to have such a craft sent out, both as it regards the expense & from the circumstance that she would not answer our turn. In the first place, she could not possibly be brought past our bar, which although the best on the coast for boats & canoes is too narrow & rocky to admit of such a schooner with any degree of safety. And to anchor in our harbour in the rainy season exposed to the tremendous winds which blow for days in succession, topped & rolled by the immense Sheet which rolls in upon us from the main; it would entirely destroy her rigging if not drive her on shore. You do not want a vessel to trade with, indeed the nature of our communication with us & then only to bring provisions, &c. We cannot expect to fit out a craft of our own, man her with colonists & a Colonist Supercargo, & to compete with the innumerable English vessels which are daily dodging into every little native town. We only want one for defence, to keep our neighbours from being saucy & in case of necessity to buy rice & perhaps occasionally to communicate with the other Colony. And when not in use

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835