the first settlers in any new country must, I trust, that by the grace of God I shall never regret that I ~~sacrifice~~ have pursued the course I have. You want to know particularly the prospects of farming at this place. I have not been here sufficiently long to have made fair trial - we have succeeded well with our gardens & our farms so far as we have cultivated them appear pretty good. The want of horses, carts & ploughs ~~is~~ much felt, & must be sometime before these can be extensively use - first from the difficulty of getting horses - & also from the want of roads that would render carts or waggons of any service to us.

You ask what advice I have to give my coloured Brethren in America about coming out here. I would say in the first place that they should not come out indiscriminately - Idle men men of feeble bodies, or men wholly destitute of means, would find considerable difficulty in procuring a comfortable livelihood. Such persons usually sink into despondency & are ever after incumbrances ~~upon~~ rather than a benefit to the Colony. On the other hand if a man has health, is industrious, is supplied with agricultural implements & wearing apparels, & a ~~small~~ small amount of trade goods, he can with the facilities which the Colo. Society affords, make himself comfortable in Africa. But let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. Let him come prepared to make sacrifices if required - Let him be actuated by a desire of civil & religious liberty - let his ~~[illegible]~~ be inspired by a desire to improve the condition of the benighted heathen, & we will welcome such an one with all our hearts. He will be a treasure to the colony, & will be prepared for all reverses & difficulties. The friends of the coloured people in the United States ought to be careful what arguments they use to induce their emigration. They want information, but not misstatements. From the representations which are frequently made my coloured brethren not infrequently infer that this must be the best country in all the world. They come here expecting the earth to yield them an abundant supply of everything good to eat - they expect to heap up wealth without labour - they dream about their future greatness whilst they are wafted on the ocean's bosom. But what is their disappointment when when they are told here that they must eat bread by the sweat of their brow! They become disheartened & are seldom happy afterwards. Do all you can to prevent such consequences.

Joseph Whittingdon's statements about Africa do not I think, deserve your credence. He seems to be prejudiced against the country because his mind was not made up to meet the trials & difficulties that lay in his way, & he would, I suppose, prefer the caresses of his white brethren in America.

Yours affectionately

Henry Denis

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835