advantages; received on the one hand from enthusiastic and visionary new comers, who write without having made themselves at all acquainted with the true state of affairs in Africa; and on the other, from the timorous, dissipated and disheartened, who long to return to their former degraded situation, and are willing to assign any reason however false and detrimental to their fellow citizens, rather than the true one viz. that they are actually unfit, from want of virtue, energy and capacity, to become freemen in any country.

We judge that the time which has elapsed since our first arrival (eight months) has enabled us to form a pretty correct opinion of this our new Colony, of the climate, and of the fitness of our government. Therefore we may safely say, that we write not ignorantly. And as to the truth of our assertions we here solemnly declare once for all, that we write in the fear of God, and are fully sensible that we stand pledged to maintain them both here and hereafter —

Of our Government — We declare that we have enjoyed (and the same is forever guaranteed to us by our Constitution) all and every civil and religious right and privilege which we have ever known enjoyed by the white citizens of the United States, excepting the election of our chief Magistrate, who is appointed by the Board of Managers of the Md. St. Col. Society. All other officers are appointed or elected from the Colonists. Freedom of speech & the press, election by ballot, trial by jury, the right to bear arms, and the liberty of worshipping God, agreeable to the dictates of our own consciences are rendered forever inviolate by the Constitution.

Salubrity of the climate — Every foreigner upon arriving in this country is liable to an attack of a peculiar fever which proves more or less severe in different individuals but is uniformly over in from ten to twenty days, so that the person can move about; but the system is more or less debilitated from one to six months: some however lose but a week or two from labour. What will be the average fatality of this disease ultimately, we cannot say — Of the eighteen

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emigrants from Baltimore pr. Brig Anne, we lost a child by dysentery, some weeks after the fever which probably induced it. One woman also died very suddenly, two months after recovery from her first attack, which might perhaps be attributable to the climate, although not the fever. But it ought to be remarked that we were at that time all lodged in very open, leaky houses, and the beds of the sick were almost constantly wet. This evil however need not again occur.

Independent of this fever, from which every new emigrant has long since been free, we have reason to believe this to be as healthy as any tropical climate in the world; and we can affirm from the experience of many of our number, and the observations of credible persons, that this place is decidedly more healthy than any of the windward settlements, Sierra Leone or Monrovia.

Those of us who came from the low districts in Maryland believe this country far more salubrious. The weather is exceedingly pleasant, and the temperature uniform. A thermometer kept in the Colony has never since our arrival been below seventy degrees, nor above eighty four.

The soil in our immediate vicinity is much better than that on the American sea-board, equal to any part of the land on the Chesapeake Bay, and the farther we have penetrated into the interior it has increased in richness. We have not tried it as yet to any great extent, but the immense quantities of rice shipped from this section of the coast, is a sufficient guarantee of the richness of the soil. Nearly all the garden vegetables with which we were acquainted in America have been tried in our gardens, and been found to do well; as also small quantities of the American cotton — The natural eatables productions of this country are Plantain, Bananna, Sweet potatoe, Cassada, Yams, Rice, Corn, Pumpions, Brans, Pras, Okra, Egg plant, Tomatas, Sugar cane, pawpaws, Palm cabbage and Palm Oil. This last is no doubt one of the most valuable productions in the world. It is by

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835