Rec'd H. B. Gordin
to
W. McKenney
ans.d Nov.m 10 –
New York per ship Cadle
No 6 10

To The Hon.ble Wm. McKenney Agent
for Maryland State Colonization
Baltimore City
Maryland

Parnham's Retreat Nov.r 5th 1835.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 20th ultimo, had not been received at the time my last letter to you was closed, tho' it had at that time reached our post office. I have read your letter to those free people who are in my care. It fails of producing any favourable effect upon them. It contains an extract of a letter from a lady describing Monrovia. Now they care nothing about Monrovia as that is not the place to which they are desired to go. They hope to escape going to Africa altogether, as they have been told that they will be devoured by wild beasts if they go thither. A description of Monrovia fails of reaching the seat of error & prejudice in the minds of a race of people in whose character a sense of injustice is deeply written, who have had before their eyes actual instances in which professed kindness towards coloured people has been used as the means of betraying them; in whom hatred towards white people is an aliment which feeds their existence; & who have for generations received such treatment from white people as to render the benevolence which is actually intended by a removal of them to Liberia, altogether improbable, & too great to be believed. The prejudices of the white community in which we live, form a serious obstacle to our influencing these people. Would it be believed that so benighted a spot with regard to the benevolent enterprises of the day

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835