Woodlands Montgomery 14th. April 1836

John H B Latrobe Esqr Corresponding Secretary M. S. C. Soc.y

Dear Sir

Agreeable to previous arrangement I left Balto. on monday morning in the train of cars for Ellicotts' Mills where I had previously left my horse, and proceeded to Mr Henry Gaither's where I arrived in time for dinner. In the afternoon I visit Mr. Beal Gaither who is an aged farmer and wishes to do something for his negroes which may be of permanent benefit to them. After conversing at length on the advantages proposed by the Maryland Colonization Society he very promptly made a tender of all his slaves to me, to be sent either in the spring or fall provided they can be induced to go willingly and added that he would do something in the way of assistance. They are forty seven in number and not one older than 40 to 45 years and from report are an excellent parcel of negroes. Many of the men are tolerable mechanics and the women young healthy and active. Some of the men have free wives and children that might be induced to go provided we succeed in gaining the consent of the slaves. Mr Gaither is an old bachelor, and has raised these servants like his children. They do as they please; are as free as they can be any where and live very much on their own. These facts render it very doubtful whether they will leave him as long as he lives.

My prospects for advancing the interests of the cause in this County are such that I seriously doubt the propriety of removing it to labour elsewhere, at least for a month to come: and yet I am not certain of obtaining a single emigrant for the spring expedition. The public attention is beginning gradually more attracted — no opposition is made by any intelligent mind: and the few people of colour are giving their attention to inquiry. Hundreds, I think will

Middle Brook Md
April 13th

John H. B. Latrobe Esqr
Corresponding Secretary M. S. C. Soc.y
Baltimore
Md.

Mr A Gaither
Woodlands.
April 14th 1836

Montgomery

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Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836