This much for the physical condition of the Colony generally ~~in the aggregate~~ or taken as a whole.

Moral Condition of the Colony.

The moral condition is also encouraging. I must wait not be without its proportionate propitious results. Two Sabbath Schools have been most constantly in operation, one for the children & the other for the adults. A Sunday day school also has been in constant operation since the Sept of 1834. Mr Wilson the Missionary Agent of the A.B.C.F. has made arrangements whereby he will be able to instruct a number of American youth with the children of the natives, a plan which promises much good to both parties. Mr Thomson is also engaged in the prosecution of a similar plan under the patronage of the Prot. Epis. Church of the United States. The colony is also supplied with well educated clergyman Mr Burns by the Mis. Society of the Pr. E. church. The colony now prospers & doubtless will continue to the most desirable facilities for moral and intellectual improvement.

General Character of the Colonists.

Having thus ~~given~~ given you a brief detail of ~~the present condition~~ what has been effected in the Colony & the present situation of its inhabitants, you will doubtless be led to inquire how such advantages are appreciated, whether ~~in fact~~ the people are contented & happy in proportion to the blessings they enjoy & whether they have & do improve in proportion to their improved condition. In other words you doubtless wish to know the general character of the people of your newly established colony. This is no desirable task, nor would I attempt it unless I considered myself well prepared & in duty bound to perform it. I should be incapacitated to speak in very general terms, which will of course admit of many exceptions.

The Inhabitants of Maryland in Liberia are a Moral & Religious people. No open vice or profaneness is encouraged, & at least five sixths of the adults are members of the christian church. I know of but three men who have been reported to have used profane language on any occasion. Not an instance of boisterous conduct in any member of the colony has come to my knowledge nor in fact has the conduct of any female member been such as to subject them to scandal of this nature. No case of criminal prosecution has occurred, except for theft & in them the articles purloined were of slight value & of such a nature that under such circumstances that the transactions would not have been noticed in any long established community of people. This trait of character, the disposition to pilfer, marks the majority of the lower class of the colonists & is an ~~[illegible]~~ exception to the character here given of them as a body.

They are a civil & orderly people. No properly established law of the Colony has ever met with open opposition; no instance has ever been threatened to the lawful authorities; no instance of riot or general uncontrollable excitement has occurred; & no instance of open quarrelling or fisticuffs has come to my knowledge directly or indirectly, since the first establishment of the colony.

They are a temperate people. And for this they may thank the spirit of the times & the wisdom of their legislators. I need not say that no case of intemperance or of intemperate temperate drinking has ever been anticipated among them. The letter of the constitution & of the ordinances has been most strictly observed; & the world may have see a people, a government, an infant nation, that was formed, nourished, & is supported & kept together without the artificial stimulus of grog.

There are men in the colony whom I suspect of having clandestinely obtained small quantities & used it privately; but were the question to be put tomorrow to the assembled colonists, Shall ardent spirits be admitted into the Colony except as a drug to be administered by the physician? It would be voted down to a man. Not an individual would even propose such a resolution who had the least regard to his reputation. It here be even be deemed of patriotism.

They are an industrious people. I say in comparison with the like people under the like circumstances they are industrious. But compared with the New-England farmers they are not so; at least but a few of the colonists perform as much labour as their strength & constitutions will admit of. Any of this class there are lie or thereabouts. But of the truly lazy drones, lounggers, or sun-lookers, we have but three or four. The majority go to regular daily labour & look to no other means for support.

They are a contented, happy people. This assertion must also be understood in a comparative sense. The amount of enjoyment any one is capable of pronouncing must ~~be in~~ bear some proportion to his moral & intellectual improvement, ~~of the individual~~

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836