that even a majority of the inhabitants of Maryland in Africa are truly happy, or are abundantly supplied with what is generally thought conducive to happiness & contentment; or that they have met trials, difficulties & hardships & encumbrances. This is not true. Nor is it true that a majority of them so fully appreciate the advantages of their situation, as would men of different early habits, superior mental cultivation, (& of course superior range of thought;) & still they do so highly appreciate their inestimable ~~[illegible]~~ rights & privileges that by no worldly consideration could they be induced to forego or forfeit them. Independent of the love of liberty; that strong attachment which the principles of civilization even for the country of their adoption, would effectually exclude from the breasts of the most intelligent & patriotic, any longings for their transatlantic home.

These feel the high responsibility of their situation; that they have a mighty work on hands, that perhaps the weal being & even existence of a nation is dependent on the course & conduct of each & every individual ~~& their sense of~~ reflections like these produce not here quiet & contentment, but a ~~deep toned~~ patriotic enthusiasm the highest state of mental ~~[illegible]~~ enjoyment. But this high toned enthusiasm I regret to say is experienced by few; hardly sufficient to keep a good majority up to the mark, & substantiate my declaration.

Bell History of Maryland Colonists.

I have thus endeavoured to sketch the general character of our colonists, at least the essentials. I have described them as they are, as they have deported themselves since their first coming together as a people. I have endeavoured to show you what they have done & what they are collectively; but to their general ~~[illegible]~~ & conclusions as I before remarked well noted there are many striking exceptions. ~~exceptions~~ which should be ~~[illegible]~~ & accounted for. ~~I the [illegible]~~ this cannot be better effected than by delineating to you in a brief manner the ~~[illegible]~~ character or rather the history of a few individual colonists. I shall take the extreme cases of the different classes that you may be able to judge what causes the prosperity & happiness of some, & the misery & depression of others. & that you may see how much is dependent on the colonists themselves & what is inevitable or dependent on circumstances beyond human controul —

I would mention names, but it would be unjust inasmuch as but one or two of each class will be introduced. & the second best & second worst would not secure ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ the approbation, & ~~the~~ they the censure which ~~[illegible]~~ they deserve.

A. a man of forty five, with a wife & five female children all under 12 years of age was one of the first settlers. He himself & family suffered less than others of the same expedition although their attacks were as violent & have been as frequent, yet they implicitly followed advice with regards to diet & generale conduct. He brought about fifty dollars to the colony, ~~with~~ which with his own labour built him a good dwelling house. He is no mechanic & never received over seventy five cents per day for labour. His family are well fed & clothed & are constantly attendant on the schools. They are further advanced than others of their age & former advantages in the colony. He never works hards nor exposes himself to inclement weather, but is always busy about something useful. He minds his own business & makes his family well. He has a deed for his farm & some forty two acres of the latter are under good cultivation & well secured, the produce of which will doubly supply his family with vegetable foods. He is almost entirely free from debt. He declares that he is ever glad that he removed to Africa, is better satisfied than he ever was, or hopeds to be in America & no consideration would induce him to forsake his newly adopted country. —

B. a weight man of 24 yrs of age assisted in the same expedition. Suffered slightly from the fever, was without capital, but in other respects has enjoyed the same advantages as A. — In addition to this, he has had no one but himself to supply with food or clothing. He has not cultivated his farm but has built a house, has not a fortnights provisions in the grounds ~~nor~~ a decent bed for his use, nor decent apparel for his person; & is equally ~~indebted~~ as much in debt as A. He has laboured only when circumstances compelled him. Yet this man is satisfied & contented in the Colony, is a peaceable orderly citizen, but for lack of energy & ambition & industry he is good for nothing —

C. One of the first settlers, from bare necessity, unmarried with a family of four small children, very poor & distitute; has a good house in Town, five acres of lands under cultivation which would more than doubly supply his family with vegetable foods; his family are well clothed & fed, he is nearly free from debt & contented with his situation.

D. A healthy single man, ~~under~~ in other respects under exactly similar circumstances with C. & equally industrious, is none without a house or weeks supply of foods. Cause. want of prudence & economy. & capacity to take care of himself. He is discontented, & justly concludes that his labour would procure him better food in America.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836