and they gently avowed their willingness to go, he changed his ground and said he must be paid for raising them before he could give them up. You can readily judge of my mortification at this singular turn when I inform you that a lady who owns the wife and children of one of his men had declared her readiness to give them all up to go to the Colony provided Mr. G. would send his man James. The old man is 84 years of age and altho' I had not suspected it from any previous conversation he is giddy in second childhood. At any event his race will be short, and his servants will all be free at his death. —

The meeting at Mr. Gaithers was wonderfully attended with salutary effect, upon other minds beside his servants. An aged freeman of colour who ~~went~~ came to the meeting so full of prejudice that he would hardly permit me to proceed without contradiction and interruption, went from the meeting a convert to Colonization and declares his intention to go to Liberia.

It is impossible to form any adequate idea of the excitement which my addresses have produced upon the minds of the Coloured people. They may be fitly compared to a hive of bees just before they swarm.

From what I could learn from themselves I am persuaded that many of them would walk from 15 to 20 miles to hear of Liberia. The effect produced upon them is of course very various; but as far as I am capable of forming any judgement a vast majority of them have arrived at that state of mind in which they think that their former deeply rooted prejudices were very unreasonable, that it is at least their duty to give the matter an impartial hearing; that the Colonization scheme is not all a cheat gotten up merely to deceive them; that there is too much truth and sobriety about it to allow of a rejection without investigation. Now I maintain that this point fully gained leads on to action, and will ultimately produce an amount of emigration exceeding the calculations of the most sanguine Colonizationist.

And the ~~feature~~ feature in these measures is also very gratifying. The Ministers of the gospel white and Coloured, and private gentlemen are beginning openly to advocate the system and invite the attention of the Coloured people to the subject. This is precisely what we need; and without which little or nothing can be accomplished.

Permit me now to ask what is to be done in view of meeting the large demand for active agencies? At this moment, there ought, in strict justice to the cause, to be another agent

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836