but I need assistance & if I could get about fifty dollars worth of goods through the kindness of my friends I could make an arrangement with the Agent & work it out then the money could be paid back that is if you feel able to do it I know that you will is good if circumstances will permit I am now living in town but I want to put up a House on my farm & live out there as soon as possible I am little behind hand with the agent but I am trying to get clear & hope soon to be so then I will go about my house I make Shingles for the Colonist but I cannot get pay with such articles as will enable me to buy Cattle We have been much straitened here with American produce flour is 10 cts bacon & pork 15. salt fish the same fresh 12½ there is a plenty of fish in the river if we had a seine there was an old one sent out but a few individuals bought it and we have to buy we might get cattle if we had money to buy and raise stock there is no silver in circulation. Cloth I should have mentioned is high such muslin & calico as you can get for 10 cts we have to pay 25 and what you get for 14 we pay 31 check & domestic the same common crockery ware is also high and iron pots they are very good for trade with the natives or powder tobacco we have to give 25 cts per pound over tea kettles frying pans & hair combs are never sent and would be good trade with the Colonist as they are much wanted I state these things particularly as you desired me to do before I left home we want many articles here which I presume the Agent prevented their being sent as they have been some difference between him & some of the Colonist Any thing that my friends feel able and willing to send me will be thankfully received and the amount I request as a loan to help me on with my farm if it should be deal & arrangement made with the ~~farm~~ Agent I will endeavour with the help of the Lord to work it out & if not I will try & be satisfied with whatever the Lord will for me to do or suffer. I will also want a small portion of farming utensils as I am making arrangements now to begin farming I feel dissatisfied to be sitting down here as it was my intention to attend to Agriculture when I came I request my mother & my wifes mother to send me some soap it is a scarce article & very high the ashes here is not strong enough to make Ley & some times we have none to wash our clothes Remember my kind love to them If you should be pleased to make the arrangements to send the things I require you will please me a bill for the amount so as I may know exactly what I will have to pay & I would wish you to pay the freight so that the Agency may not have to do it or I may have to pay 100 per cent on every thing I wish that to be understood so that if I have 50 worth of goods I may not have to ~~pay~~ 100 worth of work I hew & make shingles for the Agency & myself & son will soon be able to make it up I promised you & my other friends that I would attend to farming & I feel a strong desire to enter fully into it & see an example before I die the Colonist are a little discouraged about farming because they are not much acquainted with it and there is no provision made for it they have not the utensils nor means to get them I did say any thing about a team before because I did not feel prepared now I am making preparation I have my ground gone-thed and getting a pasture ready I feel very anxious to begin I find we never will be able to get rid of this extravagant price for stock untill we begin to raise them the natives will have their price for every thing that we do not raise as soon as we can make a start they will fall as they have done with other things ~~I~~ my friends persuaded me to come & promised to assist I hope they will do so I feel perfectly satisfied with the co[illegible] if I can only get some assistance my family is large & my children are now motherless I want to do all I can for them as long as it please God to spare me and leave them a home when I die In the arrangement already mentioned I will be glad to have as much bed tick as will make a bed I want one badly there is some here but it sold only for clothing and I cannot obtain enough for that purpose Remember my love to all friends of every denomination & to the Colonization Society respects to your wife & children accept my best wishes for your temporal & spiritual welfare

Yr friend Henry Dennis

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836