of colonization, & among them, men of the closest observation, should entertain ~~such entertain~~ such erroneous views about the proper qualifications of emigrants. The general rule has hitherto been, to send all colored people who wished or could be persuaded to come & the consequence has been that the larger portion of them have been mere incumbrances. I do not expect to see this or any other colony attain to prosperity until a different rule & practice are adopted. The change of condition which a colored man experiences in coming from America to Africa is very considerable. Many of the restraints & circumstances which governed & formed his character are removed. His lot is cast among a people entirely different from those to whom he has been accustomed - the climate is different - the source of subsistence - the climate is different - the source of subsistence - he is raised to shapes through a different channels - he is raised to new privileges & honours - & he is subjected to thousand temptations & trials which he scarcely ever dreamed of before. Now what kind of men may we expect to sustain such a change with profit? are ~~men~~ ignorant improvident vicious men, the kind? By no means. They ought to be men of steady, sober, industrious habits - It is desireable that they should be men of some intelligence & possess, if possible, some little capital. But above all they ought to be men of decided humble (not ~~noisy~~ for we have a plenty of this sort) piety. Few good substantial men are worth more than a hundred indiscriminately collected. Let a good foundation be laid & ~~as soon as the~~ superstructure will be less liable to imperfection. Found the colony with worthy excellent men & afterwards all sorts may be sent without overthrowing the fabric.

But I have to find fault with the arguments & measures ordinarily employed to persuade colored persons to emigrate. Many friends of colonization estimate its prosperity by the number who embark - hence all sorts of means are employed to make the number as great as may be & almost every ~~colonist~~ emigrant feels at leaving home that he is laying the white people under a most wonderful debt of gratitude. No services rendered him here will make him feels that the debt is cancelled. Now this community never can be happy until this state of feeling is entirely reversed - until every emigrant shall feels that he obligated to the society for all the benefits he derives from it. They ought to be guarded & cautioned from looking to the society for support after they have reached Africa & are able to provide for themselves. An Agent cannot be too cautious not to overvarnish "their prospects. They ought not to be told that they will find beautiful fields of rice, & cotton & indigo & Caparda & coffee &c, but simply tell him that the climate & soil suit such things & he can by industry grow them. - Let him ~~have~~ be told that he must endure much & severe sickness at the outset - that his comforts for a time at least must be lessened - that if he wished be respectable & affluent in Africa he must be virtuous & industrious. If arguments are needed - point him to the freedoms & liberty which he & his children may enjoy. Excite in him a generous emulation to improve the condition

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836