natives — Mrs Stobell ~~had~~ (our colored woman) has about 40 american children in her schools. Two of our native boys can read & one writes tolerably well. We hope in the course of one year from this to open five or six schools with youngsters now under our tuition. One of our native boys we call John Latrobe. He is about nine years of age, fine looking & surpasses all his fellows in learning. Learning or as the people themselves call it ~~the~~ "Sabby book" has become a very popular affair. At first they thought it altogether unattainable by natives of africa ~~an affair~~, but since our boys begin to read & particularly that one of them has acquired the mysterious art of committing his thoughts to writing, their feelings have materially changed & we have been put to the painful task of refusing a good many who have recently been brought to us — ~~this~~ having as many already as we can well attend to. Mr Thomson has also commenced a school for natives which I trust will result in great good to these benighted people. I owe both Mrs L & yourself an apology for not sending the long since promised shells — but the delay has been occasioned by the want of a direct opportunity. —

This part of the coast affords but a "sorry" kind of shells. Mrs Wilson will forward however to Mrs L by Capt Gould a small box of the most interesting she has able to collect. Mr Holmes' letter will inform you of the death of Miss McAlister — the particulars of which I have written fully to Mr McKinney. And let me say (inter nos) do not consent again to a white woman in similar circumstances ever to come out in one of your vessels. The influence of enlightened & christian females is much needed here, but when they come ~~not~~ unprotected they must encounter difficulties & have their influence contravened in ways & by means which neither they nor their friends can anticipate. This however so far as it alludes to the deceased is a sacred inter nos.

You have told me to ask any favour of you — all on me when to request, though it does not pertain to the office of either Lawyer or Missionary. A pair of yard dogs or puppies of a formidable race, if they can be conveniently procured & sent out by the next expedition, consigned with special directions to myself.

My wife joins me in kind regards to Mrs L, your mother, sister & all friends.

And believe me your's affec & resp.

Over — Speight Wilson

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836