many an excuse for not giving to the or any other object, though we may have enough of the same kind, he will find a ready apology in the great scarcity and value of money; and many, who in more auspicious times would willingly & freely give, would hold back now. Indeed I am strongly inclined that the current year will be a very unauspicious time for benevolent exertions. You know the difficulties to contend with at all times are great, but they must be aggravated in these times of pressure.

As to the proper time for a visit, I should judge the present as favorable as any other time. You would have to traverse the county three meetings; and the present is an idle time, when people can be got together. It is would not seem you to me; it seems to me the winter would be a favorable time. The nights could be better devoted to meetings both in town & county. Next month is a busy time with farmers, and would be unsuitable for your labors.

I have no confidence in the virtues of auxiliary societies. They have proved two dry trees, at all times and for all purposes, in this county. The most effectual method for getting funds is by a direct & energetic agency of the State Society. The great object is to enlighten the public mind by publications from time to time, concerning the nature and prospects of the society, and the advantages it has conferred in naples & improvement. For this purpose the agents in the counties might be in his employ. Then ability & funds would be more cordially met & gratified. Nor should be statedly made. In people would then be in a good time & in a place in which they would be regularly visited and the visits of the agent would be regularly looked for; and with many more funds desired. Auxiliary societies, if they would engage in a cause simply, would of course render every service designed by them, if you cannot do the men who will regard the duties as a matter of business, and unless they will so regard them, they are useless; they have a name, and it is their reputation.

There is one thing to be considered, and which it is proper you should be apprized of, that you may be prepared to meet the objection. The tax in the western counties toward the State fund for colonization is regarded as a tax on this part of the State in the eastern & lower counties; inasmuch as the negro population in the latter were fewer or no emigrants from this section. It is therefore considered as one of those inequalities which the advocates of reform complain of, and in their arguments it is brought up and dwelt upon as an example. Many therefore would refuse to give, because they would say they are sufficiently taxed already. But I have not room to go further in detail. I shall be happy to see you when you visit us, and regret to hear of the feeble state of your health. Mrs. Weisel is well & sends her best wishes. Be assured of my continued regard & solicitude for your welfare.

Yours truly
C. F. Mercer

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836