You kn[illegible] the interest, Dear Sir, with which I regard the [illegible]ol Origination enterprize & particularly your undertaking; & I have been pained to witness & now to communicate this state of feeling on the part of those who have of all others have the greatest reason to abhor the slave trade. I have communicated the fact to you & not the world, that the evils may be corrected, before it attains to such a magnitude as to explode the whole scheme. I have no peak against Mr R, in making these statements. No one has desired more than I, to see his administration successful. I do deplore in the bottom of my heart so serious a digression from the course which I suppose your Board & the world expected of him. I never conceived it his duty or the duty of the people of Liberia to commence offensive measure against slavers - to this their means are inadequate & by so doing they would involve themselves in great straits. But to have them come into the harbor by permission, trade with the Americans, take lodgings in their houses, transact business through the public store & have the citizens do work for them, is giving the affair quite a different aspect. Mr R is still more reprehensible in this affair in asmuch as at the time these Spaniards came here they were permitted to buy rice at double the usual rate & the American citizens are distressing want of it. ~~If this is not so that~~ The task of making this communication has been very unwelcome to my feelings & I have been impelled by a sense of imperative duty to your Board & the cause of Humanity.

A few more words, & I have done. Mr R thinks there ought to be a commissioned merchant for this place. I think such would be detriment al to the interests of your colony, but as there exists no special reason for me to discuss the subject, I would only ask, that as a mission we may be exempted from the duty of transacting our business through the hands of such an officer.

Lastly, I wish you would act on the case of those of the colonists who are in our employ as teachers - i.e. that it be respectfully asked that those who are engaged as teachers to the surrounding native settlements, may not forfeit their lands & other property within the bounds of the colony by so doing. The subject has been agitated here in relation to Mr Polk's case who now lives at Rocktown. Mrs Wilson joins me in kind regards to Mr L, your Mother Sister & self.

Yours with sincere regards & ~~affection~~

J L Wilson

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837