manner affecting the institution of Slavery, should take the cause of African Colonization into their own hands, independently, and should not permit the fanatical mania of those who are not identified with them in interest to deprive them of the benefits of a great & rational scheme for rendering their property more safe & their peace more secure. The original intention & fundamental principles of the American Colonization Society, as understood by the South, to befriend the Slave-holders by removing the noxious free coloured population from their borders to retain to the conscientious & philanthropick owner of Slaves the happy privilege & opportunity of liberating them without injury to his neighbour, his county or to the slaves themselves, and to obtain all the glorious results of civilizing a barbarous nation in an unknown land of darkness — results ~~which~~ dear alike to humanity, law, science ~~Commerce~~ and Christianity — have been of late perverted & prejudiced by an infusion of principles of most destructive tendency to the cause of colonization &, I fear, ~~to the~~ cause of the County. We must separate ourselves, then, from these principles of injurious effect & their authors, and recur to the original designs of Colonization as founded by some of the most enlightened of Slave holders & their friends, if we mean not to yield the immense advantages of colonization to ourselves. And why should we yield them?— Certainly not for reasons of a blind prejudice, fear, or fanaticism. Yet, we must yield them, I repeat, unless your plan be suggested and adopted by the Slave-holding states. With the fervent hope that those States may be made sensible of its wisdom & policy & that your Society may successfully recommend it by its own prospering

I am, sir, Yr. obd.t Serv.t

Henry A. Wise

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837