in their most candid judgement on the topics which in the nature of things must be involved in the subject of colonization. Hence I am more & more convinced that harmony except such as grows out of stagnation is hardly to be expected in a National Institution at the present time that is if the institution attempts to be in fact & actual operation national. Harmony & peace is only to be preserved by the prosecution of ~~such~~ timorous & snail-like measures.

Again I cannot be denied that the heart beats feebly at Washington, but warned by the disclosures of 1832 they are fearful & averse to any measures which involve expense. Their existence however I consider as all-important at this time to the ~~for~~ prosperity of the general cause. They ought to have more funds, & might have more & extend their operations greatly beyond the present scale without alarming the nation. Neither do I believe that the formation of independent state societies has diminished in fact the resources of the parent institution. Should many more state societies be formed upon the plan of yours, the parent Soc might find itself straightened for action in which to operate. But in that event the cause w^d have made such progress both here & in Africa, that its prosperity w^d not be greatly endangered by the dissolution of that Soc.

But although I cannot agree that its "appropriate functions have" now "ceased" I would say to the State Societies GO ON. Until you are strong enough to stand alone, throw up funds into the treasury of the Nat Institution. But when you can raise money enough within yr own limits, or by uniting with another state (if both are free or both slaveholding) assume relations more or less independent if that be. I see no objection to absolute independence at home & for the present in Africa.

But let the State Societies be content with doing their own work in their own way. The Am C.S. has been annoyed & the good cause injured by an aggressive spirit from some quarter, manifested among other ways in numerous private letters containing offensive reflections upon the plans & officers of the Am C.S. which so far as they are believed tend to weaken the hands not only of the ~~auxiliaries~~ parent Soc but of the Auxiliaries themselves. I am happy to believe that Maryland is not implicated in this charge.

With regard to Virginia (to which I presume you look with some interest) I suppose her cause can be promoted with so few expenses. I have conversed with the great body of the friends of Coloniz^n in the State, & have had means of ascertaining their opinions. Should the legislature assist us, we shall undoubtedly found "New Va" although we have no quarrel with the Parent Soc. Otherwise we shall continue as we are - certainly for a considerable time, as the state is too poor to attempt to carry on independent operations upon private charity. We shall make a strenuous effort with the Legislature at its next session. I am now engaged in an extensive correspondence to call out the sense of the people, which

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837