and South western Parts of the State, in visiting the Churches for the purpose of collecting the Bishop's Salary, and he represents the condition of the Church to be gratifying in the highest degree. At all places he visited he says a new Spirit seems to be inspired into them, - that the people are waking from their lethargy and that while all the branches of Christ's Church are prospering that portion of it to which we profess an attachment, is taking the lead, and by her Silent and unobtrusive and peaceful way, is acquiring the love and veneration of all those who are acquainted with her ordinances and forms, and manifesting to the people that tho' the rains may descend, and the winds blow, and the floods come there is a saving efficacy within her by which she will be enabled to withstand them all - for, that she is founded upon a rock. The church is not only increasing in relation to numbers but also as it regards spirituality, certainly the best criterion of the real advancement of religion. Many churches are about being erected in various parts of the State - and some have been erected even during the hard times, to cancel their debts, - raise the Salaries of their Ministers and thus to stand on a more sure footing. - One in particular I heard of, which during the last year paid off a debt of twenty thousand dollars - The Churches in Cincinnati - The Bishop has been absent for more than a month on parochial duties chiefly in the northern & middle parts of the State, and he writes in the most encouraging terms - that the churches triumphant, and the Kingdom of Satan being in hold - and the many open and shameless infidels are to be found, - and tho' a weekly journal is published in Cleveland whose avowed object is to overthrow all religion, yet by the mercy and goodness of God many are daily added to the church of such as shall be saved" His relation to

the Salaries of ministers, I am given to understand that tho' many of them pay liberally, yet as a general thing the Salaries are small, varying from $400 to $600. You are aware that this sum in the West is equal to more that in Baltimore. At Zanesville very well off the minister was furnished with a comfortable residence - which is not the case in very many instances. Our worthy Pastor Dr. Collins receives but $600, tho he holds a professorship in the Seminary, instructs a class in College, edits the Gambier Observer, fills the Office of Librarian, and attends to the multifarious duties of his Parish, preaches 5 times a week, &c &c. He is a very excellent man, and I think would make you a capital Bishop of Maryland. I do not know that he aspires to the station, but I dare say he would not decline the honor, if elected. — There are great openings all the West and Southwest for more labourers in the vineyard the Lord, yet I would not advise you to come over the mountains unless you can get a station in some of the larger towns or villages — The country is new & rough, and tho you might contend yourself anywhere, and find it your meat & drink to do the will of your master, yet having a family, and being accustomed to the comforts of life, I think you would find yourself but ill prepared for enduring all the hard knocks of the Backwoods. I would by no means, however discourage you if you have any idea of removing West. — Bishop M'Ilvaine's diocese is rapidly increasing. There must be near 100 parishes in the State. When the Bishop came I understand there were not a dozen. — The Rev A. Helfenstein of the Lutheran Church Baltimore, was ordained Deacon in this place last winter and has now a congregation near Columbus.

My respects to Mrs Easter and John and believe me to be with sentiments of esteem & respect your sincere friend & humble servt

B P Lage

Rev. J. N. Easter —

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838