make between your main object & ours, & the inferences drawn from thence, commend themselves strongly to our judgments; & we shall send instructions to Mr. Wilson, & give instructions to our future missionaries sent into your colony, in accordance with the principles you have advanced. Yours of course is the government of the territory; & our missionaries & assistant missionaries are foreigners, with the privileges, duties, & liabilities, which belong to such in this country.

Mr. Wilson did not send me a copy of his correspondence with Mr. Ruffurnd, though he said it was to accompany his letters. I regretted to perceive, & before writing you informed our Committee, that he had mistaken the tenure of the grant of land made to our Board by the colonial government. We understood it & have always understood it as given to us only for missionary purposes, & as no more out of your jurisdiction than the dwelling place of any foreign resident in Baltimore would be out of the jurisdiction of the civil authorities of the state of Maryland. Neither we, nor our agents, will have any controversy on this subject.

You will understand me, however, when I suggest, in respect to the whole matter of jurisdiction, — while the governors of your Colony are colored men & our missionaries are Southern men, — that while all necessary care is taken to preserve the principle of right, (which ought not to be conceded by your Agent,) difficulties which may arise, & which threaten to be serious, should, as far as may be, referred for settlement to the Societies at home. I wish such a reference may never again be necessary. I would not have it required as a matter of authority, or a thing of course, or what our Agents may require as a matter of right, but suggest it in view of what I know of human nature, even in its best estate. You will see at once what can safely be done, & desire no less than myself to prevent even the appearance of unfriendliness between the colonial government & missionaries. Both parts of the great work would find enemies enough to make the most of such things.

It was with much concern we noticed the tone & manner of Mr. Wilson's letters to Mr. Ruffurnd, which you were so good as to send us, & for which we feel much indebted. I was reminded of what Dr. Hall said to me, on his last return from Africa, about the influence of the climate on Mr. W.'s nervous system, but which I thought little of at the time, because I knew Mr. W. very much disapproved of Dr. H.'s proceedings during his last visit to the colony. The letters are certainly written in a very unguarded manner, & as they ought not to be to any one entrusted with the government of the colony. I shall write Mr. W. freely on the subject. They are not like Mr. Wilson, & awaken my fears in respect to his health, more than any thing I have seen or heard of late. No doubt he had been much

Maryland Historical Society

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838