declarations at Washington of the entire independence of our Colony de facto. For in seeking the important objects for which we were assembled it seemed both more kindly, and better policy to employ the argumentum ad judicium than the argumentum baculinum. – However the impatience of Mr Gurley & the diplomatic management of Mr Seaton compelled us to remind them of our state rights upon which we could at any time fall back, and leave them to enjoy the dignity and glory of their solitude. – This show of independence perhaps more than the force of an logic (though I would by no means undervalue the latter) had the effect to harmonize our conflicting views in a wonderful degree – and on Wednesday with very little discussion we agreed upon a plan embracing every material point for which we have been contending continually during the past eighteen months –

A copy of what is to be a new Constitution which Gurley and Seaton are pledged to advocate at the next annual meeting I forward with this – you will see it corresponds with the views expressed in my letter of the 30th June last – effecting an organic change in the Am. Coln Soc. so as to make it a Confederation of State Soc.s with a representative Board of Managers. While the best securities are thrown around the plan of State action so far as it seems to us desirable to keep them independent

I sincerely hope you may so far change your

Outline of a new Constitution for the American Colonization Society

Articles 1st and 2d the same as in the present Constitution

Art. 3d This Society shall be composed of State Societies organized for the purposes of Colonization and acting in conformity with this Constitution

Art 4th – There shall be a Board of Directors composed of Delegates from the several State Societies – Each Soc. contributing annually not less than $1000 into the common treasury shall be entitled to one delegate; Each Society having a Colony under its care shall be entitled to two delegates and any two or more Societies uniting in the support of a Colony comprising at least three hundred souls to two delegates each

Art 5th – The Board of Directors shall meet annually at — and at such other times and places as they may direct. They shall have power to organize and administer a General Government for the several Colonies in Liberia to provide a uniform Code of laws for such Colonies and manage the general affairs of Colonization throughout the United States except within the States which have planted Colonies. They shall also appoint annually an Executive Committee of such officers as they may deem necessary (who shall be also ex of members of the Ex. Com) designate their salaries and adopt such plans as they may deem expedient for the promotion of the Colonization Cause

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838