and other circumstances so fully occupied my mind, that the sound of a approaching whale, quite startled me. On looking around to my astonishment I beheld a team of four oxen, well broken driven by an acquaintance — and was compelled to acknowledge that this was truly a 'going ahead' I had left no ox carts — nor carts of any thing like them here. A little farther on I saw a man busily engaged in ploughing — this too was new, and quite unexpected — for the hoe alone was used there years ago — I can now see that the general introduction of working animals in the Colony is all that is wanting for the success of the agriculturalist — without them his labour is in vain — and were the choice with me I had sooner at any time welcome the arrival of one horse in the Colony than that of a half dozen heartless, and low spirited individuals from the U. States. Such fellows I mean as embark with as much reluctance as if they were in their way to the gallows —

But farther say about three miles I approached Mount Vaughan — the Episcopalian Mission ground — (first cleared and improved by the lamented Thompson) until the arrival here I passed with cultivated fields on each side of the road — and beautiful houses, reminding me of the appearance of the Gardeners of the husbandmen of N. England — When I beyond this Mt. I discover very great change — When I left, Mount Vaughan was the extreme limit of our settlement or farms — and even to reach it was necessary to cross a morass nearly a quarter mile over and which was then said to be the favourite haunt of the formidable boa constrictor which at a single gulp could swallow a man — Now however by ditching, the morass has been converted into the most fertile land within the limits of our Colony — and peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of rice — and now about five acres of it is occupied as a rice farm — A good road now passes through said morass, and we reach Mount Vaughan dry shod — This as I before said was then the extreme limit of our Colony — not so now. A few rods beyond this I crossed a stream of water, over which a substantial bridge has been thrown (as my riding a jock assure me must prove — for all animals that I ever had to deal with the bump of caution seems to be most fully developed in these ordinary little brutes — the slight motion of any thing on which they step — and more particularly if over a stream of water causes a hesitancy in their onward progress — and this is often so sudden that one from equestrian pride finds himself ~~instant~~ sprawling on the earth) this stream will answer well for carrying a saw mill; some doubt it and say its too small, but I have seen mills erected, and in successful operation on streams in N. Hampshire, that might with as

propriety be applied compared with this, as the Potapsco might be with the Mississippi. A half mile beyond this stream we reach Mount Salman — the residence of the assistant Agent — and the end of our improvement. The Mount is about thirty feet high and acres the base would not measure more than two acres — at the summit of the are the buildings occupied by the assistant agents — there is also a gun house. The top is levelled off — and half way down a moat has been formed encircling the Mount completely — the dirt is thrown up on the inside making a depth of between eight & nine feet. Gate in the E & West an entrance which when closed will render the ingress of an enemy as rather a difficult business. Cannot an in readiness which can be moved in any direction on the mount, and upon the whole I am of the opinion that we could keep the third or more of our savage neighbours at bay as long as ammunition lasts —

At the foot of the Mount on the Western side is an experimental farm occupying about six acres — Some of which are planted in sugar cane, and it is said to look as promising as any one seen by Rev J. Seys in the West Indies — he saw it & says it — and being a Missionary, and I suppose disinterested — his word may be taken by the most scrupulous — the balance of the land is planted in Corn — Capsicum, Plantain, Potatoes &c — Besides this there is another Public or Agency farm — producing the same as the above with the exception of cane — here paupers, dig for their grub, but fortunately we have a very few, of them as they do not generally relish such wholesome exercise —

On the Eastern side of the Mount the farms of the Salmans are situated — these look better, and produce more than any others in the Colony — These people seem to know what they are driving after — and support themselves from the products of their farms alone — met a man driving from this place with about ten bushels of sweet potatoes, which he said he was anxious to dispose of at seventy five cents per bushel —

Excuse the brevity of my Communication — as the Sabado sails directly I must close — You shall hear from me by every convenient opportunity.

I remain Dr Sir Your Obedt Servt

Sam. McGill

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1839