Harper Cape Palmas
April 20. 1839

Mr. J. B. Latrobe Esqr
Prest. Md. St. Col. Soc.

Respected Sir

I am happy in being able to announce the cheering prospects and gradual improvement in the affairs of the Colony. I have witnessed nothing like brawls or dispatisfaction since my arrival; such as occurred previous to arrival of Oberon, has been named in letters by her.

Shetter has left the Colony, and with him, seems to have fled the daimon of mischief and insubordination.

My principle object in addressing you was to solicit the gift of a lot of land on the Cape, now held by the Agent, he obtained it of Saml Wheler Estate – It is not reserved for any public purpose, and Gov. R offers it to me for One Hundred ~~thirty~~ seven dollars, to ~~retain it~~ as a gift he would not but allowed me to apply to you, promising to reserve it until you had determined. I have not yet drawn any land in the Colony, and if in future I wish one for farming or any other purpose I am willing to purchase.

In your letter of instruction you have suggested the importance of the study of Botany and Natural History – I am anxious to ~~at~~ possess the means of studying both – The rudimentary branches of the former I became acquainted with in the U. States – but since my arrival here the want of books has prevented my progressing – Will you please furnish me with some botanical work which will enable me to ascertain the names of such plants as may fall in my way – Say "Loudins Encyclopedia of Plants".

Rev. Chas. S. Coster
Colonization Agt. Md. St. Col. Soc.
Washington Home Hospital Street.
Near Post Office
Baltimore. Md.

Frkd. Chas
J. S. Roberts. Esqr

Dort. Samuel A. McGill
Cape Palmas
Mr. Rev. Chas. Coster
April 16th 1839.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1839