John Collinson
Annapolis Maryland
Rev. John W. Lanneau
December 7th 1839

Rev. John W. Lanneau
Agent of the Maryland
Colonization Society
Baltimore

(Extracts from Gov. Russwurm's Dispatches)

Harper, Cape Palmas,
Dec 8th 1839.

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J. H. B. Latrobe Esq
Pres. Md. St. C. S.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge the receipt of your last dispatches, per Saluda, dated July 17th 1839. They remained several weeks at Monrovia, for want of conveyance. All your colonists and agent felt pleased to learn that your Society was building a vessel, as packet, from Baltimore to Cape Palmas.

Rice — You will rejoice that thier has been an abundant harvest of rice this season; and in consequence, of our line of coast being well guarded, by British cruisers, we have had no opposition from slavers in purchasing. There has been an ample supply for the missionaries and your store, and I am now under the necessity of discontinuing to purchase any more from want of room. The natives say this is the greatest harvest known since the settlement of the colony.

Farms — Most of the colonists have their grounds planted with potatoes and cassadas enough for their own consumption, and a few have a goodly No. of plantains and bananas under culture; but nothing to the extent that they ought. They seem incredulous about thier productiveness, though they can test the question themselves. Since the offer of 2 premiums of $30 and $20 for the best farms on January 1st 1840. there have been considerable efforts put forth to obtain them; and I am of the opinion, that the, introduction of cotton might be greatly promoted by offering a premium also for the first 100 pounds raised by a colonist. It is almost repetition to say, that not much ought

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1839