Baltimore Nov 24th 1840

To Pro. H.B. Latrobe Esq.
Brst Md State Col. Society!

Dear Sir Although I have at no time received any written communication from yourself respecting my proposed connection with the Maryland State Col. Society, yet I deem it proper that I should embrace that manner of addressing you upon the subject.

Previous to my late visit to New-England I considered it as a matter settled, that I should commence the performance of my duties as Agent of the Society immediately on my return; & all my private arrangements were made to that end. On my arrival in this city & minutely thoroughly into the state of my commercial affairs I found them in very different condition from what I had good reason to suppose at the time of my engagement with the Society. This fact together with the tenor of recent advices from Africa render it imperative on me to remain at that coast. Consequently I am forced to resign the situation which I feel the honour so recently to accept from the Board over which you preside.

I trust Sir I need not assure you with how much pain & regret I make this communication. Although I have but too much reason to feel & know how ill fitted I am for the performance of the duties so suddenly devolving upon a general managing agent of the Col. Society, still it was with no ordinary feelings of gratification that I again found myself connected ~~for~~ with gentlemen from whom I have heretofore met in this service, received the most urbane & kind treatment together with the most flattering though unmerited testimonials of esteem & approbation; & at the same time to know that whatever services I could render would be for the benefit of a land & people to which & whom I am bound by no ordinary ties & for whom goods I am none & ever will be ready to make any sacrifice not incompatible with my duty to myself & family. Yet allow me to assure yourself & the gentlemen with whom you are associated, that they for my gratuitous services shall always be at option commanded on my the side of the attorney. With the most respectful acknowledgement to yourself & the gentlemen of the Board for the honour conferred on me

I am with the greatest respect & esteem
Your most obt Servant & humble
Ponis Hill

Mr. Phillips Esq
Corresponding
Sec. Md. Colonization Society
Baltimore

Allow Shipping Clerk
Colonization Office
Baltimore

Per debt
E.P. Cotton

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1840