but of a very superior quality: bannanas, plantains, cassada, sweet potatoes and all garden vegetables in abundance, and of an excellent kind. I visited the farms and found their houses comfortable, the soil rich, and with but little labour yields an abundant crop. The emigrants are cheerful, their countenances beaming with pleasure, ~~and all seem perfectly contented with their situation and delighted~~ with their adopted country.

There are four schools in the Colony for the education of the children of the emigrants and great attention is paid to their improvement: The children of the natives are also admitted to the schools. I witnessed, at the school under the direction of the Rev. Mr Wilson of the Presbyterian Mission, a very interesting examination of his native pupils, some of whom have been at school near four years, and speak and read English perfectly well. I send you, as a curiosity, some of their own composition and writing, which I beg the favor of you to return to me at your leisure, as I am desirous of handing them to the Society.

I was informed by Governor Russwurm that in the last year about thirteen thousand gallons of palm oil at an average of thirty seven cents per gallon, and about one thousand bushels of rice at one dollar per bushel had been disposed of to the traders on the Coast, and that he was making arrangements for introducing the Cannwood in large quantities, which can be readily had at some distance inland to the settlement, and is purchased from the Natives at thirty five or forty dollars a ton and sold to the traders at sixty and sixty five dollars per ton.

This Colony has been settled less than seven years and a stranger visiting it, will be convinced of the rapid improvement they have made and be assured of its future prosperity."

Denton, June 3rd 1841.

To, James Hall. Esq.r
Genl. Agent Ma. State C.S.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 26th ultimo. which I received by the mail of yesterday, I shall state that since the passage of the Act of 1831. in reference to the Manumission of Slaves in this State; I believe there is but one in this County subject to its provisions who has become entitled to freedom by last Will and Testament, and that one has been permitted to remain in the State, by express permission agreeable to the Statute.

There has been but few manumitted by Will, and they to take effect at some subsequent period.

Very Respectfully
your Obt Servt.
W. A. Ford, Regr Wills
for Caroline County

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1841