among all parties. It is my opinion, that they are not satisfied in every quarter. Too much power is placed in the hands of the colonists, it is thought. This is evident from the violent thinking against late laws of the colony & the cry of oppression. The first cry was, that missionaries had as much right to make per centage on goods as the Society, and the poor ignorant colonists thought it till lately — they see the difference now however, and can never be brought to agree that the privilege of retailing goods, like merchants, be granted to any other persons than colonists. The last cry is, that the late law is one made by Methodists & adopted here, & will not be cordially obeyed by the 3 individuals on whom it has a particular bearing. This is not so. You will rejoice that our rice crops are abundant, and did I not fear opposition from vessels as the crops at S. Leone have failed I should write more about a supply for the colony — a few more goods I must have such as crockery & cloths & aid me till December, for which I shall have to draw on your funds.

I am sorry that my oil trade has not been as profitable as last year — the reason is, that while it was plenty, the weather was too stormy for the little "Doctor" to go out; and the mechanics employed on the "Latrobe" at Grand Bassa, had so decided as that the hull to be brought into our river, & the work to be done over by our colonists (unacquainted as they are with such) — by these unforeseen events, the last part of the season for oil was gone before I could avail myself to advantage.

Unable of the want of responsible persons to sail the Society's vessels, and that I was wholly depended by those employed without being able to help myself, I concluded it would be for the Society's interest to dispose of the "Doctor" for 1140 gallons palm oil to Jones & Bowen, the responsible colonists on credit of 6 months.

Greater difficulties stare me in the face about the "Latrobe", after being to the expense of procuring a master from Monrovia, whom I have compelled to discharge for stabbing 2 Mappa boys who subsequently died. They were on board as passengers, & the defence set up was, an attempt to rob the vessel & kill him while she lay at anchor in our bay. This was in the evening when all had been imprudently suffered to have the liquor. This palaver I spared rather than run the risk of having some of our people murdered by the Mappaes, who are but a short distance from Grand Bassa. It is my opinion that it would be for the Society's interest to dispose of the "Latrobe" also as I have no competent person to command — within 5 weeks she has lost four anchors from masters incompetency. Four weeks ago, she was sent to Monrovia to procure other anchors, but from the same cause, and a strong current running to leeward she is now somewhere near Cape Lahou.

You would be many obliged, see the letter to the coast; but there are now the [illegible] which are needed in their [illegible] fort. The [illegible] a little [illegible] [illegible] at [illegible] one man better acquainted from reports. One thousand dollars in cash annually would enable our Agent, to satisfy all unreasonable demands. The rule hitherto laid down by Mr Wilson & other foreign merchants of only paying goods for labor must be abolished & the money system introduced. Two years experience emboldens me to address you freely in the benefit of my succession & the future happiness of your people. In consequence the past, I have not to regret that this idea has obtained strongly a hold on my mind.

I am sorry to perceive in the colonists generally a strong prejudice & hatred of the natives. If indulged in, the end must inevitably be a war of extermination of one party; this sentiment prevails among the farmers, whose situation is the most exposed. They are the most ignorant, & though the majority can neither read nor write, wish to set themselves up as interpreters of the law. In any palaver with natives, they seem as a peal to mens.

Since this letter was commenced, within the last 3 days a large body of them went in a riotous manner to the farms on the night of 15th July and took [illegible], who was detained as a debtor to an[illegible] amount of costs in a suit which a native had brought for obtaining

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1841