missionaries who have been sent from this country, of whatever color, & the persons in our employment at our station within your colony, who come from native tribes not under your colonial government or from other colonies, & the pupils in our boarding-school who are not from tribes subject to you, are all exempt from military duty, as standing in the same general relation to your colony. Our Committee feel assured, that no other position could be compatible with the well being of the missions, & that you will view the subject in this light. Whatever objections might be thought of in a merely theoretical contemplation of the case, there will be no cause in practice. And as for the assertion of physical strength, which would arise from ~~their right to call~~ having & exercising the right to call on a portion from missionary force to do military duty, I think the colony would realize more from our being regarded by the natives as totally separated from the colony, & that experience, in some well known instances, has shown the correctness of this remark.

Native boys, coming from tribes not subject to you, are foreign lads sent to an institution within the bounds of your government for education. So our teachers & helpers from such tribes, are foreigners. So are our helpers from other colonies than your own; unless they have been naturalized, so to speak, by some process that is sanctioned by the usages of nations. This is the view, and the only view, we are able to take of the matter in question. It appears reasonable in all its aspects. I trust it will seem so to you & your associates.

Besides, if the natives see members of our missions (& they cannot make distinctions between the different classes of laborers) training in your military companies, &, in case of apprehended disturbance, called out with arms to contend with them, our missionaries will lose all their moral power to influence the native mind.

As we wish to send out deputies & laborers instructions to our missionaries at Cape Palmas by some one of the vessels which are to sail about the first of the next month, I wish to hear from you to form me with your views in reply to this as soon as may be convenient. I would write you at more length, but it is unnecessary. I believe the case is clearly stated, & there is a natural justice between us, to act on those principles which will preserve the harmony, & at the same time the efficiency, of the good institutions in which we are engaged.

Yours, dear Sir, with great respect, very truly yours,
R. Anderson, Sec. ch. d

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1841