March 24th 1842.

As the mortality caused by the African Fever, has been held up by the opponents of colonization, as an objection to emigration to the Coast, I have thought that the accompanying table might prove an acceptable means of overthrowing this erroneous principle, and might prove an assurance to those who desire to emigrate, that fever is not to be feared.

In one of my communications, nearly two years ago, you were informed that out of the Forty Souls passengers, which six in number, two infants only died with the Fever, and that I thought a plan might be adopted in which its mortality even with these might be diminished. Now I am happy to say that in this I once not been mistaken; the proofs of the success of my plans are in the perfect restoration of the entire number of passengers And not in the Brig Harriet in July 1842.

The Table will show the arrival of thirty two individuals in the Colony since the commencement of present year. Not one out of this number escaped the Fever, nor have we lost one. Six from two to six weeks after their arrival, each one was attacked and on or about the 15th March, every one was convalescent.

The Table speaks for itself, and if doubt exist, I presume the different persons have remunerated are willing to give proofs of their existance.

Since I have been in charge of the medical affairs of the Colony, only three persons have died with the African Coast fever, viz the two Children in 1840, and the Rev. Mr Alward. Missionary. During this time I have attended Eight Captains and Seamen of European and American vessels, and six missionaries all whites, besides the eight whose names stand in the list.

After the above proofs of success I feel warranted in believing that the same results will attend our future efforts for the relief of such as labour under the complaint. I am of the opinion that when our views of this formidable disease is received by the Skillful administration of remedies, that one great objection to our existence in the Colony will be ~~removed~~ set aside — When we prove that Liberia is not the "Modern Sahara" represented by her opponents, certainly objections can no longer be raised in that ground against emigration.

Immigrants per Brig Harriet Jany 30. 1842

	Names	Ages	Period of Attack	Days after arrival	Grade of fever	Period of confinement
* 1	Rachel Green	40 years	February 16th	17 days	Severe	10 days
* 2	Clarissa Green	16 "	" 26	25 days	mild	6 days
* 3	Eric Green	15 "	" 23	24 days	Severe	7 days
* 4	Sarah Green	14 "	" 22	23 "	Mild	4 days
* 5	Caroline Green	13 "	" 22	23 "	Severe	8 days
* 6	Emilia Green	10 "	" 26	27 "	Severe	8 days
* 7	Eliza Green	6 "	" 18	19 "	mild	2 days
* 8	Mahala Green	3 "	" 6	11 "	Severe	9 days
* 9	William Green	5 mos	" 19	20 "	mild	4 days
* 10	Eliza Ann Green	4 mos	" 18	19 "	Severe	8 days
* 11	Harriet Lee	25 years	" 27	28 "	Severe	7 days
* 12	Fredk. Lee	8 "	" 17	18 "	mild	3 days
* 13	Edmund Lee	6 "	" 27	28 "	Severe	6 days
* 14	Jessie Ann Lee	3 "	March 6	35 "	Severe	10 days
* 15	Nath. Wilder	24 "	February 21	22 "	Severe	6 days
* 16	Alfred Wilder	24 "	" 23	24 "	mild	3 days
* 17	Thomas Wilder	22 "	" 19	20 "	mild	4 day
* 18	Henry Wilder	20 "	" 25	26 "	Severe	10 days
* 19	Thos. McFarland	30 "	" 25	26 "	Mild	2 days
* 20	Phoebe McFarland	42 "	" 25	26 "	Mild	5 days
* 21	James McFarland	17 "	" 17	20 "	Severe	8 days
* 22	Eliza McFarland	16 "	" 17	20 "	Mild	4 day
* 23	Sandy McFarland	15 "	" 13	14 "	Severe	11 days
* 24	Thos. F. Mills	40 "	" 19	20 "	Severe	3 days
	Missionaries arrived in the Harriet					
* 25	Rev. Mr Barron } Catholic		Feby. 17	18 "	Severe	14 days
* 26	Rev Jno. Kelly } Catholic		March 12	14 "	Mild	6 days
* 27	Mr Dennis Finden } Catholic		March 2	3 "	Severe	7 days
	Missionaries arrived Feby 3. 1842					
* 28	Rev. Mr Walker } A.B.C.F.M.		Feby. 24	25 "	Mild	5 days
* 29	Mrs Walker } A.B.C.F.M.		March 3	28 "	Mild	7 days
30	Rev Mr Griswold } A.B.C.F.M.		" 4	29 "	Mild	6 days
* 31	Rev. Mr Sawyer } Free Mission				mild	4 days
* 32	Mrs Sawyer } Free Mission				Severe	25 days

* Individuals who have had the second attack

Nearly every case treated, has been the subject of a second attack, most mildly in its form than the first, and never fatal with such as I have attended. Many persons suppose that the greatest danger is to be apprehended from the "second attack" I hope the author may be able to give it, as I positively then may be when the patient has been previously exhausted by purgatives and blood letting. But thanks to the kindness of Dr Stott I have long since abolished this injurious system, consequently did not often have debility to contend with, the result of improper medication.

It is with sorrow that I am compelled to announce the death of Mr Berry. With a protracted sickness of more than one year — He was one of a sanguine constitution, and was in the early part of last year attacked with the Dysentery, from this and a complication he never perfectly recovered. He should last detained with a chronic disease, developed tumors, ~~and~~ from that time exhibit the feeble of his death, March 15th he slowly declined. In losing him we have sustained one of the best and most useful men in the Colony, it is indeed very questionable whether his place can be supplied by any one in Africa.

Mr Berry was born in the State of New York, he embarked for that part in 1819, in the first vessel that sailed with emigrants. He was then only ~~[illegible]~~ twenty years of age, had a very imperfect education, and contemplated no other course for bettering his fortune and family, than a disposition to trade.

He was among the first who died and the first who buried the dead — of all the managers and early officers of the Colony, and was among those who founded the settlement. From which he went to Grand Bassa, was very successful and qualified himself for the situation of a Clerk to a merchant. Mr Cheesman's house. While there employed to make many trading excursions into the interior. In 1828 he returned from Grand Bassa to Monrovia. From the time of his arrival in Monrovia to that of his removal to his place in 1835. his whole time seems to have been devoted to gaining a knowledge of letters and to imparting the knowledge gained to others. He was successively Disbursing Agent to the Poor, High Sheriff of Liberia, Public Surveyor, Manager of Public Schools — About three years ago he was ordained a Minister of the Baptist church.

He accompanied the Governor to Cape Palmas and ~~[illegible]~~ filling the office of Colonial Secretary, with credit. Whilst thus engaged he established the First Baptist Church in this place, and up to the period of his death performed the duties of Pastor. These duties were attended with no small degree of trouble and expense. His disconnection with our Missionary Society, rendered it necessary for him often to draw on his own scanty means to the relief of the poor and distressed members of his church. Connected with his church is a Sabbath School, which he attended regularly. He was repeatedly offered employment by the Baptist Missionaries in Africa, these offers were steadily declined on the ground that he had settled in Africa with a view to the elevation of his race, and he felt it a duty to use every effort with civil and religious to accomplish the end. The appointment of Colonial Govr in this place was the principle cause of his removal from Monrovia, so that by his labours he might support the principles and design of the Institution. He thought that the labours of Missionaries should commence among half civilized beings who are sent from enlightened America to the colonies, and from them shall extend to the native Africans. Influenced by such principles he attended to his official duties as Secretary and devoted those moments which are generally taken as a relaxation from business to offices of a higher and more benevolent character. On this score our friend deserves the praise of a Christian. It has it is indeed rarely that our Colonists have sufficient qualification to depart from the apparently easy life of a Missionary. The most promising and intelligent of our Colonist are eagerly anxious ~~after~~ to become mere assistants, and it ~~[illegible]~~ is rarely to say that they often embrace such offers under a full knowledge that they are destined to become the mere tool of others. The limits of this letter will not admit of my writing more on the subject, more than to say that all classes in community regret the death of this truly amiable and christian man. His living passion was to do good, to accomplish which his labours were incessant and in many cases gratuitous. He was unassuming and mild in his manner and address, and possessed such a fund of intelligence that he could adapt himself to all circumstances and occasions. Such a character so highly respected and endeared to Liberians it wants to grateful to enlarge, but we can do nothing to the knowledge already possessed in his commendation, our silent admiration is perhaps the most eloquent and efficient praise.

As you will receive full communications from Gov. Roberts, I thought it unnecessary for me to say any thing of the Colonial affairs.

With sentiments of the highest respect I remain
Your obedt Servant
Sam. P. McGill
Col. Physician

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1842