the Parish Records were for the most part lost or destroyed and none ~~now~~ having been since kept, we find much inconvenience, & will hereafter find much more, in tracing titles. Great wrong & injury have, within my own knowledge, grown out of it. Among many other cases, I may mention the Earldom & estate of Marchmont was lost by Thomas Hume who resided in this town.

My Motive for making these remarks is to let them serve for an introduction to a hint that, in your Colony at Cape Palmas, advantage should be taken of the blunders of other nascent states. I do not know how the Colony is divided, but I would respectfully suggest that there should be a Register appointed whose duty it should be to record all the Births, Marriages & deaths that occur within certain defined limits, & these officers should be sufficiently numerous to prevent the labor of making reports from becoming onerous either to themselves or to those who report to them — That the Register should make monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual reports to the Governor who should enter them upon his books & report results periodically to the Society. It should be the duty of every man who is married, to report the same with his own name & those of his father & mother, his & their residence or places of residence — his wife's name & those of her father & mother with their places of residence — and whether she be a spinster or widow — If there be a birth let the father, if he be living, or the nearest of kin, report the date, name of the child, and its mother & father — & in case of a death let it be reported by the nearest of kin — in all these cases within one week, under a named penalty in case of failure.

It is not difficult to perceive that from such a record the first named object will be attained: but much and accurate statistical information can be drawn highly valuable for many purposes; amongst which may be mentioned taxation and a minute knowledge of the military capabilities of each district, however small.

It may be thought that just now the whole affair is so small as to be entirely within the ken of the gubernatorial eye — If however such be the case just now, it cannot be expected long to continue so. The sooner these institutions are commenced the more complete they will be & the more easily they will be worked when the machinery becomes more cumbersome & complicated.

Pardon me if I have written you an idle letter — It is at least well meant & if it be clumsily written I am too sick to remodel it, being not yet recovered from the effects of a pleurisy — Farewell

Respectfully yours P. Minor.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

8. 1843—1844

1843