Newport, May 30th 1844.

Dear Sir

Received, in Lynchburg, your letter, informing me that you would not be there which I much regretted, both because sickness detained you, & because, had you been present, you would be better able to understand & appreciate the reasons why we cannot accomplish the object which we had in view. It is not because the virginians do not believe that their state would prosper better without slaves than with, for that sentiment seems almost universal. It is not because there is not an abundence of high minded christian benevolence which would lead to the emancipation of slaves, could their owners see that they had a prospect of being essentially benefited by going to Liberia, & could a proper channel be opened & could Virginia State feeling once become interested in a prosperous colony in Liberia. The real difficulty is that none can be found who has firmness enough to move such a measure in the Legislature. What sort of gibbiting a man receives who does to move an unpopular measure in the Legislature, I do not know, but sufficient evidence was adduced to satisfy my mind that such indeed is the fact. The nearly equally balanced state of political parties is the principle reason alleged. Mr. Macfarland an eminent lawyer, president of a Bank, & layman of our Church, residing in Richmond, on whom had been devolved, by the Convention, the duty of attempting to get a law enacted which would enable benevolent societies in the State to hold property, rose in Convention & reported that tho' he convened last session, with almost all the members of the Legislature personally, & tho' there was not an individual who did not express himself personally favorable to the measure, yet he could

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

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