not find a man who would take the responsibility of moving the measure. Mr. M. expressed to the Convention his belief that in no other way could the object be accomplished but by stirring up the people & getting a strong indication of public sentiment up in the way of petition to the Legislature. On the 4th of March 1833, the Legislature did appropriate $10000 p. year for 4 years to be used by the American Colonization Society in carrying the free negroes of Virginia to Liberia, at $30 p. head. But the best informed gentlemen leant with one of the opinion that the law was wholly inoperative, & that not one dollar of the appropriation was used. It was thought that it would be a difficult matter to get that appropriation renewed, even in favor of our Society, if we wished it, but then was a way that not a dollar could be used except to remove those who are now already free. One gentleman of most standing & respectability expressed to me, the opinion that it was on the whole to be regarded as a favorable thing that the appropriation did not answer, as it had, for it had been effectual it would have delayed the day of the final abolition of slavery in Virginia. I conversed both with Mr. Meade & John, & finding them favorable to the cause, they both said, as did other clergymen, that no religious body was so active in such measures. I believe that Virginia is pre-eminent for its freedom of the influence of religious sects, & as far as I know, no state is disgraced by such legislation as is hostile to religionists. I know of no way in which I could bring her to act with us in the matter of colonization, but by sending agents thro' the state who should create a favorable feeling towards Liberia & towards our colony in particular, & so get the people to insist upon legislative action, or else we might endeavor to form local societies in the state auxiliary to our own & thus bring colonization & our colony into favorable notice. But from any such measures, as I understand it, we are prohibited from a sense of etiquett to the American Colonization Soc. That Va. is even less awake on this great subject than she formerly has been is evident. But this is not because the people are less susceptible of feeling & acting rightly, than they were. All they want is to be roused to the subject. Virginia seemed at this present juncture to be labouring under the influence of an opiate — at this particular juncture, upon this great matter of colonization, yet there is much ground in my opinion to believe that she will one day be the most conspicuous state in the union in this grand enterprise. Tho' her public character is degenerate there never was a greater degree of private worth than there now is in the state. I apprehend that corrupt party feeling, & the base style of electioneering which prevails, has driven virtuous men out of the field, & caused her legislature to be composed of almost anything but what it ought to be, still Virginia stands honorably distinguished above every other state for what her legislative body has done in days gone by, touching this very matter of slavery. Her house of burgesses remonstrated against the introduction of slaves — ere the American Col. Soc. was formed, her legislature moved in the matter of trying to provide an asylum for negroes. Teachers have in some instances been employed by individuals, with salaries, to teach their slaves, tho' this is now strictly prohibited by the statute. The Rev. Mr. Nelson, legitimate son of Hugh Nelson, & of course a virginian of great blood & birth, is the devoted pastor of a coloured congregation in Clarke county. Virginia's sons & her daughters have devoted themselves as missionaries to Liberia, & their mortal remains mingle with the soil of Cape Palmas. A large share of our most distinguished colonizationists to have been native born Virginians, Henry Clay, Dr. Alexander of Princeton &c. I agree with you that Va. ought & must act in her state capacity. I regard the hold which the A. Col. Soc. has upon her as an obstacle to her being brought to her appropriate state action. I am also firm in the belief that correct information on the subject of Colonization is but very partially diffused over the state. I wish to hear whether you have had an interview with Mr. C. Rives, & what is the result. His father in Nelson County, is a participator of my [illegible] Rives is 24 years of age, & a man of great wealth — lives on a tract of 7000 acres of land, owns a large number of servants, has 3 overseers on his home farm, — values his real & state at $500,000 &c. — I was in bad health during my whole absence from home, & am now by no means well. There is at present considerable uncertainty about my going to N.C. this Summer, & should I go, it is very uncertain at what time. Should I go, & should I act as an agent of the Maryland Col. Soc., you are aware that I am wholly without credentials. I suggest it as a matter for your consideration whether it is best amid all these uncertainties to constitute me an agent, & if so, would it not be best to prepare & forward to me my credentials? lest, when I may arrive in Baltimore on my way North, speedy action, from Mr. Latrobe's absence, or from some other cause could not be had. Should it be the pleasure of the powers that be, to make me an agent I wish it to be made a clear condition that my agency is to cost the Society nothing. I collect nothing, I am to have nothing. Remember me duly to your estimable family, & write me a long letter soon.

I remain, with great respect, Yours, Henry B. Goodwin.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

8. 1843—1844

1844