of liberty is of paramount importance to every other object or consideration. Were I the slave there is nothing that I would not give, no condition that I would not subscribe to in return for freedom, - but as I can from experience form no just or accurate conceptions of the views and feelings of the slave, any farther digression from the subject of my letter is unnecessary.

The plan which you have thought it best to adopt with your people is both humane and generous. - Altho' I cannot view slavery in the abstract as any thing else as wrong and injustice - I am not so far swayed by intemperate zeal, as to expect every slave holder at once to relinquish the means of ~~security~~ securing a living, by the instantaneous liberation of his slaves. Even were I myself a slave-holder, all my earthly means vested in slaves it is indeed questionable whether I could at once bid them go free, and thereby suddenly reduce myself to beggary. Nothing less than the power of an Almighty God can so operate on the heart and consciences of men, as to bring them to act consistently with the Scriptural injunction, "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you."

The prospect of the general emancipation of the African Race from servitude is now dark and gloomy, even fate itself seems opposed to the hope - yet I feel a hope that as a God of Mercy, our creator will by some means effect the deliverance from slavery of so large a portion of his created beings.

As you are in full possession of every fact that can be communicated respecting the affairs, and prospects of our colony, I can scarcely suggest any argument that can serve you in your designed operations in favor of the Colonization Enterprises. Abolitionists might be justly taxed with their too evident disinclination to act up to the principles which they seek to force upon others. Suppose for instance slavery abolished: will this necessarily secure to the colored man <u>social and political</u> without which to an intelligent mind there can be no real freedom. To be free in reality a man must enjoy every blessing in common with others, unless from mental or pecuniary deficiencies he be ~~obliged~~ constrained to forgove them. Will the Abolitionist guarantee that the free

free colored man shall enjoy every privilege belonging to American citizens of the same rank and intelligence ~~in respect to~~ irrespective of complexion. No! they cannot, they will not, (with perhaps a few exceptions) nor could there be even an approach to the consumation of this desirable state for a half century. The Abolitionists ~~even if successful~~ in their projects only open the door for Colonization, for I do not assume you were the colored man once to imbibe the true spirit of liberty, he could no more content himself under existing circumstances in the U. States, than in a bed of thorns. I have myself experienced something of what I write - I have visited the States as a free Liberian under circumstances the most favorable, and even then felt that to be called a free colored man in the States, is synonimous with what we here term slavery. - it is a kind of freedom which the unremanging kindness and courtesies of our <u>best and most undoubted Colonization friends</u> can hardly render agreeable - we never breath freely again until the goodly bark conveys us once more to the shores of our but happy home.

If you could lay before the colored people slaves and free the wrongs they suffer through slavery and ~~[illegible]~~ prejudice, point them out boldly and truly, aye! as just as if you yourself had felt the galling chain - then show him the utter hopelessness of relief by any other human means, it will bring them to the proper point for expatriation: but I fear that such influencing arguments you hardly dare use. When I was last in the U. States, and forced to address mixed assemblies, (colored & white) on the subject of Colonization - I ventured to touch on such arguments as the above, but found it impossible to do so with freedom, as the oppressor cannot patiently endure any reference to his acts of oppression.

My letter has been extended beyond the limits intended and that without containing much that can interest you. I shall however at some future period if permitted write to you again.

Permit me to subscribe myself Revd Sir Your obedt Servant

Saml Ex McGill.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

9. 1845--1846

1845