settles any longer when they pay the debt due to the Agency or assisting them in building their houses and getting them farms You say that we must cultivate the soil and we intend to the best of our ability poor as we are and we still find that it will not give us a Comfortable support all that we can raise on our farms is not sufficient to feed & clothe a mans family leaving out of the Question the vest expences yearly by repairing our houses, it is impossible for us to live and except our Society does something to immelerate our sufferings it will place us in a great deal worse of situation and we where in the land from whence we came & what would be the state of your flourishing country to day if it hadnt been for the labor of the colored man, now you have said to us we are going to better your Condition by sending us to the land of our forefathers, Here we are brought here and settle amidst of parcel of savage heathens & they are amongst us continually & will not come under our Government & under these considerations we are greatly agrieved, themselves & their stock destroys nearly one half of what we raised on our farms & we can get no redresses.—

4th We are deceived we came here from the inducements held out to us that we will certainly better our Condition by sending us to West Africa Cape Palmas, we are free and that is admuch as we can say what we where not oppress with in America we are here but if you where placed in our situation we think that you could not but soon see and feel too very differently from what you do in your present situation What is liberty without bread or something in place of it.— its a very distressing & grievous situation to place a parcel of people in a poor desolate land far from the land which gave us birth & say to us its is the land of our forefathers Had we being sent to the land of our forefathers with what we have earn for many of you Gentlemen only small sum of it or a part of it we would better able to contend with deprivation & sufferings of this country we know that the Aborigines emigrate to the soil that gave us birth but they go amongst a civilized people & they go to a soil and many of them soon become a wealthy men we cannot think that this is because they are so industrious than what we are but we believe its from this reason; because that soil is far better than this

5th We charitably hope that you will take our aggrievences however into consideration & let us know whether or not that there can be any thing done to immilerate our aggrievience as we are people that you all aware off for we know that you knows the condition of every person that you send here into this Colony There is a few persons in the Colony who are doing tolerably well such are those that are employed by the Agency & few other individuals that are employed by the Missionaries, & the rest of us needs suffer and do suffer if there is any thing brought into the Colony by foreigners for sale even that we stand the most need off & suffer a great deal for a little for sugar, coffee & tea in case of sickness it cannot be purchased, because the money that is sent here are of no benefit and only go to the agency store & back to his Office, if your money would not go any further than your own Country how could you purchase any thing from foreigners we think if this was the case with you, you would have but very little tea, Coffee, or sugar in your market for we know it is not raised there neither will this land bring forth Corn, wheat, rie what men would have to subsist on for bread this is the last of our aggrievience—

turn over

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

9. 1845—1846

1845