Harper C. Palmer March 18. 1846

J. H. B. Latrobe Esqr
Pres. Md. St Col. Soc.

Hond. Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of Novr. last, and so very important in the principle subject of it to the interest of the Colony in general, and to the operation of the Revenue Laws in particular, that I am induced to forward this letter by a circuitous rout, that is by the Leeward Coast —

Our duties have hitherto been paid entirely in Camwood — the trouble and expense of Porterage, and Stowage of this commodity, made it very desirable that Treasury orders or Bills should be issued, in payment for all public expenses; these falling into the hands of the Merchant, could then be returned to the Treasury in lieu of Camwood. For convenience this course has been adopted, but to a very limited extent least the issues might exceed the real amt. Revenue. The real necessity that exists for the establishment of a regular Govt. paper such as you describe is the certain guaranty for its favourable circulation — There is however one difficulty in the way of carrying out the entire proposition, and to me it seems in the present state of things an insuperable one — Where is the Gold and silver to be procured for the payment of duties? Purchases are now made with Camwood, Oil & Rice and Bills of Exchange, but rarely or never with specie — The fact is, it would be at present impossible to raise an sufficient amt. of Coin in the Colony equal to the annual Revenue — such being the case, were coin exacted (instead of Wood) the scheme must fail, but if it is continued as it at present exists nothing can hinder its success.

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Mass

Dr James Hall
Govt. A. M. & S. C. S.
Colonization Office
Baltimore

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

9. 1845—1846

1846