but up punctually & regularly when called upon so to do by the Collector,

Our usual custom of collecting or paying duties were these when a Captain sold $1000 – we paid duties on $500, allowing him as it is generally to make 100 per ct. nor did we deviate from this rule till the arrival of a small vessel the Mary from Sierra Leone, made sales of sundry articles thro: Dr McGill, and after this vessel made sales and closed account a demand was made upon the Merchant McGill for an overplus of duties on sales Shape differing materially from our former rates of paying duties which said difference was not made known till after the Goods were sold & the accounts between buyer & seller settled upon which demand McGill refused to pay the same plea upon the grounds that no such arrangement were made known to him previous to the settlement of said account. And this arrangement was made by the Governor without the presence or consent of the Council to which mode of business Myself & others thought was inconsistent with the Spirit of the Constitution under the Society has invested him with Absolute power.

I will also avail myself of this opportunity to assert boldly that myself nor any one else has (to my knowledge) resisted or used any means to prevent or put down the revenue Laws of this Colony as far off to my Operation you are at liberty to make diligent enquiries – to search records & you can find where one warrant has been issued or where any legal process has been pursued to obtain any duties or demand from the Custom house I am willing to forfeit my honor.

Furthermore people here fear Law in any Shape & I do not know of but few instances where the Law has been violated & they were the ignorance, but now they are more enlightened & see good from Evil.

Hoping this will remove any unpleasant feeling in regard to the Rev. Law & will stop on that head, I have sent you Son & agreed to take 3 Shares in the Liberia Packet, & I hope that will do well. I think the Colony is improving & we want enterprising & intelligent men to make it improve more

Very Respectfully Yours
Jno. B. Bower

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1847