not, under the Act of 1831, be set aside?. I say the Orphans Court had no more right to indenture these people, than I had. The statement of facts are these. Fielder B Smith, posterior to the Act of 1831, manumitted certain slaves. The moment the deed of manumission was signed, they became free persons under the conditions of the ~~Ac~~ act of '31. Those conditions were such as to divest their personal ~~right~~ or political right to remain in the State. They could elect to go to Liberia or go without the limits of the state, with their consent; otherwise they were incapable of receiving manumission. If they refused to go out of the state, then (if they did not absolutely renounce their freedom) the Sheriff is obliged under the Supplement to the Act of '31, cited in my former letter, to remove them under a penalty of 50 dollars for each person so failing to be removed by him. The deed of manumission was questioned by Smiths representatives because they refused to ~~go~~ quit; (did you in 1843 receive the legal notice of their manumission by the clerk of Cal. Co. Court?) the Court decided the deed was a good one under the act of '31, but after or upon the rendition of their judgement, no efforts compulsory were ~~made~~ used to send them off. The court, in ruling their right to freedom, should have ruled it, in view of, and upon

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848