

of the Colony, and as one of the items may not be understood by the Board, I shall endeavor to explain it in as few words as possible. In building the Steamer and a new Jail considerable expense was incurred and perhaps (\$400) four hundred dollars overdrawn on the Treasury. Those who had claims against the Commonwealth insisted on being paid, by drafts through a bank, that no funds were there to meet their bills. These drafts they got discounted for good. After a time, some began to murmur & say that the Agent had run the Comth into debt without consultation with the Council. To meet such grumblings, I had the sum expended out of the Society's funds, towards these objects laid before the Council, with a request that the same might be placed on their records. To this all agreed but the Asst Agent who said he could see no justice in it - that the Society might make the Comth pay it at a future day: to this I replied that the Society never would prep^{re} Commonwealth for the debt; and as so much of the Society's means had been expended for these objects we ought not to be above acknowledging it. I have furnished oil for the Light House since its establishment, & have not drawn funds from the Treasury to meet the expense, knowing of their application elsewhere. In bringing up this account, there was due Society for oil (\$115) one hundred & fifteen. Every vessel that anchors near enough pays three dollars in cash generally as "Light money": and I cannot see that I am wrong in saying that the Comth ought to pay this debt. To this opposition was raised from the same quarter, but as 3 out of 4 concurred with me, it was voted that the Society ought to be paid for their oil. For this voting as honest & conscientious men the V. Agent & Councillors of 1848

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1849