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Leonardtown May 25th 1849.

Mr James Hall

Dear Sir

Hammond & I have been hard at work for 10 days in this county, and, as you may perceive, have made slow progress in respect to travel. And in respect to emigrants, the prospect is not very encouraging. The blacks from St Inigoes to this place, swarm like bees in a hive and a more stupid and ignorant set I never before beheld. Their heads are as thick as boards, & in the general, are as impudent as the devil. It was only last night that, at a meeting held at the house of a free coloured woman named Lawrence, who lives back of the factory - and which meeting Hammond had taken a great deal of pains to convene, having rode a circuit of more than 40 miles to bring them together, from one hut to the other - he was openly insulted by a nigger woman named Mason who publicly denounced him for an impostor & abused him with the vilest slang. I had a great notion when I learned it - to set the patriotes of the District on her. It is from such vile wretches that the cause sustains so much injury, for where they do not succeed in breaking up the meetings, they exert a most pernicious influence on the minds of the well disposed. I commenced operations in this county in this way. I started from below St Inigoes & am working my way to Balt^o, where I expect to arrive by the 15th June, if I have my health, though I have been excessively fatigued riding in the hot sun & to day I had a severe chill. I instructed Hammond to work in and out on both rivers & wherever he saw a hut to spot it, I taking the opposite direction in order to spot the planters. The understanding was, that we should meet at Great Mills yesterday & at this place on Sunday & compare notes. I accordingly met him at the factory & he recounted to me his adventures. It is idle to travel together to a niggers hut & it was at his sugges-

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received

A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

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