

J. H. B. Latrobe Esquire
Pres. c. c.

Baltimore 4 April 1850.

My dear Sir,
As a sequel to our conversation of yesterday, I send you herewith, for the Colony of Maryland in Liberia and to be forwarded as you see fit, a Copy of the Standard Yard of the U. S.; which I caused to be prepared once and finally myself adjusted with all due accuracy to the original belonging to our State here.

The high temperature marked on it, at which the adjustment was perfected, was designedly admitted; in order to balance a difference in rate of expansion which I knew in part and in part presumed to exist between the different specimens of the same metal in the original and in the Copy. Should this design have failed, it is to be borne in mind that the original was $5^{\text{inch}}_{1,000,307}$ too long; which quantity represents the maximum error of the present Standard and is the correction to be applied in any future observations with or copies from it.

On the other hand, in the new and unexpected destination of this Standard, the temperature of its adjustment is even fortunate; as coming nearer to the mean of the climate to which it will, I hope, be used.

The Colonists of Liberian Maryland owe, as I have been accustomed to believe, much of their present prosperity to your influence and exertions; and if I am not misled by a favorite idea of a universal conformity of Weights and Measures over the civilized world, or at least of a uniformity wherever the English language is spoken, to set an undue value upon the possession and use of positive and accurate Standards, I think they will hereafter have reason to remember this slighter instance

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1850