

with most of the members of the Legislature, and with the most intelligent and influential of the Citizens of Monrovia, Bassa and Sinoe, and have not found among the entire number a single person disposed to admit our Colony into the Union as an independent State." It is then almost certain the Liberians would not have entered into treaty with us in the way proposed, but might possibly have encouraged the hope of County annexation: in the one case owing to my peculiar position I would have been the instigator of the rejection, and in the other would have been charged with designs unfavorable to the Colony.

Being thus situated, with the hope that the motive would be appreciated, I proposed to the people the appointment of Delegates, in whom they could confide to proceed to Monrovia during the term of Session of the Legislature, to ascertain whether the Union as proposed by the Society, and desired here could be brought about; and if not, to ascertain upon what terms the Colony would be admitted as a part of the Republic after declaring our Independence. To me it seems clear that the adoption of this method of acquiring the desired information touching our future relations with the Republic, without compromising the Society or Government here, would have removed the doubts under which we now labour on this subject, and have enabled us to proceed more confidently in the formation of our new government; but as strange as it may appear our people refused, saying "it is not their business."

The dislike to making the Colony a County of the Republic expressed in your Communications, is surpassed by the extreme aversion with which it is thought of here. The name of the Republic has become hateful to the majority of the people, the most intemperate expressions of hostility are expressed, and the most improbable stories invented. I fear the effects of this conduct will be to create an unfavorable feeling towards us in the Republic.

~~an~~ ^{A. plan} for the establishment of an Independent State Government has been submitted to the people by Mr. Prout. I have that a copy of it will be forwarded to the Society. I hope the next arrival of the Packet will furnish us with the plans of the Society, which if approved of here can be acted upon before any other reaches you.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851