

I have taken advantage of the present season of comparative plenty to reduce the number of laborers employed on the Public Farm and elsewhere by the Agency, and to cast off supplies from a good number who have been paupers: this is not a very popular measure, but is one that I thought strictly called for. I am not disposed to witness real distress without affording relief, but shall in all cases endeavor to compel people to support themselves.

We have been active in our preparations for defense in case of invasion. A stockade has been constructed at Mt. Lubman, and I am procuring materials for another in East Harper. I have caused another gun house to be built on the Cape at a point that cannot be seized quite so easily as our present one, and I have had a half ton of lead run into Musket Balls. The Colonel has never felt more free from apprehensions of danger from the Nation than at present, nor have the waters ever appeared less turbulent and refractory. Our state of preparation for war if it becomes necessary and our expressed determination to commence it if intruded upon produces thus salutary effects on all parties.

Our trade is diminished by the wars around us, and were it not for our Boats enabling us to send beyond the limits of the straits would be at a stand still. I shall not venture to extend the operations of the Agency in this line, but confine myself to the purchase of enough to meet the current expenses of the Colony.

I am gratified by the assurance conveyed to me of the approval of my measures by the Board, and I shall strive by the faithful discharge of the duties of my office to merit the esteem of your honorable body.

I have the honor to remain

Dear Sir Yours

Obdient Servant

Wm. A. Mc Gill

A. A. Md. St. Lt. Sec

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851