Mr Chairman and fellow Citizens:

By a proclamation issued from the Acting Governor of this Colony, we learn, it is the pleasure of the Board of Managers of the Md. St. Colonization Society, that we should accustom ourselves to the consideration of an independent government, shortly to be organized. As a citizen of this Commonwealth, I feel called upon to act some part in considering this important subject in all its various bearings, and therefore invoke your hearty and earnest cooperation in devising the best course possible.

The subject under consideration may to some persons, be a matter of small import, but to your Speaker it is weighty and momentous; and were he endowed with the talents of a Beal, a Clay or a Webster, in view of the prospects ahead — involving doubts of our success as they do, unless we are actuated by proper feelings — he would feel himself incapable of doing justice to it. But however weighty the subject be, however unpromising and uncertain the re= =sults may now seem, and however difficult it may be to arrive at any definite conclusions as to the best plan or method we ought to take in the matter, the time is at hand and the work is to be accomplished.

The three grand essentials which give support and permanence to independent governments, and which are the boast of the most flourishing people now living, are Agriculture, Manu=

Maryland Historical Society

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851