

due consideration in reference to your good; nor have I done so without secur-  
ing the opinion of one or two gentlemen who coincided with me as to the propriety  
of my advice on this head.

And now, Gentlemen, having submitted to you my views in a general  
sense on the Government which you contemplate erecting, I would advise you  
before declaring yourselves independent, to correspond with the Board, so as to  
ascertain their views and true intent on this subject - For one reason, if not  
other; I refer to territory. Truly, you have a goodly amount of it - It is com-  
prised within the Northwestern line of Garroway and the Eastern line of Grand  
Lahou - a distance of about 120 miles east-wise, and about 18 miles running  
interiorward - giving an area of 2100 square miles. The Chaps, occupying  
these regions, did pass up under themselves and subjects to the Commonwealth,  
and became subject to this Government, except in their rights, ceremonies and  
other customs to which they have adhered from time immemorial, and which  
were reserved to them untrammelled. Their population has been estimated at  
fifty thousands. But, Gentlemen, this territory, though ours when speaking of  
it, is of right the Equity's. It was ceded to them through their Agent for their  
purposes, and it would be well to ascertain the fact as to our right to  
the whole or any part of undrawn land, before presuming to erect an in-  
dependent sovereignty; as the exact limits of our territory should first  
be known before the laws of our Republic can be made to bear on cases  
of infringement.

W. A. P. M. T.

November 10  
1851

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received  
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851