Agriculture is quite low at present, and it is to be regretted, that it has such a small place in the affection of the people. Some few characters have been talking seriously about planting Coffee, — and it is pleasant to know, that some have commenced the work. The soil is good, but much more so back in the interior. I am an advocate for interior settlements, and hope that the plan will soon be adopted. Palmas, is delightfull to look at, and more for its salubrity of clime.

8 The subject of Annexation is before us, What shall we do with it? I know that a change is necessary, and I have concluded that it is in this momentous question Annexation. Annexation, many of us think will guard us against intrusive, and that we shall have more claim on that which belongs to us. Our trade will have new life, and our law respected by foreigners. They are driven from the Republic of Liberia, finding an equally excellent market here; they fall upon our Territory and monopolize the Trade.

We think that it must increase the number of emigrants, for the republic alone receives the impulse, and we the dregs of it. It will increase a thirst for Education and every kind of improvement, which is now extant in the republic. It shall suppress a growing prejudice, now augmenting in some of the people of Cape Palmas against the people of the other settlements. We feel that we are going back instead of forward. Please consider this vital subject, and let us know what we must do to improve our situation, and the dignity of the Commonwealth.

I have the honour to be Your Ob. Serv.

J. B. Lathrop.
Pres. M. Col. Society

B. J. Drayton

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851