

J. N. B. Latrobe Esq
President Md. St. Col. Socy

Cape Palmas July 11. 1851

Dear Sir

The melancholy duty devolves upon me of informing you of the death of Governor Bassett. This sad occurrence took place on the 9th ulto. He had been a great sufferer from disease for two years or more, but two weeks previous to his death he was perfectly free from pain yet greatly prostrated; his mind until the very last remained unclouded. On the day of his death he attended to a portion of his official duties.

Altho' it has been evident for months that the Governor was sinking, yet his death may be called sudden. He expressed no wishes in his last moments either in relation to public, or his own private affairs.

An inventory of the effects of the Society has been taken and I have entered upon the duties of the Agency. The death of the Governor has not deranged, nor retarded the regular transaction of customary public duties, yet it has afforded materials an opportunity for giving vent to long suppressed ill feeling. The Vice Agent N. B. Bowen, Colonel A. Mord and Major John A. Stewart, have stroven industriously to create among the Colonists impressions unfavorable to my governing, in order to discover the extent of their machinations, as well as the real sentiments of the people, I encouraged the call of a public meeting, at which these gentlemen attended, still the number did not comprise a majority of the male inhabitants of the Colony. At the meeting, many remarks have been made unfavorable of and reflecting upon our deceased Governor, and especially in

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851