

The general health of the colony has been better within the last three months than at any period for two years;

The experience difficulty in finding suitable locations for immigrants who arrive, their numbers lately have not been sufficient to warrant our placing them beyond the present limits of the town ship, indeed they are generally unwilling to occupy the lands on the outskirts of the settlement. There are numbers of unoccupied farm lots on the avenue which have once been improved sufficiently to secure deeds of possession, the owners, who from different causes have abandoned or neglected them, and have suffered them to grow up into "bush"; such lots widely separate farms that are improved. It has been the policy of your Agent to buy up such lots when practicable and give them to new settlers, this gives greater security to all and to the favourable appearance of the Colony.

It being constantly necessary to give employment to a number of the Colonist, the Public Farm has been kept up for the express purpose. I am anxious if possible to make the produce of the farm cover, or equal the value of all that is expended under this head. From eight to twenty persons receive employment daily at the farm, and twice the number apply whom we cannot receive. Indigent widows, and orphan boys have the preference of employment, as they when unable to procure work invariably apply to your Agent for the means of subsistence. There are also many able bodied men who seek for work and prefer labouring on the farm for very low wages to attending steadily to the tillage of their own lands, neither persuasions, nor their own experience of past sufferings serves to beget a more manly & independent spirit, the consequences are, they often fail in securing employment and then are left entirely destitute of the commonest necessaries of life. Those who engage in sawing and lumber getting are in like manner thoughtless and imprudent, when the weather is unfavourable for this work, the time is spent in idleness which might have been profitably employed in planting; if attacked with sickness (to which they are peculiarly liable from their great exposure in swampy lands) and for a time disabled, having neither money nor produce growing they are forced to beg, starve, or obtain on credit from your Agent the means of procuring food for their families.

This pernicious system has existed in this Colony ever since its formation, and will I fear require a long time, and much trouble ere it can be abandoned.

The American Colonization Society send emigrants to Liberia and supply them with shelter, food, and medical attendance six months, land is given them and then they are left to shift for themselves. Without ~~aid~~ further aid or assistance from the Society they have to find material, and construct their own houses, and are in every way made to depend upon their own

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851