

Sept. 26. The Packet arrival enable me to forward
letter direct.

Your letters to me both private & official & news
were read with interest. Mr Latrobe has honored me
with a communicate "private & confidential" under the
impression that I was at Monrovia, and where I really
wish it had found me. What can I say about this
Independence business, confederation, and other matters

As the packet came in sight we were disposing of a
petition praying for the passage of some act to prohibit
all ministers of the Gospel from taking any part in the
political affairs of the Colony. Because they were disposed
to speak favorably of independence & annexation, I am
unprepared to write to Mr Latrobe on the subject particular-
ly as there is not the least smallest possibility of
accomplishing the work in the way he desires.

Liberia will not alter her Constitution in order to
admit Cape Palmas as a state, and if they consent
to our annexation as a County, it will not be from
selfish motives, but because it is necessary and
proper. By admitting us as a County even, Liberia
would be adding to her present responsibilities without
driving any corresponding benefit. By annexation in any
way we would have a fair proportion of emigrants from
all parts of the States, would upon the very first
offence rid ourselves of the native town, and would
have the right of trade to the exclusion of all others
from this to Sahar the limit of our territory. Now
what can we confer on Liberia for these advantages?

I would propose independence first, and immediately after
annexation as a County, and this would be acceptable to the
Liberians. once a part of the Republic, Md. Liberia might
exert her influence to convert the different Counties into
states or to make two states of the four Counties
that would then exist.

I wish you were near me to advise, or that I could obtain
a little schismatic advice in the Colony. Five or six
years since, just at the time when this Colony was
beginning its decline, I would have entered upon
the duties of this government with pride & now there
is a real burden, that I must and will shake off
as early as possible. The Colony shall not sink lower
than it is, or than I found it if any exertion in my
power will prevent it. I am troubled and perplexed, I feel
a strong interest in the welfare of the Colony and not
even troubled or leaving it.

146-B

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851