

Cape Palmas, Liberia, September 23rd 1851

Dr. James Hall.

Dear Sir: By the Liberia Packet, I send you a few Lines, Sir: the questions of Annexation amang us, have been, and is discussed with a great ell. of war muth, many of the Colonist are opposed to the Step, But these are, principally, of the most ignorant part, the intelligent part, which is but a few & these you know, are In favour excepting Wood, & Barrow who take the opposite of the question, But they with the rest, seem to have the shadow & not the substance. It is clear as day light to me, that it is to take place, but not immediately because we are not prepared. However it is a Subject that should have a place in our minds, and our eyes turned toward it, I see that the object of forming ourselves on the Coast of Africa is about to come to pass, that is to be entirely our own ruler this then is clearly, Demman State, But Sir the great & momentous question is & still will be How & in what way are to gain, The Republic declare they will not receive an African State because we are not able to bare our own expenses, this Sir is very true, we are not to gain as a country with a provision, this, the majority of us is not willing, should they alter their Constitution as has been hinted Balfour & Sprac will custom for State Rights this latter I believe they are afraid of, so I have been informed, By some of the important gentlemen, so upon the whole I know not what step.

I have discussed largely upon the Subject, with some of our Colonist and was the first man that could a public meeting on the Subject this was in the first part of 1850, the Subject did not take well, at the time but since it caused much excitement but the majority opposed to it, I have been so, till the arrival of the Packet, finding no emigrants & no provision for the P. Street & there in frame force as other that Mr. Latrobe was In favour of Annexing, have brought a good number over,

I have thought since if the Society would give us their opinion that is the Board, reduced to print and sent out to the Colony in the form of a circular, & devise some plan or plans for us to go by it might do well much ignorance predominat amang us about the Subject, & the course to be pursued, if brought about this would take well for one reason, our people would know from the Board, what they would do for our poor widows and Orphan, & also the Officer of the Colony, whether the Society would still custom to aid them & pay the expenses of the Officer, I give the same assistance to the widows & Orphan &c &c & many other African State, which would leave the mind clear upon the Subject, I do not believe that the Board would like us to act precipitantly, in the matter by no means, & I as one, should oppose any thing like Partisness. Our Colonist is to be prepared for it, their minds their farms &c &c so as to prevent a too sudden shock. At present we are not so much in agriculture, But there is a beginning to do something, and some of the African, for the future the people will have man on their farms they begin to see that it is no use here without working for themselves on their farms they have, many of them, felt the string of what, when since Gov. Rufusman South, there a pain in the feet, or a slight fever, or a Head Ach brought Indulgence of a crew of Rice quart of Cider a St of Sugar or flour, it is not got now except extreme necessity could for it.

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

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