

170-B

Being satisfied from previous enquiry, that the Liberians would co-operate with us on the terms proposed by the Board, I thought it best to advise the Colonist to delegate two of their number in whom they could place confidence, to visit Monrovia: this was strongly opposed - Cassell & Prout leading the opposition.

After four or five meetings of the Colonist, Prout submitted to them a plan of government for their approval. It provides for a separate and independent state, the various offices being Gov: Lieut Gov: Sec of State Sec. of the Treasury, Clerk. Legislative body to be composed of two Senators and four Representatives. Chief Justice Register and other minor officers. The salary estimated for these officers is about three thousand and dollars.

Funds for the support of government is to be derived from the following sources: 1. From the sale of Ardent spirits duty 20¢ per Gall. 2. duty on Imports 8¢ on sales: 3. Land tax 9¢ on every one hundred dollars valuation: 4. Poll tax: 5. Profits to be derived from Wholesale Retail and Commission business, which is to be carried on by Government b. The Loan of \$5000 per Ann. from the Md. St. Lot. Soc, to be sent out in Gun Powder & Tobaccos.

From these different sources it is estimated that \$7000 per Ann. can be raised, thus leaving four thousand over and above pay of the different officers, to be expended as occasions require. The Secretary of the Treasury is to control the trading operations. Prout originated this scheme, and has persuaded Cassell to share in the glory he expects to derive from it, or I think rather he wishes that if it should be censured at home, that there will be a fellow sufferer. This scheme was submitted to a Committee of mine viz Cassell Wood, Stewart, Brown, Pembert, Hannan, Pat. Green, J. Lewis & Simpson, who "swallowed it whole" in all its parts, it was "just the exact thing they wanted, now let the Soc. go ahead." Prout thinks the Board has not a correct idea of the real talent & capabilities of members of this community.

Also both point in this plan is kept concealed which is Prout being Sec. of the Treasury & Cassell Governor. It is determined that the form of government is to be sent to the Board as you will see it and judge of its merits. I have talked & palavered with our folks until I am worn out, I feel a deep interest in their proceedings, but to see them going wrong but can't prevent it.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received

A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851