

Respected Sir:

Harper, Cap. Palmall, January 6, 1852

I hope it will not be trespassing beyond your leisure moments in addressing you for the third time since the change which your Colony has felt in the loss of your principal Agent; and were it not for the watchful interest with which you have ever regarded your Colony in its gentle ills, the anxiety you may be suffering for want of correct information on the existing state of things, and the nature of the times which requires every thinking man to put forth something, whether little or much, for the general interest of his country, I would be satisfied to jog on, as usual, in my ordinary habits of sedentary life, and only give a passing glance at other men, while buffeting the waves of popular commotion.

The subject of a change in our government, which the Board were pleased to recommend a consideration of, engrossed the attention of all the colonists for at least eight weeks after the sailing of the Packet. The suddenness and unexpectedness of its arrival, were at first, I must confess, a matter of some alarm to us; but after viewing the great ends it is intended to achieve, a cool and considerate deliberation of the matter, struck all as highly important. As is common in deliberating on all weighty matters, there was some difference of opinion expressed as to the way, manner, and time best suited to the accomplishment of this work — Some were for an immediate declaration of independence; others (not more than six or eight) were for delegating persons to visit Monrovia, and there enter into official arrangements for the speedy admission of this Colony on any terms of annexation which the Monrovians were pleased to propose — but the majority, sensible that they could neither declare their sovereignty nor negotiate officially, in view of your authority, thought it advisable first to lay before you several important matters on which their future welfare is concerned to hang. The opinion of the six or eight persons above mentioned, was formed from the contents of a private letter addressed to Gov. R. from you. In it, I learn that your Agent was advised to visit Monrovia, and there sound the leading men on the subject of the terms of reception this Colony might expect, should she declare her inde-

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Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received

A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

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