

pendence, and wish to annex. After the people had determined on acting in a manner of which you will be informed by a Committee regularly authorized to correspond with the Society, preparatory to any action for the independence of this Colony, this private letter was handed and read to a goodly number of persons, and its contents argued as implying that it was the Society's wish that several persons should be deputed and sent to enter into full and conclusive measures for an union of this Colony with the Republic. In my ignorance of its contents, I felt called upon to do all I could in assisting to give a proper direction to the subject of independence which was then the theme of ceaseless agitation; at the same time conceiving it no less my duty to enter into the spirit of the Society's views and wishes in reference to a union between this and the Monrovia government. In order to act understandingly and effectually on the subject of the latter, I requested your Acting Agent to read such portions of your private letter as referred to the matter to which I have alluded, and he did so. On hearing which, I concluded, that the Society's wish was, that their Agent should privately execute a mission to Monrovia, with no other view than to ascertain certain particulars by way of inquiry among leading characters, necessary to certain projects now in ~~the~~ preparation, to be recommended to this Colony, when the time arrives for it to take upon itself a different form of State polity — I therefore deemed it proper to persuade him, yr. Acty. Agent, of the propriety of doing what I conceived to be your true intent. He said that the people, knowing him to be in favor of joining Monrovia as a County, might doubt the truth of his disinterestedness, when on his return he would acquaint them with all the particulars of the subject of his mission as transpired at Monrovia. In reply to this I told him, that the object of his business to Monrovia, was not at all connected with the people otherwise than through the Society — that as their Agent, if he felt himself so, he was bound to do their bidding, and acquaint them with the result — that as his instructions were given in private communication, it was his option whether he informed any of the colonists or not of the purport or effect of his visit; and that after having laid it before the power for whom he was acting, his duty in that respect would be discharged, and it would then be a matter of agreement or otherwise between the Society and the Colonists, after the former's acquainting the latter with the particulars, and advising them how to act.

You will find, Sir, that in my address to the people in November /51,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received  
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851