

Harper, Cape Palmas, April 12, 1852

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated January 7/52, came safely to hand. I was greatly pleased at its contents, as they set aside every doubt or cavil relating to the opinion and wishes of the principal of the Society as to the course this Colony should take in a future action on the subject of union or confederacy.

I cannot say that this important subject had ever been faithfully argued in the Colony, although attempts at its discussion have been made. Had the people been equally divided on this head, and the popular feeling been less opposed to county annexation, illustrations of the subject would have been given, no doubt, more at length; but in this case there were fears of an abuse of liberty which might have occasioned civil commotion. The opposition expressed to county annexation, I cannot say, is the effect of any extravagant prejudices prevailing in the Colony against the Republic, nor can I say that myself, among others, am free from local feelings or prejudices. These things are universal, and discover themselves mostly when the interest of the place to which a man owes his birth or rearing, is likely to be involved in some difficult measure. Aside from this, I must plead the absence of anything like prejudice in the people both here and the Republic.

Nearly all the people have decided on independent State union. They are sensible that a right once conceded is never regained, particularly on a side, in favor of which, the balance of power and influence, is always likely to preponderate. A session like this would strip them of their local rights, and unlettered as many of them are, they seem to have proper conceptions of the tendency of such performances.

It is said that "the inconsiderableness of the Colony," had been taken as the ground of an argument against its being admitted under independent State rights. But the argument itself is equally inconsiderable and ridiculous; because Mr. in Liberia in 50 years hence, will not present the anomaly

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Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received  
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851