

Having thus far occupied your time with the perusal of what appertains to our relations with the Natives, I must now turn to the consideration of the prospects of our Colonists. Upon the first appearance of the proclamation in relation to "Independence" whilst this impression was abroad, that the action of the Board of Managers would have been immediate, that the people here would be compelled to active exertion for self maintenance, then the work of farming was commenced with an apparent earnestness, and zeal which was highly creditable, and if it was persevered in would soon render us independent of all extraneous aid; but the excitement was soon over and every thing has returned to its old course; the appropriation of "ten thousand a year has been renewed, ^{and} ~~for~~ six years longer of support from that source, and of dependence on the Society will be endured with the most creditable fatigues and resignation.

The lack of energy, of industry, of a spirit of enterprise, of the ability to direct and improve their own individual circumstances and prospects are the characteristics of nine tenths of those composing our community.

These defects are I think justly attributable to the early training of the majority of the people, no opportunities were afforded them for acquiring intelligent habits of industry in the U.S. let us have a sprinkling of those, whose opportunities make them superior to the generality of the manumitted slaves of Maryland plantations, and the condition of this Colony will soon compare favorably with any other on the coast, and to obtain such men our union with the Liberian Republic, (or your Union with the American Col. Soc) will be necessary, which I hope will speedily be effected upon the only terms open to us, those of County annuities.

One child died out of the last immigrants received by the Liberia Packet. The remainder are subject to occasional attacks of intermittent. I have provided houses for all who are entitled to them of that expeditum.

I have the honor to remain

P.S. This letter is forwarded via Bristol England. Very Respectfully
The Bark "Ralph Amos" was wrecked on the 19th ulto in the harbor. - Letter prepared to go in that vessel will be forwarded by first direct conveyance. H. M. P.

Yours obed^t Servant
Saml. J. McGhie.
A. M. S. C. S.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851