for a convention, to draft a Constitution and make other preparations for the organization of an Independent State government;" the very opportune arrival of the despatches advising measures such as were desired by the petitioners has extricated us from an embarrasing position. I conceive it to be consonant with the wishes of the Board that encouragement should be given to such movements on the part of the people as were favorable to the early establishment of an independant government; yet that such checks and restraints should be interposed as would serve to keep it within prudent and legitimate bounds; the petition was therefore laid over for consideration at the next meeting of the Council, and now the arrival of your communications enables us to dispose of it altogether.

With the belief that circumstances are all favorable, and the people fully prepared for an immediate expression of opinion respecting their independence. I have made all the necessary arrangements to enable them to do so speedily.

I am happy to inform you that nothing has transpired within the last half year injurious to the peace and tranquility of the Colony.

We are blessed in having an abundance of grain, and other articles of food to supply all the want of the Colonists; The steady and increasing demand for mechanical, and other labor, leaves no industrious man without the means of procuring all of the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life.

There are now in progress of erection in the

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

11. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

12. January 1853--April 1855

1853