a just tribute of respect to the memory of the departed benefactor, it will serve as a stimulus, I doubt not, to promote the great cause which he thus timely and generously remembered: And where should it be held, if not in the capital of the State that has given to Africa a Christian colony, and a President Benson, and now adds to her benefactions as a connecting link between the two countries the noble Ship-Mary Caroline Stevens!

I only regret, Gentlemen, that previous engagements compel me to deny myself the pleasure of being present to participate in the festivities of the occasion. I regret this the more, in as much as I fear that no member of the State board will be able to attend.

But be assured, though no one may grace your in person, that our hearts are with you, and that we feel strengthened anew for the work before us by the completion of the new Ship.

Please accept, gentlemen, the following sentiment:

The Mary Caroline Stevens - a noble gift to a noble cause. May her first voyage be brightened by the bow of promise, and her last crowned with the blessings of many years. I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully Your humble Servt

Jno. Orcutt
Pro. Sec. Am. Col. Soc.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1856