Monrovia Liberia Feb 4th 1857

To his Excellency Stephen A. Benson
President of the Republic of Liberia,

Dear Sir,

During an interview which I had the honor of holding with you this morning, you were pleased to express a desire to accede to Gov. Drayton's solicitations for aid of men and munitions of war in the present dangerous position of the State of Maryland in Liberia and that you would transmit a message to the legislature now in session upon the matter. You however expressed a doubt if they would feel warranted in taking any action parallel to Gov. Drayton's wishes in the consequence of the exhausted state of your treasury, consequent on the recent expensive war in which your government has been engaged. Under the peculiar and pressing circumstances of the case I feel warranted in touching your government a loan of such sum as may be required in fitting out a military expedition in aid of Maryland in Liberia, not to be appropriated thereto, not to exceed eight thousand dollars, with the express understanding and condition that the aid furnished shall be entirely unconditional and in no way contingent or dependant upon the annexation of that State to this republic. On this point I beg to receive the expression of your views previous to my action, as my position in regard to this matter is a very responsible one. May I also take the liberty of asking of you the copy of Gov. Drayton's dispatches, of your message to the legislature, and of any action they may take in the premises.

With much respect
I have the honour to be
Very truly yours
Francis J. Roth
Gen. Agt. Mid. & Col. Soc.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1857