

Richmond Jan 17 1860

My dear Sir

I am under obligations for the promptness with which you answered & complied with my request, and hope that the number of the journal furnished will prove effectual means of defence for the free negroes in the hands of the gentleman who will use them. As to Justice Catron's article, I am very confident that its publication here would be rather injurious than beneficial. He calls a spade a spade too distinctly and emphatically for his outpourings to be received favorably, while the present temper of our people continues excited as it now is on that and all kindred subjects. I do not believe at all either, that what he says about the proportion of free negroes of unmixed with those of mixed blood, would apply with truth to that population in our State. Quoth the Judge - "Now, of these women and children, there is hardly one in ten that is of unmixed negro blood. Some are half white; many have half white mothers and white fathers, making a cast of  $87\frac{1}{2}$  hundredths of white blood; many have a third crop in whom the negro blood is almost extinct. Such is the unfortunate truth." Perhaps so, in Tennessee, but the case would be much too strongly put if applied of Virginia. - I think that the interjection of such arguments in a piece published here would be only offensive, without the probability of accomplishing any

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received  
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

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