

The two bonds held against our Government have not yet been paid, they are likely to be consumed in the payment of the duties on Benson's Cargo: at all events, whether paid or not, we shall pass the amount with interest to your credit in our next account.

Benson is fast bringing our financial matters to a crisis — there's not a dollar in the Treasury, we are over \$50,000 in debt, and all expenses of the government are met by the issue of Orders on the Treasury. During Benson's administration our Export duty has been imposed and 50% has been added to the duty on imports, yet even with increased receipts from these sources we find no financial relief — Instead of retrenchment in the expenses of the government, the opposite course has been preferred by Benson — The Sec^y of State, and of the Treasury are beginning to proclaim loudly & loudly against Benson's financial policy and incompetency. They are coming to the wind up predicted three years ago — when in a public meeting I presented a fair correct summary of the liabilities of the government — then suggested and urged the necessity of immediate retrenchment of expenses, and an increase of duties on imports, and the restriction of all foreigners in their trade to ports of entry alone — The whole batch of officials proclaimed loudly that my representations were false, and denounced me as being inimical to the administration. Every one of them now considers me a true prophet: and lament their blindness, & folly — Roberts has been appealed to by the Sec^y of the Treasury for some remedy — but he can suggest none, in fact no one can under the circumstances — I have been applied to and have given it as my opinion that our only hope lies in Benson's resignation; his successor might then effect a loan that would enable us to get along until the next session of the Legislature.

Benson displays the most decided hostility to H. W. Dennis, than whom we have not a more fair and honest, and straight forward man among us; B. having failed in his indirect and contemptible fling at Dennis in the matter of the Receipts, will now attempt to injure him by, or in connection with the Careyburg Road humbug. Mr Pinney seems to be inciting Benson to this course — Should the Am. C. Soc. on any representations of Benson, feel inclined to find fault with Dennis, or to deprive him of the Agency, it will be a blunder that they will repent. Dennis does a great deal more than he should to conciliate, and accommodate, yet because he is not willing to allow Benson the privilege of expending the means of the Society according to his pleasure he is denounced. In my opinion the right course for Dennis to pursue is to know that he is right, and go ahead.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

1860