Monrovia 4 Sept. 1860

Private

Mr G. W. T. Hall & father

Dear Friends. It is rarely that I find time however strong may be the inclination to write a good old fashioned letter touching at men and things in Liberia, yet you are not to infer from this that I am growing either idle or indifferent in my old days. With all the selfishness attributed to me by the illustrious sire, which privilege of censure I freely accord to him, still I have my work before me, and I have my way of doing it.

J. J. Roberts will be our next President. Benson is d....d. every thing connected with his administration is of a piece with the Sinoe Point mishfortune, casualty, or swindle, just as you may please to judge or term it. That swindle alone sank Benson in my estimation. I have forgiven his previous villianies, and trusted that his elevation to the highest position that could be conferred would have stimulated his pride to that degree that he would never have disgraced us, but he can't help it he is a regular "ghi ee" a Bassa man cant be honest, nor has not the tact to conceal his fraud & political turpiversation.

The Congos or Liberated Africans. Three thousand in one month, and Liberia forced by some vaguelly worded compact with the Col. Society ~~pledged~~ to receive any number of them hereafter thrown upon us. What on earth are we to do with them? they become citizens, an element of political influence — Will not their immense number in time give them a power which if exercised under the influence of designing political demagogues will speedily serve to reduce us to a state of semi-barbarism? I am troubled, sometimes inclined to fear that the move that is being made covers some deep design to ruin Liberia. Did Dr Hall in behalf of Md Liberia decline receiving at that place any of the liberated Africans? it is so said and if it be true he certainly deserves the thanks of the settlers.

Our people scarcely civilized or Christianized themselves seem forward to receive those Liberated Africans, partly to secure the tonnage that is received with them, and partly to possess themselves of laborers, whom they can or hope to force to work without wages — there may be a few exceptions — it is doing and will do harm to Liberia — I verily believe that the majority of those who possess them, would sell them tomorrow were it not for the death penalty proclaimed for such delinquents. I trust that our Colonization friends will take some thought touching the liberated Africans and suggest how they can be received with benefit to all concerned.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857--November 1863

1860