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Dr James Hall

New Orleans October 29th 1860

My dear Sir

As there is great difficulty in proving my ability as a bookkeeper to persons in this City, for want of sufficient evidence of personal knowledge and I have lost several good situations for the reason only of not being able to produce the same, very recently, within the last week, having failed to obtain one which would have suited me exactly, my friend here Mr Richard Charles, who formerly employed me here, has advised me to obtain letters from my last employers to establish my claim as a bookkeeper, I have therefore concluded to request of you the favor of writing ~~or~~ a letter expressing your opinion of my capacity and reliability as a bookkeeper and clerk, such a letter as I could use as a certificate to any person, who may desire to employ me, this would be of great service to me at the present time, and would lay me under deep obligations to you, as I am not able without such testimony to place myself in a situation, which I think I ought to occupy, my present employment is quite disagreeable to my feelings and the salary small, and I am sure that had I the proper references I could obtain a situation such as would enable me to lay up something for the future which I am determined to do, Please write as early as your convenience may permit as now the business season here has commenced, I remain most respectfully

Yours &c
Wm A Finley

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857--November 1863

1860