Monrovia January 21. 1862

Dr Jas. Hall, Baltimore

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II A 28

Dear Doctor

The Brig "J H Jones" left this port on or about the 10 inst to land freights at Bassa, then to return here for passengers to the U States, and the Mail; he has I fear given us the slip and gone off.— Without having any apprehensions of his acting so scurvily, we wrote a short letter by the Mail Steamer "Ethope" that touched here on the 17 inst.

The Small Pox is among us, brought by Dr Roberts folks, and the immigrants pr "J H Jones". Knowing that members of Andersons family were affected with this disease, it seems strange that our friends in America and Dr Roberts had not adopted the precaution of vaccinating all on board,— with or without the actual presence of the disease why not vaccinate all companies of Emigrants as a preventive? I am sure that this has been suggested.

Our Legislature are on Session, every member in both Houses are administration men, yet the House have had the audacity or impudence to institute enquiries into the mode in which our Congo business has been conducted. Benson will not bear any such intermeddling with his affairs, discourages enquiry, prevents the Secy. of the Treas from giving such information, & of rendering such accounts of disbursements as the House of Rep. require. Lynch Secy of Treas. refused to appear when ordered by the House, whereupon an order was issued for his arrest; this met with resistance, incited and encouraged by the President— only three persons out of some 150 summoned were willing and ready to aid the Sergeant at Arms— revolvers were freely displayed threats made &c &c when this officer had to back down! The Mayor Ch. V. R James at the suggestion of the President issued a Proclamation warning the Citizens against lending their aid in support of what he deemed the illegal acts of the Legislature; of course Lynch was not arrested.

Early in the session Benson proposed to the Legislature to deprive the people of the balance due them of the Congo stipend, alledging that the money was needed for the use of the government; the proposition was rejected: later, he asked leave of absence for the purpose of visiting England, France, Germany & America; that his Salary be continued during his absence, and that $5000 be specially appropriated to defray his expenses &c whilst abroad, and that he be allowed the services of a private Secretary. He says that important public business is to be transacted abroad but cannot prudently disclose its nature. Quite modest all of this!

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857--November 1863

1862