subjects, and asked if we knew of a person who would go there, and give the information he needed? I answered, I thought such a person might be obtained. He asked Who? I answered: the Rev R. R. Gurley. Conversation followed about the mission and about the probability of securing the services of Mr Gurley. I was requested to see Mr Gurley. Whether Mr Thompson was requested to accompany me or not I cannot say: but my impression is, that I saw Mr Gurley alone. His answer was favorable, which I reported to Mr Clayton and within a few days Mr Gurley was on his mission. His Report you are familiar with. It was satisfactory to Mr Clayton, and he was preparing to recognize the Independence of Liberia when President Taylor died. In the present condition of this country, I doubt the expediency of the visit of President Benson, he; nor the Liberian citizens could desire to have the breach between the North and South, widened. Gentlemen in the border states can better decide this question than myself. I would advise to nothing, that would necessarily cause more bitter hatred than now exists, or that would delay terms of peace. The Opinions of the friends of Liberia who have been in favor of her Independance, and who are better acquainted with the sentiment of the people in the border states, than I can, be should have great if not controlling weight. I want Liberia Independent: but I dread to have the States, more dissatisfied than they now are, with each other. It is within lip than to men of age.

My dear Sir, I have not written a line without two interruptions.

Most Respectfully Elisha Whittlesey

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

1862