able to contend until he can be reinforced — I wonder that a diversion in his favor cannot be effected in the direction of the Shenandoah Valley, or from the Norfolk & Petersburgh side, some movement that would cause the scattering & distribution of the Rebels from the environs of Richmond. Any how Genl McClellan has the James River, his Gun Boats & transports, his supplies cannot be stopped, and there's a plenty of Federals ready to march to his aid. — Possibly, there's other methods of disturbing the Confederates that the Federals cannot get being themselves to adopt — General Hunter seems inclined to resort to it and I do hope that it may become generally necessary — I haven't the slightest apprehension for the final success of the Federals — They hate to face the slashes, and had rather bleed for him — Very well it's all right the blacks have bled freely for both North & South — let the struggle continue, and the contestants may so weaken each other that the blacks may venture during the exhaustion to strike out a line of conduct for themselves.

I don't like McClellan's position, nor I don't like the man either yet he is a Federal "out right on the goose" a bold push of the Confederates down between the Chickahominey & Pamunkey would have a fair operation to obstruct the passage of James River and cut McClellan off from reinforcements & supplies — I don't find any reliable statement of the number of the Rebels, nor of the Federals near Richmond — but set the former down at 170.000 — and the latter at 90.000 — I have the Map of the battle region before me — that White House — New Bridge — that Cedar Swamp — Savage Station — the line of Rail road &c &c and would like to believe in the "grand Strategic movement" as reported for the Baltimore American, but can't help thinking that it looks something like the commencement of defeat.

At all events I would strongly urge to hurrying on the 300.000 men required — give Genl McClellan 100.000 — and let two divisions of 100.000 each approach Richmond in some other direction.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

1862