as she is in what so many good men consider a good work, does not need to have her managers stoop so low as to traffic in so vile an article, which proves so great a barrier to every good influence.

I think it is generally supposed, at least, this was my impression, which accounts for the horror I felt when I observed this matter, that this vessel, & its managers stand in such a relation to the Christian community of the United States, as would effectually preserve them from any encouragement to this dreadful traffic.

Now if 4 Hds. may be transported to a liquor dealer, why not 400 as well. & if so, why may not those who take passage in the vessel know it beforehand, so as to avoid the grief I felt, when I discovered the matter.

I was well aware that other vessels were great instruments of evil to Africa, but I had thought the Stevens never could be. Out of the greatest respect for you, Sir, I write upon this subject, & with the more confidence too, because I sincerely believe you have not been apprised of the fact to which I allude.

Hoping that this my letter may do its share towards throwing in a counter current against this evil. I am Yours Very Respectfully,

Hon J. B. Latrobe H. H. Messenger.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
B. Letter Books, Shipping

3. December 1858--November 1859

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