& in the rains all the ravines bordering on the Rivers are filled with Water. In this our purchase, we have every natural advantage possible, to favour the promotion of Agriculture, & we only require industry, & with that industry proper direction & guidance to render this a wealthy & flourishing Colony. The labour of one man in good health, six months in the year, will produce Vegetables for six adults, in greater abundance & variety than the average of wealthy Farmers of New England enjoy. This I state as fact deduced from my own observation of the rapid growth of certain vegetables on this Soil & from my knowledge of the amount of such vegetables required for the support of a given number of labourers in the West Indies. This one point then being gained, the next consideration is clothing. To effect this generally by daily labour at hire is entirely out of the question, & were it practicable, not to be desired, as the number of labourers would greatly exceed the demand & thereby reduce the wages without at the same time, at all cheapening the commodity desired as remuneration. Thus the trafficker would have great advantages of the labourers. Opulence would be the result on one hand & want & beggary on the other, the latter being first would in time stimulate the ignorant & depressed labourer to acts of injustice & violence. The next resource to procure clothing among the middling & lower classes, (for we have classes here as well as in America) is trade with the natives for their produce, hoping thereby to make some little profit which will enable them to clothe their family, & in this they are almost uniformly disappointed. The exorbitant price demanded by the Commission merchant forces the purchaser into the Country where he can sell to advantage, & here he contracts the vices & habits of the natives & is most generally robbed of the profit at least, & perhaps the whole & returns to his family a verrier beggar

than he left it, disheartened & depressed, he blames only the natives and Commission merchants. He reasons with some degree of correctness thus; That he had a house & lot and a plenty to eat, & an abundance to dispose of but there were no purchasers (his neighbours were in like condition) that this was not clothing, to work by the day or month at the rate of ten or twelve dollars per month, would absolutely amount to nothing when paid in domestic unbleached cottons at 33⅓ cts per yard & all other clothing in proportion, therefore no other alternative offered. Again he takes the same course either hoping to retrieve his former losses (not having courage to witness the degradation of his family) in which is the most common case, he becomes estranged from them, and enamoured with the charms of savage life, as indolence drunkenness and licentiousness. The wife at home bereft of protection and support for herself and family, knowing too well the habits of the absent husband is forced to the like conduct for gaining a subsistence; and degradation & ruin is the result to the whole household. That this will be the case with our Colony I trust not, but that it has been elsewhere, I do know. Some course must then be adopted to prevent the like with us: and to this end it is absolutely necessary that some article of export should be raised by the labour of the Colonists, & they should be stimulated to this by other measures than barely recommending it to their notice & urging them on. For the natives having the same capacity to produce any article, can afford it at one quarter the price which would induce a Colonist to undertake it, & the merchants ever ready to take advantage in such cases, would of course purchase of the natives & this would bring the Colonist at once to the destructive course of traffick. I would advise that the Agent here should be authorised to purchase all articles of export produced by the manual labour of the Colonists, at its current value at wholesale in this Town

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834--November 1837

1834