or harbour, & pay therefor in goods at the cost adding a small per centage barely sufficient to pay the expenses and labour.— I can see no objections to this plan, it would in no way interfere with the merchants trade, either with the natives or Colonists for other articles, it is perfectly feasible; would be accompanied with no risk & I view it as the only means to insure reward & full remuneration to the enterprising and industrious. I would not propose such a measure as paramount, but I think for a few years until the course is procured & the field opened that something of this sort is absolutely necessary.—

Of the articles which our climate will enable us to raise for exportation the following are the most prominent viz Palm oil, Sugar, Molasses Coffee, Cotton & Tobacco. Now the question is which ought to be encouraged & recommended to the Colonists for cultivation. Doubtless the sugar cane is best adapted to our soil & would yield the greatest profit, but its cultivation I consider at present by the Emigrants entirely out of the question. You are aware that to effect any thing with this it requires skill & experience in the business & Capital, which few or no colonists have & any attempt to push a thing of this kind, when we are not fully prepared will not only fail, but deter others from engaging in it, when the proper time shall have arrived.— The Coffee tree does not grow spontaneously here as at Rasa & Cape Mesurado, but would do well were it introduced. Yet I do not think that exactly the thing we want at present, it requires five years to mature it, & our Colonists coming here poor & destitute require some immediate support. Taking all circumstances into consideration I consider Cotton & Tobacco as decidedly the best articles for new Emigrants to commence with, & the others can be introduced after they are cleverly under way. In six months from

the time of planting they could reap the avails of a crop & would thereby be placed in comfortable circumstances. I doubt not but palm oil will in a short time, command the labour & attention of the Colonists as well as natives & must render this place one of the great marts for that article.— The palm tree grows spontaneously in all the varieties of soil in our Territory & apparently with equal luxuriance on the sandy beach or in our fattest valleys, in fact the whole face of the Country is covered with them, and it only requires a ready market like the berry to induce the natives to manufacture it in immense quantities for exportation.— I have been at some pains to ascertain the habits of the tree & the practicability of cultivating it to advantage.— It will produce the nut from which the oil is extracted in three years from the time of planting and after it is once fairly out of the ground, nothing can interfere with its growth, consequently it needs no culture or attention.— It have calculated that 435 trees will flourish on an acre of ground, allowing each tree 100 square feet.— The third year they will bear although not plentifully, the fourth & after, past the days of man, they will produce nuts affording upon an average 1 Gallon of oil to the tree & this sells in America & Europe at 7 or 8 cts per lb. say fifty cents p. gallon, giving the husbandman the handsome sum of $218.00 annually, requiring at his hand barely pulling the soil at first & perhaps two weeks pruning afterwards yearly, and the manufacture of the oil from the nut, which is a very simple & easy process.— The pulp after a few minutes boiling becomes soft, and is easily detached from the stone by bruising in a large wooden mortar, it is then well rubbed in a vessel with water, & the oil rising on the top is readily poured off.— Independent of the oil the tree produces an excellent wine, & the palm cabbage much esteemed by all acquainted with its use.— The natives here make what they term palm butter from the nut. it is not much like our good N.E. butter, more like gravy from it

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834--November 1837

1834