formerly observed those newly arrived at Caldwell and Monrovia. Although but one death has occurred and that a child of Mr. Stewarts one year old, it died of Dysentery this morning, more than four months from the time of its arrival on the Coast. It ought to be taken into consideration that the circumstances of our Emigrants have not been such as we could wish, their houses were for a long time very leaky, they were huddled bag & baggage into a small compass and suffered many privations unavoidable in the very commencement of any settlement. But of this matter of health & disease I shall speak more particularly & confidently when I can from experience & not till then.

One thing I think demands present consideration from the Board and that is the establishment of a Coin for the Colony. You may perhaps think this ill timed & premature, but for myself I can see no objection to it even now, & the main reason for having it at all operates as strongly now as it ever will. We thought of prevent indiscriminate traffick. Some trade every Colonist must have with the natives and with his fellows, it is the necessary result of the mutual dependence & connexion between man & man, & this must be effected through the medium of articles of merchandize or coin. If the latter is used 'tis done at once, if the former, 'tis almost impossible, simply to make a purchase of any article of provision. Suppose a native brings a fowl, duck or any article of food from a great distance, & is instructed to get powder or any particular article of trade for the same. Now only one Colonist may have the article desired, & he not wish the article offered, The native after traversing the Town returns home disgusted with the Colony. Every Colonist in order to be able to purchase provisions or pay a native for work, timber & the like is necessitated to have on hand a full apartment of merchandise; being thus equipped

and seeing the immense profit he makes on some small articles, he is at once seized with the trade mania, which admitting of no cure calls loudly for a timely preventative. The want of an established circulating medium also gives the trader a great advantage over the labourer & mechanic. They being necessitated to take the amount of their wages from the Store he makes what profit he chooses & in most cases pays what articles admit of greatest per cent, & of course which are least desired by the labourer.

I am certain that unless we have a regular Colonial coin that indiscriminate trade cannot be prevented. Although I have little of long winded commercial financial transactions, yet I would not hesitate to say that the distribution of a few thousand dollars paid out by the Agency would be at least a very profitable operation, & could be attended with no risk whatever. The Coin should be of silver something like the Haitian, so much below the standard of the Spanish dollar that it should not be exposed, the object being to keep a coin here for internal convenience. There should also be a Copper coin bearing the same proportion to the Silver as does our American.

Another matter demands your attention, and I doubt not but you will consider my views correct although perhaps rather impertinent to again urge an alteration in some of your ordinances so recently made. They provide that in case of the death or absence of the Agent or Assistant Agent that the Vice Agent shall officiate & act fully in his stead, of course he will have full power to manage your funds, & draw upon the Board to what extent he chooses. Now I consider this a very unsafe state of things. You are aware that in your enlightened Country, very unsafe & dishonest men are frequently placed in Offices of trust, and what can you expect better from a parcel of very ignorant men at best — it is hardly to be hoped that they will elect a man at once intelligent & honest. Even suppose he does not commit any open flagrant dishonest acts, still you can hardly expect them, to elect a man, who is not in some way interested in trade & then

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834--November 1837

1834