A Proclamation

To the inhabitants of Maryland in Liberia.—

Gratitude has ever been justly considered one of the noblest attributes of our nature, & a prominent characteristic of the wise and virtuous in all ages; and gratitude & thanksgiving to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for all blessings constitutes an important part of both natural & revealed religion; and no duties are more strongly enjoined upon us by the inspired writers than to "enter into the Gates of the Most Highest with thanksgiving & into his Courts with praise, to be thankful unto him, & speak good of his name."— Since we are thus exhorted to express our gratitude to our heavenly father for our being, preservation, & the many other blessings we individually enjoy; it specially behooves us the inhabitants of this Colony, at this time publicly to express our deep sense of divine favour and protection.— We humbly conceive that if there ever was an instance of providential interposition & guidance to promote & favour the views & exertions of man it has been strikingly visible in enabling us thus far to accomplish an undertaking the most liberal and philanthropic, & one which we trust merits the smiles & approbation of Heaven.— From the moment of our embarkation from our native land to the present, we have experienced but one uninterrupted series of prosperous events.— When on the mighty deep "he caused the storm to cease, & the waves thereof to be still, & timely brought us to the haven where we would be" he so disposed the breasts of the heathen, that they joyfully welcomed us to these delightful shores, & granted us their soil, as our home forever.— The season has been uncommonly favourable to the prosecution of our designs; the early rains have been deferred until we have become well prepared for their approach: the earth has yielded a quick and needful reward

to the labours of the husbandman; the pestilence which has ever beset this Coast as a wall of fire, has passed lightly over us, & claimed but a solitary victim,— cheerfulness & contentment reign throughout our little settlement & peace rests on our borders.—

Being therefore impressed with a deep sense of favours so signally bestowed upon us by the Great disposer of events, I do therefore appoint Friday the Fourth day of July next as a day of public thanksgiving & prayer, and I do request that all the inhabitants of this Colony, shall on that day cease from any unnecessary labour, and that they should assemble at our usual place of publick worship, and there join in rendering fervent thanks to Almighty God for his abundant mercies and special favours, bestowed upon us individually and as a community, that we repent as truly of our numerous offences committed counter to his revealed law and the dictates of our own consciences; that we earnestly supplicate a continuance of his guardian care, & watchful providence over us, & that he may so endow us with his divine influence, that all our doings may be acceptable to him, beneficial to ourselves as individuals, & alike honourable & patriotic as members of this our infant republic.—

Done at Cape Palmas this twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four.—

Cape Palmas August 17: 1834.

To Jno H. B. Latrobe Esq.

My dear Sir I had the honor to receive your communications by the Sarah & Priscilla.— She came to anchor in our harbour on the morning of Saturday the 9: Inst.— I cannot say

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834—November 1837

1834