To the People of Maryland in
Virginia

We, the President & Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, having learned with regret that the differences of opinion existing among you have led to some interruption of the good order & regular Government of your State, cannot refrain from addressing a few words to you. With all the cordial & fraternal feelings we have been entirely divested, & still feel the same warm interest in your welfare which has always actuated us; and we trust that the time will never arrive, when you will suppose us in any other light, than as your sincere friends & well wishers.

Of the occurrences themselves to which we have alluded, we do not design to express any opinion. If we wish indeed to do so, we are not sufficiently acquainted with all the circumstances, to enable us to form a correct judgment. But we desire to avail ourselves of this opportunity, solemnly to warn you of the danger of acting hastily in public matters under the influence of popular excitement, and earnestly and affectionately to impress upon you, individually & collectively, the importance, or rather the necessity of acting in your political, as well as in all other concerns, under a deep sense of your responsibilities to God, and to your Race. The civilized Communities which have been (in some degree through our instrumentality, and by your co-operation) established on the Western Shores of Africa, is entrusted under

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
A. Letter Press Books

2. May 1856—August 1859

1856