Balto. Sept 18 1856

To [redacted]hn C. Bruce Esq.

My dear Sir.

Having failed to meet you upon calling at your counting house I take the liberty of stating my business on paper, this probably being after all the least troublesome way.

You know that Mr John Ellicott gave the Am. Col. Society some $3000 to build a ship — under the full impression that he sum would be sufficient for the purpose. It might complete the brave ship fitted for ordinary purposes without offence. To prepare her for transporting emigrants & passengers many additions are required besides offering — as bedding for emigrants, water tanks etc — I have obtained means adequate to the entire completion of the ship in all respects & offering her tanks, & have purchased those I put them on board & a case of 1200 clothing. It was my determination to try to induce some one individual of this city to make the Society a present of these tanks, & my first impulse was to lay the matter before you. Circumstances prevented my alluding to it on a former occasion — & I now give you the opportunity to say if it would be agreeable for you to do it. Apology for this application I hope you will think unnecessary —

Very truly & respectfully yours

Thomas Kelly

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
A. Letter Press Books

2. May 1856—August 1859

1856