Baltimore Sept 25th/56

Rev. Joseph Tracy.

Respected Sir. I cannot think now the landing of salt at Monrovia or any other place where cargo has to be hauled on shore & off again can be made to pay in fact I doubt if it would at Sierra Leone in case that was a free port. The fact is salt is a thing which must bear toting no how — I do not exactly understand the object or drift of your enquiries, but if it is to become freight for the Ship home, I see no cause for touching the salt at all, let it be brought on board when the Islanders always deliver it at so much per bushel or ton. It is the most unprofitable of all freights & because should not be had, if it of a half freight of oil at the settlements could be had. The Ship will make two voyages only per year, one of which, is at the best time for a cargo of salt. the other at a season most likely to remove above poor oil freight. I can see no reason for any depot or entrepot or any thing of the kind — I once sent the Liberia Packet for salt, no difficulty very expensive, in loading her at 60 cts per bushel, yet the lady made enough to pay for her time at 1000$ pr mo. & hardly that — I let her try the experiment & to use salt here, but never repeated it, although she often came home in ballast. Much however depends on the market at home, as the demand for that salt varies so much. Yours 18 & 32 cts. Selchow over 24 — Little say it is only used by fishermen, & for shipping herrings & shad in their season, being useful for meat or when bowling fish —