Baltimore Sept 27th 1856

Revd Pinney

I wrote to get your attention & your hours or a few hours of your consideration. I spend a place in the Ship for a Library & I then spend a man to give the money — I do not mean a Library for the emigrants, but for children passengers & emigrants too if they are capable of reading & understanding books for a good Library. If the Steerage passengers have books & they ought always to, they should be School books & be their permanent property — For a Cabin Library I have spoken for bookcases of about 3 ft 4 in wide — of height 10 in front, giving 7 ft in — other shelves 8 ft 2 in long of about 14-12 & 10 inches in height — as for shelves — there I think the Ship should be got the best books that could be and the most — in bound volumes — not large — nor yet pocket editions — I would say 1/4 Religious books — 1/4 History & Biography — 1/4 novels & plays, at least including Scott & Shakespeare 1/4 Miscellaneous & poetry, & all on Africa & slavery including old Mitchelbottom of Cross —

Now knowing this plan strike you — & what suggestions & alterations would you make — & what what religious books would you suggest? Think the matter over & write definitely & fully what you think be upon Africa — I want some work get & put into the hands of the Officers on the administration of simple remedies — in relieving what an immense number of the misguided into Africa is. Can you not find me something better than one of those little nasty, fore-boding Sailors Med. chest books? I find nothing better here & have not time to write over — If you can pray get it & send it at once — it will save me much trouble & anxiety — The delay in this of mine phase — Enclosed is a rough sketch of my Cabin for Mech. books &c. &c. &c — Truly yours J. Mitchell,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
A. Letter Press Books

2. May 1856—August 1859

1856