145

Baltimore, May 10th 1859.

To Capt James Etchberger
Master of the Ship M. C. Stevens.

Dear Sir

On the occasion of your taking charge of the Ship now placed under your command, it is incumbent on me, as agent of the American Colonization Society & one of the Trustees in whom the title of the Ship is vested, to place before you the character of the service in which you are to be engaged & the duties expected of you. Although this communication must of necessity far exceed in length ordinary letters of advice to Masters of vessels & agents, yet I will endeavor to be as brief as possible & put down nothing but what I deem necessary & which I hope will claim your attention & observance. You are aware that the Ship was the donation to the Colonization Society by a citizen of Maryland Mr John Stevens, to be used solely for the benefit of that Society in carrying on its operations of transporting emigrants, passengers & freight to Liberia. The trust is a responsible & a sacred one & on the Master of the Ship, perhaps more than on any other rests the responsibility of properly fulfilling the interest of the donor, & executing the humane purposes of the Society. The duties devolving upon you are various, arduous, responsible & often perplexing & it will require all your attention & energies to perform them satisfactorily to yourself & all parties interested. As sailing Master of the Ship & Captain of your officers & crew your standing & reputation as such, that I deem it superfluous to offer

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
B. Letter Press Books, Shipping

2. December 1858—M

1859