the greatest luxuriance. I found a mill so erected for grinding Cane and had been in operation one season and found to answer the purpose very well. We returned in the evening to Monrovia much delighted with our visit and my most sanguine expectations very far exceeded. The town of Monrovia is finely situated on the peninsula which joins the Cape to the Main land: its position is high sloping gradually on the North side to the Mesurado River, along the banks of which the store houses are built. It commands a fine prospect of the sea to the South, and Mesurado Bay on the North, and has a population of about one hundred persons. I was gratified to find the most strict observance of religious worship and that attention was paid to the education of their Children. The inhabitants are intelligent and generally engaged in Mercantile pursuits, but the business of the place is on the decline, principally owing to the want of articles for exportation – Camwood, Palm Oil and Ivory being the only commodities they offer in the way of trade, which are obtained from the natives and not in great abundance. Many have accumulated a handsome property and have retired from the Mercantile business and are turning their attention to agriculture. Coffee of the finest kind grow wild in the forests and they are rearing plants from the seed for their plantations, and in time, sugar and Coffee will be a staple of the Colony. I think the cochineal may be successfully introduced and become also a valuable article of exportation to the Colony and of which Governor Buchanan thought favourably.

I regretted that my stay was so short that it was not in my power to visit the settlement of Millsburg on the St Paulo River about twenty five miles from Monrovia where there are between three and four hundred emigrants settled on farms: they cultivate the sugar cane and Coffee to some extent and the soil is said to be rich and the country healthy.

On the 3d of March I sailed for Cape Palmas and invited Governor Buchanan to accompany me, who wished to visit Grand Bassa, Edina and Sinoe, all flourishing settlements of the Colonists and under his government and at which places I had intended to call. He was also desirous of visiting Newdestiny, situated between Bassa and Sinoe for the purpose of making a treaty with the Chiefs of that place. An extensive traffic in Slaves had been carried on there by a man by the name of Canot, who owned a large factory which was recently destroyed by the English Cruisers on the Coast and the establishment entirely broken up, liberating at the same time some hundred of poor creatures who were collected to be disposed of to slave vessel. Sestros was the last and only slave mart existing between Cape Mount and Cape Palmas an extent of Coast of near three hundred miles. Canot is of Florentine by birth, and is now residing at

Cape Palmas Monrovia by permission of Governor Buchanan.

I arrived at Cape Palmas, town of Harper on the 11th March. This, unlike the Coast after leaving Cape Mesurado, is a bold promontory on which the town is situated, has a fine prospect of the sea to the southeast, and an extensive view of the country to the Northwest. We were received with great hospitality and kindness by the Governor and Colonists, and by the families belonging to the different missionary societies, who are exerting a most happy influence with the natives in disseminating the Christian faith the effect of which is already very apparent.

This colony is exclusively under the control of the Maryland society. Gov. Russwurm who presides over the colony is a coloured gentleman and a man of liberal education and great intelligence, and the most perfect harmony prevails throughout the Colony, and a more judicious selection could not have been made.

The population consists of about five hundred emigrants, most of whom are engaged in agriculture and to which may be ascribed the great prosperity and rapid advancement of the Colony. It renders them independent, is the surest source of wealth and will secure to them, at some future day, mercantile advantages as a more solid basis. The products are sugar cane, rice, corn, cotton and tobacco: the two latter as yet are not raised in great quantities but of a very superior quality: bananas, plantains, cassada, sweet potatoes and all garden vegetables in abundance, and of an excellent kind. I visited the farms and found their houses comfortable, the soil rich, and with but little labour yields an abundant crop. The emigrants are cheerful, their countenances beaming with pleasure and all seem perfectly contented with their situation and delighted with their adopted country.

There are four schools in the Colony for the education of the children of the emigrants and great attention is paid to their improvement. The children of the natives are also admitted to the schools – I witnessed at the school under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Wilson of the Presbyterian Mission a very interesting examination of his native pupils some of whom have been at school near four years, and speak and read English perfectly well, I send you as a curiosity some of their own compositions and writings which I beg the favor of you to return me at your leisure, as I am desirous of handing them to the Society.

I was informed by Gov. Russwurm that in the last year about thirteen thousand gallons of palm oil at an average of thirty seven cents per gallon, and about one thousand bushels of rice at one dollar per bushel had been disposed of to the traders on the Coast, and that he was making arrangements for introducing the Camwood in large quantities, which can be readily had interior to the settlement and is purchased from the natives at thirty five to forty dollars a ton and sold to the traders at sixty and sixty five dollars per ton.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1841