you in the eyes of the natives, as peril to your influence with them, has not had weight with our Board.

In my letter of the second July 1838, reference is made by way of illustration, to the situation of foreigners in this country - and so far as the cases are parallel there cannot be found a better illustration; and they are parallel in all particulars but one - which is military liability so to speak. With respect to this the difference is marked. A foreigner comes to the United States without restriction. Not so in Maryland in Liberia. The 41st section of the ordinance already referred to declares "That no person shall reside in the territory without the permission of the Society or the agent" - and the 32d section of the same ordinance making military duty an obligation upon all residents is a notice to strangers of a condition connected with residence which is not to be found in the laws of our own country. The illustration is already suggested was not of general application as you will perceive by referring again to my letter of 2nd July, (third paragraph) but was confined closely to the case of missionaries leaving this country as such and acting as such in Africa. These we agreed should be exempted from the operation of the 32nd section and they were therefore like foreigners in this country where there is no similar law. Whether, when our population in Mdo. in Liberia becomes numerous and strong, we may not see proper to modify the part of our code of laws, now in question, is a matter hereafter to be considered: but while our people only number five hundred, while we are in the midst of tribes jealous, if not hostile, while we remember the massacre of Port Cresson, founded without arms near Monrovia, while we have the conviction that a preparation against aggression is the most peaceful protection, we cannot weaken, without the strongest reasons, the claims that our laws give to us to the military services of the residents in our territory.

This whole question has long been one of anxious deliberation with our Board of Managers: and after careful consideration, we at length determined to define our political relation to persons in our colony other than emigrants by a declaratory ordinance which was passed as early as April last, and a copy of which I transmitted to you with my letter of the 10th inst. We took the opportunity to explain at the same time our views with regard to the political condition of our colony in the

hope to secure for it in the event of a war between this country and any European Power, the neutrality which it is entitled to claim in the absence of all political relations between it and the United States or any state of the Union.

We trust and believe, therefore, that you will give us the credit of having come to our present conclusions not in haste - but on reflection - not with any feeling to bias us, - but with a view solely to the interests of the people now growing into a nation under our charge in a distant land.

The discussion of this subject before our Board was carried on with great kindness towards your Society, my dear Sir, and altho the adoption of the report was unanimous, there was not a member who did not regret that there existed in our relations a point of any kind on which there was not the most perfect harmony of opinion between the two societies and their agents in Africa. It gave us great pleasure to see the tone in which the correspondence between Mr. Wilson and Gov. Russwurm was carried on. With regard to the fines mentioned in Gov. Russwurm's letter, and directions will be sent to him to remit them up to the time the decision of our Board is made known to Mr. Wilson.

I have the honor to be,
My dear Sir,
Yours with great respect
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Prest. M. S. C. Society.

Colonization Rooms,
Balt. Decem. 17th 1841.

Rev. R. Anderson
Secy. &c.

My dear Sir,

The letter that you honored me with under date of the 9th. instant was laid before the Board of Managers of the Md. St. Col. Society at a full meeting called for the purpose, and the resolutions of the Prudential Committee of the A. B. C. F. M. were and most respectfully considered. After full discussion and with every desire to harmonise their acts with the wishes of the Prudential Committee, the Board decided, unanimously, that they could not at this time withdraw from the position heretofore assumed by them with regard to military liability at Cape Palmas.

I remain with great respect, my dear Sir, yours truly
Jno. H. B. Latrobe, Prest. M. S. C. S.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836--November 1852

1841