and you will therefore grant to them such grounds as may be selected by them not otherwise appropriated as they may select to be used for missionary purposes, in the same way as grants have heretofore been made to other missionaries, and you will extend to the gentlemen of the mission the same courtesy and aid which it has heretofore been the practice of the agents of the Society to grant under similar circumstances.

To the letters of Mr. Hall I refer for full advices touching all matters connected with the expedition, the trade of the Colony and the disposition to be made of the emigrants and supplies.

Most truly yours
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Pres. Md. H. Col. Soc.

Colonization Rooms
Balte. Janua 5. 1842.

Rev. John A Vaughan
Secy. F. C. E. B. M.

My dear Sir,

Yours of the 28. ult° was duly received and laid before the earliest meeting of the Board of Managers that could be obtained, which was last evening – and I enclose to you the resolution, which shews the result of our deliberations. The subject was very fully discussed – considered in all its bearings, and the conclusion of the Board was unanimous.

You are aware that this matter had already been brought to the notice of our Board by communications from the A. B. C. F. M. and from our Gov. at Cape Palmas. The exemption asked by the Am. Bd. was limited to pupils from tribes not within the bounds of our territory – you ask, not only for the exemption of these, but also for the exemption of pupils from tribes who are within our confines. So far as related to the former class, the Board of Managers had already acted, after the most anxious deliberation, in the case of the Am. Bd. and seeing no reason to recede from their position, taken in their correspondence with that body, the question that rose in the discussion last evening was more particularly, how far native pupils of tribes within our limits above the age of sixteen years could be exempted from the operation of the 3d. section of the Ordinance for the Temp. Govt. of Md. in Liberia.

I stated to the Board the suggestion made by you in the interview I had with you on the morning of the 24th ult° that

the natives reserve the right of being governed by their own laws, in their treaties of Cession, so long as they remained within our territory, could not be subjected to our military discipline, which they were, if we made the pupils from the tribes from whom we obtained the land, liable to military duty"

It struck the Board that there were two answers to this suggestion. First, that the pupils of your schools became, when they enter them, so far civilized men, to be amenable no longer (unless force was employed upon them) to the barbarous codes and customs of the savages, from which it was your very object to rescue them – and that altho' entrance into the mission school did not make them citizens of our Colony, yet they became residents in it, within the meaning of the 32nd Section, the reservation in the native deeds (applying only to subjects of the native laws) no longer operating to protect them – And second, that even if this view was incorrect the question was settled by the deeds of Cession which contain the following clause. I have before me the Deed from King Freeman for the Cape, signed by all the headmen and so forth.

"And we do hereby acknowledge ourselves as members of the Colony of Md. in Liberia, so far as to unite in common defence in case of war or foreign aggression."

The above deed was, if my impression is correct, shewn to Mr. Minor on an occasion when the subject of our relations with the natives incidentally arose, while he was in this country.

In this country, I know, that pupils are not called on to do military duty, and that many others are also exempted – But this is only ex gratia and when war threatens, every body (except the subjects of the nation antyonistic to us) who resides in the country, is required to bear arms. The time will come, no doubt, when we can be as liberal in this respect as the Govt. here – but at present with a scant and spare population in the midst of barbarous tribes – with the massacre of Port Cresson before our eyes, – and the inroad of Gatomba at the old colony but a recent occurrence – we have deemed it best to grant no exemption not absolutely necessary, the effect of which would be to impair our lawful military force.

I have the honor to be,
Most respectfully
& very truly,
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Prest. Md. S. C. S.

P. S. You will find the resolution of the Am. Col. Society at page 61.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1842