While I speak thus, I have also to say, that from what has reached me, I am satisfied, that Capt. Ramsay had no intention to act with discourtesy or unkindness. In a correspondence between Gov. Roberts & Capt. Ramsay now before me, relating to other matters, such as the Berribi pirates, wooding, pilots &c – there is marked courtesy on both sides; and particularly gratifying to the Society has been the tone of Capt. Ramsay to their agent. I have reason to believe too, that Capt. R. expressed himself very much dissatisfied, when he found that in truth, he had been used by the Missionaries in question to gratify an unworthy bitterness on their part. He no doubt acted upon the impulse & under the impression that he was benefiting the Colony as well as the Missionaries by the course he pursued, and I can well conceive cases in which, on proper application the aid of an American vessel might be vital to the Colonies on the coast; and it is no part of my purpose to ask even for censure upon Capt. R. But I make this communication, at the request of the Board of Managers, in the hope that it will not be considered by you objectionable, to give such directions to the officers of our navy who visit the coast of Africa, as will prevent similar occurrences in future; and afford us their aid in raising up a people with a proper sense of their political importance as body, even though, as individuals, their fate has been a degraded one in the United States. To aid a government at its request is one thing: to execute the law within its limits, against its will, at the request of angry strangers, is another.

Without the honor of a personal acquaintance, yet I am well aware of the liberal and enlarged views entertained by you, and I address you therefore in the confidence that you will look upon this communication, not so much as a complaint, asking redress, but as an appeal to you, to prevent the recurrence of that which must materially impair the State Society's efficiency, in its attempt to make a civilized and intelligent out of the materials sent from this country to Africa.

I have the honor to be,
with very great respect,
Your obt. Servt.
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Prest. M. S. C. S.

Colonization Rooms
Balto. December 30. 1842.

Rev. Samuel Davis
Augusta, Geo.

Dr. Sir,

When the ship Globe recently sailed with emigrants for Cape Palmas, we had occasion to close our account with Mrs. C. H. Tubman, and were led to look into the items of it, so that we might not do her injustice. We found that a large part of the balance apparent against her was for provisions and expenses furnished "Demba" the blind old man belonging to you. As we had no claim on Mrs. Tubman for "Demba" we of course deducted the items here, and made them into a separate account against you, having ascertained by reference to former correspondence that you were the person properly chargeable. It will be conferring a very great favor on the State Society if you can settle this account at an early day, as like all other benevolent operations it is at this time in want of all its means. Should you desire particulars more in detail of the claim they can be furnished. The enclosed account is taken from our Leger into which it was entered from the accounts from Africa.

Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Prest. Md. St. Col. Soc.

Colonization Rooms
Baltimore, Janua. 3d. 1843.

Rev. R. Anderson
Secy &c.

My dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge yours of the 28th ult. just received. I write without waiting for a meeting of our Board of Managers, after shewing your letter to several members, to say how gratifying and satisfactory it is. That the Board will think the same, when it is read to them, I have no doubt.

I am perfectly aware, that, far removed from their respective societies in this country, our agents in Africa (I claim no exemption for the Colonization agents) irritable by the effects of sickness and the climate, are often apt to exaggerate causes

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1842