To bring this about there would have to be consultation with Monrovia, - with you; and with Washington, with us; as yet, little more can be said than to suggest the idea and give it currency as one that is to be carried out - currency here, and with you - By the next Packet, probably, we would be able to send you all measures matured for action - such as the form of the new government - articles of Confederation - All agreements about trade, property &c &c &c.

We have, as you are aware, taken much pains in all laws forms &c - and we desire that the same care should mark and distinguish every thing that may be done under the new aspect of affairs - For this six months is short enough time - but, in this time, all the benefits of the measure may be had by letting it be known as in contemplation for immediate fulfilment - and let the Colonists know that the reason for delay is prudential only.

It is thought therefore, that it may be said to those around you - Something to this Effect, "The Maryland Col. Society believe that the time has come, in view of its effect upon your prosperity, as regards population and reputation, that Maryland in Liberia should proclaim itself a free Republic, - Confederating like the old Colonies of Great Britain in America, with the existing Republic of Liberia, and looking forward, one day, to our Union and as a general government of the United Republics of Africa - That the State Society are engaged in maturing all measures proper to that end, that, when it is accomplished, it may be done in the best manner, - and that, in the mean while, the colonists should look upon it as a thing shortly to be done, and accustom themselves to the consideration of it. - That in view of the aid not to be yet hoped for from Maryland here, it is proper that the measure should provide for close relations on the two sides of the Atlantic, but that they would be the relations of treaty and not of dependance.

What you then cause to be known in Africa, we will have known (made known) here, & you in Africa at Monrovia, & we in the United States, can take such steps as may seem proper to promote the easy formation of the Confederacy.

It occurs to me to say here, that the Office of the Congress of the Confederacy here was to recommend to the States composing it not to command and so would be the confederacy with you.

While I am directed thus to write, the Board desire you to understand that their confidence in you is unabated, and that your faithfull discharge of your duties is their pride and their great satisfaction. They part with their power presently, that good may come in an influence upon mens minds here and in Africa - not because they think that but for extraneous circumstances, independence would be the proper measure at this time - or that the Colony will not have been as well provided for as the State.

Impressing upon you what I have thus said, in regard to future independence - and within a short time too - it only remains for me to add, that your position should, as regards the natives be one of firmness, and that all around you should shew preparation to resist, and if need be to fight.

Referring you to Dr. Hall for particulars in trade matters, and recommending the smallest expenditures possible, untill it is seen what Maryland will do at the next Sesion of the Legislature

I am most respectfully,
Jno. H. B. Latrobe.
Presidt. Md. St. Col. So.

Private
John B. Russwurm Esq

My dear Sir, You will receive herewith the Official despatches, in reply to yours of March 31st. I need not say that I fully accord in the Action of the Board. Events sometime precipitate measures - such is the case now. My judgment would say, that for a while existing relations had better remain unchanged. - But my judgment cannot resist ardent tendencies. The name Republic is putting us into the shade. We must have the influence on our side which it gives - You can understand my view without further developement.

The difficulty will be the relations with the old Colony now Republic - For many reasons, annexation as county

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1851