independence is declared, that this agreement should be understood beforehand is important as you will readily perceive and really, I do not see why there should be any difficulty about it — though I can understand that there may be, — and, frankly, hence my solicitude to have your aid now that you are a resident. Monrovia being the larger and the older, should of course have concessions on this score, — and influence in proportion as the Congress, — to which, granted — to begin with should go smoothly — I look forward to "the united Republics of Africa" as having one model for government — the confederation first — the constitution afterwards. — If Liberia grew she would have territories, these territories would become States or republics — and there then would be a union or a confederation — So that in the end there must be the confederation which is now proposed between the republic that is and the Republic that is to be.

In what way if these views correspond with yours you may best bring this about, aiding in anticipation the more formal negociations must of course be left to yourself, though I have every confidence that you will act with judgment and discression.

I have written to Mr. Ruffsworm that I communicate with you, and rely on your aid, and I shall await with anxiety to hear what you think on the subject.

It would be a very easy thing for me approaching fifty to say as I looked back to thirty years of labour in this cause that now that the State's appropriation had run out, and a large business as a lawyer required my whole attention, I could let the Colony take care of itself annex itself or get — along as it could. — But it is my calling & duty to work for it, if I can see my way clear to do so — and I feel within me something that tells me that I am right to do so. — and that good will come of work in so good a cause — I even see in your journy to Monrovia a circumstance of good — and believing as I sincerely do that the cause is in His hands I trust that all things will work well to it.

I write under very great pressure — without time to examine what I have put upon paper, but satisfied that I have

I have expressed the substance of my thoughts commit the whole to you, and remain

respectfully & most truly
Jno. H. B. Latrobe

John B. Ruffsworm Esq.
Governor

My dear Sir,

The bearers of these letters — Eli & Sybil Jones, members of the Society of Friends, propose sailing in the Packet tomorrow, and will visit Cape Palmas.

Their Voyage to Africa may be agency of great good; — and they may in speaking the truth, as they will do, in England and in this Country, aid the cause and the subject of Colonization. — They are highly recommended to me, and I solicit for them your kind consideration

Most truly & very respectfully
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
President Md St. Col. So.

Balt: July 18th 1851

John B. Ruffsworm Esq.
Governor

My dear Sir,

The bearers of this letter are Messrs. Jones & Fuller, Agents appointed by the free col. people of Dorchester County to visit Africa in view of a large Emigration should they report favorably.

They are persons of high respectability and I commend to you in hope that their report of the Colony may redound in all things to its credit now and reputation and prosperity hereafter

Most truly & Respectfully
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
President Md St. Col. So.

Baltimore July 18th 1851.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1851