The one thing to be accomplished is, to get the consent of the Republic to a confederation – to get rid of the idea of a County. There is no one sound argument against what is desired by us here. – An argument that would counterbalance one hundred even, if they existed, is, that as a county of the Republic, Maryland's appropriation can hardly be hoped for; as Maryland in Liberia, grown to be independent, there is every fair ground for her that the next Legislature will continue it. $10.000. a year is not to be thrown away for a name – or lightly. I am, I see, repeating what I said in July; so that I leave the whole subject in your hands upon the views already taken of it – regretting only the delay that is inevitable upon the necessity of corresponding on such a subject.

The best way, probably, will be, to have every thing prepared, as though the independence and confederation are to be established – and send out the papers by the next opportunity.

The foregoing was read to the Board at its last meeting and met its approbation. At the same time a committee was appointed consisting of Mr Hugh D. Evans, Mr. Chas Howard and Mr R. W. Brune, all able ~~and~~ all active friends, as well as sound lawyers, to take the subject of the Society's relations with the Colony at this juncture into consideration.

The committee invited Bishop Payne to meet them and we assembled to talk over the matter accordingly a day or two ago. The result, as is usual in such cases, was a clear understanding of the subject in all its bearings.

Bishop Payne carefully abstained from expressing opinions, but gave us valuable facts.

From what we gathered from him, we came to the conclusion, that there was a sense of weakness in the Colony, which disposed the intelligent of the Colonists to a connection with Monrovia upon almost any terms which united them with the Republic, and gave them the advantage of membership with it. – Mr. Ruspurm had always desired the union as a State. – others desired union without regard to form.

Situated as we are in this country, it is agreed that with us, the question was one of duty. and that we only discharged our duty obligations in this regard, by attempting to do what we thought best.

It seemed

It seemed to be generally conceded by the Committee, that, in the event of annexation as a Colony, there would be a great risk of absorption. The intelligent and able of the Colonists would be attracted to the older settlements, and Cape Palmas, with all its commercial advantages would be left to dwindle away. This, certainly, would be a matter to be deplored. – The Committee may over estimate this risk, but, it is one they are impressed with at this time – absenteism, they say, has destroyed Ireland.

The remedy, of course, or rather, the security, against the risk, is giving dignity and importance to Maryland in Liberia.

Again, looking at the justice, – politically, as statemen if you please, – extending our view beyond any one ~~view~~ of the settlements – the committee agreed that there could be no assurance of the continuance of any Republic that was not federative. As one State, it would be at the mercy at times, of one Ruler. Napoleon was consul before he became Emperor. A federation of many states makes the aggregate independent of individuals. – I need not elaborate this view – the suggestion of it, to you, enables you to carry it out to its conclusions. It has to do with the future, not the present. But duty involves consequences, as well as immediate acts – and dealing with these duties, the Committee could not overlook what is here stated. In this point of view, therefore, – the independence of Cape Palmas (Md. in Libia), may be the guarantee of the ~~U~~Republicanism of the United States of Africa.

The advantage of independence and an alliance by treaty with the old Colony now the Republic of present and positive importance have already been dwelt upon, – Briefly, they are 1st. an active Society in Baltimore intended exclusively in forwarding the interests of the particular Colony, as sending it Emigrants and means... 2nd the contributions, in money and means, including a continuance of the State's appropriation, which must all cease so far as the direct action of our State is concerned in the event of a merge into the Republic. & 3d the advantage of the name of Republic in its influence on Emigrants.

I can imagine the old Colony, – making terms with the society for the admission of Cape Palmas as a County even

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1851