even.— Having heard the suggestion that terms might be exacted, I mention it.—

But suppose the colonists of Md in Liberia were to declare themselves in concert with the State Society, and without any previous concert with the Republic— there would, then, of course, be two Republics on the Coast of Africa— of the same origin— would the older and the stronger refuse an alliance with the younger and the weaker,? Hardly, I should imagine, as one of the family of nations, the older Republic would have to yield to the opinion of the family council. The world, in other words, would not uphold the Republic in a refusal. A refusal would change the prestige perhaps— the weaker is always the stronger in the multitude's heart—

This being so, there should be no difficulty in a previous understanding between the republic that is, and that which is to be.

Bishop Payne suggested that there was nothing in the Constitution of the Republic which permitted anything but annexation as a County— the idea may be started acrop the walls,— There is nothing in it. The Republic as a nation with a constitution, may form an alliance with any other nation without reference to the details of her constitution. The federation or alliance would have nothing to do with the local government of either party to it. It would be governed by its own articles, or treaty— If the treaty formed a new government with a head to it, it would be a federative republic— if its form was republican

The only occasion to look at the Constitution of the Republic then, would be, to see, in whom the treaty making power resided— and influence the body which exercised it to make a treaty— for mutual offence and defence &c— If legislation became necessary to Effectuate the treaty— the legislature would act & so forth— All this is very simple and has doubtless occurred to you.

You understand then the wish of the Board. It is, that Maryland in Liberia, should be a free Republic, allied by treaty, in articles of Confederation, with the old Colony, (Republic)—

Can this be done?— As their Agent, and as an honorable, high toned man, the Board have the most unhesitating confidence

confidence in your doing all that may be done, in the promotion of their views, and I say so to you in their name. The mode of accomplishing the object in the best way, would depend on circumstances. You must be regulated by these.

The crisis is an interesting one. It may all be over by February. The Board do not wish to prep on one to whom their obligations are already great— at this time especially— But they feel sure you will not leave your post till this question is settled.

Looking to the future, with the light which thirty years of past experience has afforded me— I feel confident that a federative Republic is your true destiny.— I would be glad that you were the active Agent in bringing it about

With my high respect I o
I am your friend & Servt.
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
President Md. St. Col. So.

Mrs. John B. Russwurm
Cape Palmas

Baltimore Oct. 31st 1851

My dear Madam/

As the official Agent of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, I enclose to you a copy of their proceeding at their last meeting upon the occasion of your late afflicting bereavement.

I cannot perform this duty, without availing myself of the opportunity, to assure you of the warm regard I entertain for your late estimable Husband, and my personal and profound grief at his loss.

With my best wishes for your happiness and welfare
I am, my dear Madam,
Your friend & Servt
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Pres. Md. St. Col. So.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1851