would be consolidation. They are fools, all of them, and for the very reasons sett forth so well, and strongly, in your letter, and so I tell them, not in terms, but with becoming dignity in my official correspondence. Never expecting political greatnes, I have to exhaust my statesmanship in my teapot at Cape Palmas. Listen

"I note what you say of the annexed County, using it's influence hereafter to produce seperation into States. But my dear Sir, can you lay your finger on a case, where power, once concentrated, submitted to sub-division. Does your own bright intelligence permit you for a moment to believe in the possibility of an original precedent, to this Effect in Africa. No! the great question is now to be settled - whether the Republic, one and indivisible, shall follow the fate of France, as shewn to you by the papers which you will doubtlys get by this conveyance, and rage towards Empire untill it falls into despotism, - or, preserved a Republic by the divorce action of its component parts, continue, through time, in Africa, the system, whose type already exists in America.

After having written thus to my acting Governor in Africa, you may suppose that the corroboration which your letter afterwards gave was very acceptable - so much so, that I added a P.S. built you up a great authority, & quoted you.

The worst of this whole matter is, that action is called for, and I am not ready quite to act, untill I see whether the Legislature of Maryland continuing its annual appropriation to the Colony, will help the young Republic to take its first step forward. If it dont, the question becomes more complicated.

The great difficulty in the way of the confederation, I have been corresponding about since I saw you, is in the pride of the old Colony a Republic - which thinks itself bigger than the Cape Palmas Colony - and that on that account there is a failure of consideration to be apprehended - as if as I wrote them, Rhode Island and Virginia, ~~of old~~, did not, of old, confederate.

But, on this point, they must come right, if I can work a on them. I can have our Colony declared independent - as "The Republic of Maryland in Liberia" and then it will be seen if the Elder Republic dare

refuse

refuse a treaty - which will be the confederation I want. I tell them this, and threaten them with the voice of the family of nations!!! of which they are one.

Thank you for your kind notice of my Newport letter.

I write you in great haste, for my absence has overwhelmed me with business to be done. I would not write at all, but that I ~~would~~ want to testify the pleasure your correspondence will afford to

Your most truly & very respectful
Jno. H. B. Latrobe

Messrs. Wood
Harmon &
Moulton
Committee

Gentlemen,

I have written fully to Mr Prout on the subject of annexation and confederation, & he will shew you my letters - by which you will see that we agree about annexation and confederation.

I do not hold with you in regard to Dr McGill. I would counsel a support of him in good faith. Before long, things will assume a permanent form - and then we will see the future clear - at present a support of Government is your duty and your interest.

Again referring you to my letter to Mr. Prout.

I am Gentlemen
with great respect
Your Obt Servt
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Pres. Md St. Col. So.

Baltm. Jany. 6 1852

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836--November 1852

1852