But, the present is certainly a crisis, that cannot come again. The Colony is in a transition State, and it would complicate matters much, now, were you to leave your post. While therefore the Board recognise your right to say, honorably — "Gentlemen you must release me" — yet they earnestly hope that you may, of your free will, make the sacrifice which may be involved in your continuing in Office. No one knows better than you do how important it is to keep as few subjects open for discussion, in Africa, as possible, — and just now, the one grave subject of annexation, or independence, is the only one that should occupy the public attention. I trust, therefore, that, looking at the whole ground, you may remain where you are, till there is a finality of one sort or the other, obtained.

If, however, there is no alternative — then Judge Capell must be appointed, acting Agent, in your place, under the Authority herewith given to that Effect. Mr Prout has strong claims, on the ground of his talent and the part he has taken — but, as Colonial Secretary, his place would be very hard to fill — and Capell, must therefore, have the appointment. In other respects things will go on as before — I enclose letters to Judge Capell and Mr Prout to be handed to them, only, in the event of your ~~determining~~ persisting in retiring. —

While we thus assent, though it is with very very great reluctance; and I close my letters with the reiteration of the hope of the Board, that for the present, you will remain where you are — and until the present crisis has gone by and things are placed on a permanent footing. In the Event of independence, this will be on the Election of Officers under the new Constitution

Most truly and most respectfully
Dear Sir
Jno. H. B. Latrobe
Prest Mary'd. St. Col. So.

Dr Saml. J. McGill
Acting Governor of
Maryland in Liberia

Baltimore Nov. 20th. 52

Dear Sir,

Herewith you will receive a separate despatch in regard to the independence matter, exclusively

The other portions of your letter of July 12th. were very interesting, and nothing that it contained, more satisfactory than the inference we drew from it, that you will remain at the head of affairs, until the new government, if there is to be one, shall go into operation.

We are all sorry here, to differ from the opinion expressed in your despatches, that County annexation is the true policy of the Society and the Colony — Knowing how apt one is, to let one's feelings control one's judgment, after an argument in which one has taken a decided part, — and admitting that this might be my own infirmity, I submitted the whole subject to a Committee consisting of Mr. Charles Howard, Mr. Hugh D. Evans, Mr. D. W. Bruce, the Hon'ble Wm D. Giles and Mr. George W. Dobbin — nor did I attend one of the many meetings held by the Committee, except the last, when Mr. Howard read the Report which he had prepared, without having exchanged a word with me on the subject. This report you will receive. At the meeting at which the Report was presented to the Board, there were present, — Mr. Howard, Mr Hugh Davy Evans, Mr Giles, Dr. Briscoe Mr Thomas Wilson, Mr. Francis King, Mr Isaac Tyson Junior, Mr Wm Crane, Mr Wm H Keighler, Mr Comfort Tiffany, Dr James H McCulloh, Doctor Hall and myself, in all Eleven members of the Board. The subject was well discussed. Mr Thomas Wilson mentioned the opinion of Mr. & Mrs. Jones, the "friends", who had visited the Colony, in favour of County annexation — and the reason, pro and con, were fairly stated, — I holding my peace, — the speakers being Mr. Wilson, Mr. Crane, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Evans, the Vote was an unanimous one. I desire that you

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1852