should know this, for I am well aware of the fact, that much is attributed to me, individually, when I but divide a responsibility. — The future must tell its own story. I have fancies which are yet immature — but, with my Eye embracing the whole line of Coast, I am not sure but that Cape Palmas may become the american Colony — One of the Speakers, to day, alluded to relations between the Republic and the old World in a way that suggested the idea to me. I hope you may identify your fortunes with the Colony that you have so well controlled. There is a wide field for you in many ways. But the subject is too full for the present occasion. Should independence be declared by Maryland in Liberia, the first step of the new government will be to try to make a treaty with the present republic — If Monrovia refuses she must give her reasons. Disparity of size will not do. England and France will, both, be better pleased that there should be but one feeling on the Coast, in this regard, than that there should be two. If the United States acknowledges the Independence of Liberia, and into this I propose to throw my whole heart, it will be as a suggestion of the South. — and depend upon it, the Colony of the slave holding state of Maryland, will not be left out of the list of recognized governments, and it will not help those who work for this recognition, that big Liberia refuses a treaty with little Liberia if you please. Now, I am one who sees the way clear, with a judicious management, for the recognition of the Republic. — and depend upon it, when the suggestion does come up in Congress, it will be asked again and again why the two republics in Africa do not confederate — most naturally too will this be asked, by those who look upon states rights as the safe guard of the Union. And this clap of politicians, wise and wary in this regard, will long hold sway in our councils, and must settle the matter of recognition. So, I hope, my dear Sir, when independence takes place, at Cape Palmas, you will be found yielding to the force of circumstances, as we all have to do some time or other, and aiding in making a treaty, first, and bringing

about a confederation afterwards. There is, or will be something in this notion of seperate commercial and political interests, — afterwards, — Else, — you may depend on it. Besides, for the subject grows in thought of it, — looking to the source of the supply of Emigrants to build up the Colonies — and the dependence, for some time, of the Emigrants for aid to help them to africa from this source, I hardly think there could be much doubt as to which country Emigration would be most active — one whose feelings were warm towards the United States, or one whose feelings were warmer towards other Countries. These are very vague contingencies — But the future of all politics is vague — nothing in political moves can be disregarded as impossible — and the Statesman calculates, as contingencies, the remotest possibilities. — All this can be avoided by uniting the whole West Coast of Africa in one republican government composed of seperate Sovereignies, then alone, will the power of using one section of the Coast against another section be lost to the nations, who, utterly regardless of the great issues involved in Colonization, call out to lift high the Gates that the king of Commerce may go in; and the question now, is, how best to form this one Republican government — and the answer is — Copy — Copy Copy — in Africa, what has been done in America. This my dear Sir, is common every day sense,. Did not S. Carolina plume herself in the days of Secession, on her ability to let in the goods of England at her own rates, and so absorb the trade of the Union!!! a notion rash, and impracticable, only because of the Confederation, or union, that made secession treason. Take you care in Africa to have the same safeguard — addressing you now, as one, holding the Opinions I know you entertain.

I put all this in a despatch which goes before the Board, because it is intimately connected with the matter we have in charge, you on your side and we on our side of the water. Ponder it well. As I have said to you before — the Republic is in the family of nations now — and is amenable to the judgments of the family council.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1852