Prince Fred.k Calvert County. Sept.r 12th —

Dear Sir

On my way to this County, on monday last, I met with your letter, which should have accompanied the delivery of a bundle of addresses on the subject of colonizing free negroes —

In the absence of the letter, I had given circulation to a few of these papers — the residue shall be distributed, as requested.

Some portion of the last address strikes me as a departure from the position of non-interference with the Slave question assumed in the first address. The invitation to a "free canvass" of the merits of this proposition we cannot accept — It is our policy to exclude such discussion, as a disturbing and dangerous topic: as a question of local interest, We entertain but one opinion & that is, that our agricultural prosperity depends on the employment of Slave-labour. Its cheapness & not the productiveness of our lands is the source of our wealth — at this day, We can see no good that can come from entangling ourselves in the metaphysic disquisitions about the mysterious purposes of divine wisdom, in allotting such various & disproportioned conditions to man on Earth. It is enough to know that He has ever permitted it —

We are friendly to the melioration of Human life, though not desired to violent changes — Excuse these hurried expressions of our views —

With Esteem & respect
Yr very obt Servt
J. T. Stoddert

Maryland Historical Society
The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers
IV. Miscellaneous Letters and Minutes
A
1832