Baltimore 28th July 1837

To John H. B. Latrobe Esq
Cor Sec M.S.C.S.

Dear Sir,

The time has arrived when it becomes my duty to report to the Board of Managers, at least in part, my operations as their agent for the promotion of the Cause of Colonization in Maryland. This duty would have received earlier attention, had I not regarded it as more important that active efforts appear in advance of performance, than time occupied in preparing and submitting statements of what could be done, with the spacious promises and beautiful appearances of what I would do.

Since entering upon the agency, I have learned more distinctly the difficulties to be overcome, the importance of speedy success, the course necessary to be pursued, and have increased confidence that, with the blessing of God (of which we cannot doubt) a complete triumph ultimately awaits us.

The only formidable difficulty with which we have to contend is the influence of Abolitionists. On this subject, I give no uncertain sound. I know to my sorrow and regret, that the colored population of Maryland are regularly organized and acting in direct concert with the manners of Free Country. Hence the objections to Colonization. Hence the difficulty in obtaining emigrants. I have visited fifteen counties of this state, and have yet to visit that part of it (including a territory ten miles square) in which Abolitionism is not clearly discernable.

That the free people of color in this City

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers.

IV. Miscellaneous Letters and Minutes

A

1837