sole cause of the delay of that redress being made to us, with those assurances which justice so reasonably demands. I am pleased to learn that the French Commodore anticipates a visit to this city and may be expected daily for adjustment of the difficulties of the *Regina-Cœli*, &c, &c; when I feel sure that the superabundant evidence, incontrovertible in its nature, that will be afforded him of the truth of more than we have said and complained of, will satisfy His Imperial Majesty's government of the misrepresentations that have been made to it by its subjects, and will induce that government whose magnanimity we would not as yet for a moment question, to take the proper view of and action on the matter. It is to the interest, and therefore is the policy of this government, to cultivate the best feeling with all the civilized nations of the earth. We feel under many obligations to His Imperial Majesty's government for our early recognition and for subsequent acts of kindness; and it is our fervent desire to cultivate the best feeling with that great nation, so far as is practicable without compromising our fixed principles.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the Postal Convention, of which I gave information last year as being in course of negotiation between H. B. M. Government and this Republic, has been so far consummated as to only require now a formal ratification by the Senate, &c. It is a very liberal postal arrangement with us, and should be regarded as another evidence of the kind and generous feelings of H. B. M. Government towards us. G. Ralston Esq., our Consul General at London, who was duly empowered to act in the premises on behalf of this Government, transmitted a copy of the treaty early this year; and as it stipulated to go into operation on the first of April last, and it was deemed imprudent to incur the expense of convening the Senate for the special purpose of its ratification, and as nothing was to be lost but much gained, I allowed it to go into operation with the assurance to Her Majesty's Government, that its stipulations would be strictly binding on this Government until its formal ratification by the Senate at this session.

I have also to state that the treaty of which I gave intimation at your last session, that was being negotiated between this and His Belgian Majesty's Government, was respectively signed in this city last March, by Louis Bols Esq. on the part of the Belgian Government, and the Secretary of State on the part of this Government: both this and the Postal Convention will, at a very early day, be submitted to the Senate for ratification.

The gradual yet certain increase in the acquisition by our citizens of vessels of sufficient capacity, and their actual commencement to ply commercially between this and foreign civilized countries, will bring us to realize at an earlier day than was generally supposed, some of the great advantages that should and will accrue to us from our treaties of reciprocity It is my opinion, that six years will

not have elapsed before many colored gentlemen of capital and business tact now residing in foreign lands, will not only turn their attention towards Liberia, but will become actually identified with her interest; and will be aroused to such action as will secure to them by a commerce carried on in their own vessels plying between this Republic and foreign lands, a good share of the profits of the coast trade. And why should they not as Liberians, or as the founders of new settlements on this continent, be numbered among the chief beneficiaries of the coast trade? And I further venture to express it as my firm belief, that if no untoward circumstance shall arise, it will be as common a thing before the expiration of the next ten years, to ship cotton, coffee, sugar, syrup and other commodities of this country, in Liberian bottoms to foreign countries, as it is now for palm oil and camwood to be shipped in foreign bottoms. I am therefore decidedly of opionion, that this Government in its commercial relations, should entertain and exercise as enlarged and liberal views, as circumstances will possibly justify.

Pursuant to a resolution of the legislature at the last session, which was based upon information afforded in my last message, I succeeded after some difficulty, in dispatching the schooner *Lark* from this port on the 5th of June, to England for repairs, under the promise so generously made by Her Majesty's Government. She arrived at Plymouth on the 20th of July, and was condemned and pronounced unworthy of repairs late in August. I am happy in being able to inform you, that by advices received by the last mail from our Consul General at London, I am informed that Her Majesty's Government has been graciously pleased to present us a substitute (the *Quail*) of little larger capacity than the *Lark;* and it is intimated that her armament as well as her general arrangement will be superior in their adaptation for a *coasta guarda* to those possessed by the *Lark*. I anticipate her arrival before your adjournment, when I will be pleased to communicate with you further on the subject.

There are several matters affecting our interests both in Europe and in the United States, of which I could afford you some cheering intelligence; but prudence dictates that I forbear until they progress further. I may however, have occassion to communicate with you on some of those subjects ere the close of your session.

I have the painful duty to perform of making allusion to the great loss our country has sustained this year in the decease of some of its prominent and useful citizens; among whom was Colonel J. B. McGill, for many years an able and faithful senator, and who, as a christian statesman, possessed the confidence and respect of all who knew him: also Col. Dickerson of Sinoe County, a man of sound judgment and of sterling character: these with others whom—according to human views—we could but illy spare,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

4. Message of the President of Liberia to the Legislature... Monrovia, 1858