PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In making this communication to you, at the opening of your regular annual Session, it is very proper that I should introduce it with a devout acknowledgment of the Mercies of our Heavenly Father, whose superintending care has watched over and graciously conducted this young nation through the vicissitudes of another year.

Our Seasons have been favorable. The soil has very bountifully rewarded the hand of industry. Commerce has manifestly increased. With few exceptions among some of the native clans, peace predominates. Our foreign relations may be regarded as tranquil. And though a contagion visited this County this year, and threatened great destruction in its strides among the aborigines, and some four or five of our settlements, yet, excepting New Georgia, the mortality has been less than what was anticipated soon after it made its appearance. And to day I am happy to be able to express the fact, already known to you, that a spirit of intelligent, manly industry, and of independence, obtains within the Republic to a degree beyond that of any former period in the history of Liberia.

Convened as you are from all parts of the Republic, to commence, under so favorable circumstances, the first Session of the incumbency with which you were invested last May by the free and enlightened suffrage of your fellow citizens, there is much at present, as well as in the prospect, to encourage you in your work of legislation, which

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

8. Message of the President of Liberia to the Legislature... Monrovia, 1859