Office of the Col Society, Washington, Nov 21st 1831

Sir,

You have, doubtless, observed, that public attention in Virginia, and other sections of our Southern country, is thoughtfully excited on the subject of the colored population, and that many leading men are directing their thoughts to the plan of colonizing the free people of color on the coast of Africa. As you have already been pleased to express, by a liberal donation to its funds, your favourable opinion of the colonization society, it has occurred to me, that you might also consent to favour us, at this time, with an exposition of your views of the principles & measures of this society, in all the great & various relations they sustain to our own country or to Africa. I cannot doubt that such an exposition of this crisis from your pen would,. . .
prove of immense service to a course in the progress of which, you have evinced to deep & friendly an interest. I have reason to think, that the subject of African colonization will receive the serious consideration of the Legislatures of Virginia & N Carolina at their next session, and on this account, it seems especially desirable that the public should enjoy the benefit of the opinions of one, whose experience, talents, & patriotism, all advise me to suppose, you pleased, honored Sir, to accept the assurance of my profound respect & to believe me

His Excellency
Your faithful & Obt.

By President Madison.

P.S. I continue to transact business the number of the African which I hope is forwarded regularly, as it should be. The September number contains an article on the head of influence of the Society, which I hope may receive your approbation.
R. R. Garley

Nov. 21, 1831.

The Executive of Orange Madison County, Virginia