

May 7th 1862

To His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln,
President of the United States of America.

Honored Sir,

Excuse, I pray, the liberty I
take in addressing one so highly placed as your-
self, by intruding upon your valuable time, every
moment of which is fraught with business in
which the destiny of millions, born and unborn,
depend; for humbly and respectfully asking
permission to thank your Excellency most sin-
cerely for your noble and most judicious ef-
forts in behalf of my unfortunate race and
which has resulted in the liberation of the op-
pressed descendants of Africa, hitherto slaves, in
the district of Columbia. This act of Justice was
aimed at more than thirty years ago, by the efforts
of a number of gentlemen and philanthropists,
in various shapes, but to no effect; but it has
finally been reserved for you, under Divine Pro-
vidence, to bring this great disederation to a
close: all the praise, all the honor and all the thanks,
Honored Sir, for such a noble action, belong to you.
And when I humbly take into consideration, the
conflicting elements by which such a thing of ne-
cessity must have been surrounded, by conflicting

interests, diversion of opinions, - no doubt formidable
to all, according to the convictions of either party,
of right or wrong, superadded by pecuniary interests,
the mobile of human actions, the difficulty must have
been doubly great and the consummation superla-
"tively grand and glorious for the great American people
and disinterested Humanity.

Honored Sir, Mr. Jefferson said that he
trembled for his country when he reflected that
"God was Just and His Justice would not sleep
for ever". What a sublime thought! And it
has been reserved for you and your noble col-
"leagues to prove that God's Justice has awakened
and that the great work of African redemption,
whenever it is possible to be done, will be done,
through peaceful and legitimate means, alike honor-
"able to the United States as also to the enslaved,
that, in the end, both may have cause to bless you,
and bless you as the Father of the country and
as the benefactor of the Africans.

Honored Sir, The House of Burgess, of the Co-
"lony of Virginia, remonstrated against George the
Third because he continued to send slaves to the
Colonies, because they foresaw it would be a curse to
their descendants; and has not this curse fallen on
the great American people?

Honored Sir, The humble individual who

Has the honor to address you these lines, is a man
of color, born in Fairfax County, near Alexandria,
but now a citizen of Haiti. From my earliest youth
I was in favor of African Colonization and was
about starting for Liberia, but finally decided to
locate in Haiti and I have no cause to regret my
choice individually, yet I am of opinion that the
Americo-African people, by their habits, language
and religion, would be better off in Liberia than here.

I pray Your Excellency to accept my eternal
gratitude and may Almighty God preserve your
valuable life to see the accomplishment of the
great good which has been reserved for you, under
His Providence.

Permit me, Your Excellency, to subscribe my-
self, Your most humble & obedient servant
John B. Hepburn

Port-au-Prince (Haiti) 27th May 1862.

John B. Hapton
Paris au Pres. au. May 9, 1862

Washington Tenn. &c

John B. Hapton
Port au Prince
Hayti