than counterbalance it.

I entirely agree with you that Cape Palmas is an important point, & that we should hasten to secure it. Dr Mechlin is of opinion, that even could we obtain it it would be difficult to found a settlement there, owing to the savage disposition & habits of the natives. He would first settle Grand Bassa & Cape Mount! & yet extend, as fast as we can, without too great hazard our influence & authority. I have felt a strong desire to see an exploring expedition fitted out, which should run down & examine the coast as far as Accra or the mouth of the Niger, & if practicable, make purchases at different points. The best mode of conducting such an expedition, would be, I think, to charter a vessel which after landing emigrants at Monrovia, should be placed, for three or four months, under the control of the Colonial Agent who either in person, or by Colonists selected & with letters of authority from him, should visit & negotiate with the natives, & proceed down the coast, examine every important place, confer with the chiefs, & secure by fair purchase as many valuable positions as possible. The great advantage of placing this expedition under the direction of the Colonial Agent or persons delegated by him, would be that they would be found acclimated, & having much knowledge of the native character.

It appears to me, that for the sake of economy & success, the new settlements on the coast of Africa should be offsets from the stock of Liberia. For several years, at least, I should think this would be the case. Were your Society for instance to attempt making an establishment at Cape Palmas, you must calculate upon nearly all the expense & hazard & calamity which has attended the early years of the Colony at Montserado. Could a number of the settlers in Liberia be induced to remove thither & commence a settlement there, great benefits would result from it. Should a ship be chartered to convey your emigrants to the Colony how would it answer to stipulate that she should proceed down the coast & could you unite with us in deposing

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1. May 1827--December 1833

1832