and most violently and vulgarly abused us all, (the missionaries but particularly myself) — he called us every thing but gentlemen. Said the colonists considered us all (but, me in particular) hypocrites &c. ~~&c~~ Since that time we have not exchanged words, but he continues to swear, and rage, and defy heaven & earth by night & day — he strives to turn the emigrants against me, and has to a considerable extent succeeded. Thus I am abused & spurned in the cabin, and religion is spurned & ridiculed among the emigrants. I immediately informed ~~Doct H~~ that I could no longer stay in the cabin, but should go forward among the emigrants; but he positively objected to such a course. I now found that I was bound to obey, while I had not even the shadow of authority, or scarcely respectability. You can form a better idea of my feelings ~~than I can~~ and situation than I can describe. Yet God is good — a very present help in time of need. Although I am in Dermick's dungeon where there is no water but mire, yet the Lords hand keeps me from sinking into the mire.

A few words now to you & for the Society. You were to profit by the experience and errors of those who had preceded you in this great work of colonization. We have on board, including men, women and children nineteen emigrants; and only one who fears God among the number. You raised his expectations to the highest summit, rejoicing the hearts of the emigrants &c &c. Now his righteous soul is vexed from day to day with the most filthy and wicked conversation of an abandoned set, who neither fear God nor respect ~~respectable~~ religion. Several of the number will neither attend prayers in their own apartment, nor service on the sabbath day. Allow me to ask, what can be expected from such a foundation — from such a commencement? If better emigrants cannot be procured in the commencement, you had better abandon the enterprise altogether. ~~One tried living will spirit a little based if [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~. You may flatter yourself that we shall gain a large accession of Jewels — of pure gold at Monrovia. I begin to fear that idea is my delusion — Upon reflection I am convinced that ~~the~~ uncompleted settlement would be better without one emigrant from Liberia, unless they were to apply & consider it a favour to be received among us. But as it is we so completely dependant on them and shall have to beg and bribe, or fail utterly. There has been bad calculations — and much mismanagement already. I am at a loss to know how to procure my self — Reason & my own personal feelings say, resign your ~~blank~~ situation the moment you reach Monrovia. But perhaps such a course might have an unfavourable

respect upon the cause which I have ~~our~~ ever warmly espoused. I shall suspend any final resolution until we reach Monrovia. There, or when if we reach it, and my life is spared, I will close this note.

We reached Monrovia on Tuesday Jany 27th after a passage of sixty one days, without touching at the C Verd Islands. Upon mature reflection, I have concluded to sacrifice my own feelings, and continue on with the expedition to Cape Palmas. ~~but~~ To do otherwise would be a serious injury to the cause; and as I have strong reliance in expectation, I will make any sacrifice rather than injure the expedition. More than twenty men relinquishing of their possibility have entered their names to go with us; but some have withdrawn. ~~At this~~ My life is spared, I calculate on remaining with the expedition until it is settled and secured on the continent — at Cape Palmas if we can procure it, and then I shall endeavour to work my passage through heather Africa, and perhaps back to the US — I shall have no friend or supporter, but him who will never leave nor forsake the destitute. To remain [illegible] present situation I cannot, whatever may be the consequences — and to ask the society for assistance under the circumstances would be ungenerous, if it would not be unjust — We must pay for our own folly.

I am greatly disappointed in this country, climate, and the colony ~~also~~ settled in Liberia. They only need energy, & judicious management to render the settlement very prosperous & desireable as a residence, and refuge for our oppressed people in the U States. — Pardon this hasty scrawl — I am much hurried, and not a little perplexed — yet shall all things work together for good.

If I am alive and in this country, ~~there~~ when your next expedition arrives, and the board of managers have no objection, I will thank them to provide a passage for me to the U States.

Remember me affectionately to your family and all my friends —

Yours respectfully & affectionately

John Hersey

Sarah Gross request me to say, that herself & family are well; and would be exceedingly well satisfied if circumstances were more at a little better — But he must be satisfied with all things — she says, his Brother & Sister [illegible]

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834