my power to assist the Doctor in various ways. and I partially supplied the place of Mr Hersey in a way. as his time is chiefly taken up in preaching the Gospel. and he seems to concern himself about little else. Yet it is very good in its place, and should not be neglected. We arrived at Cape Palmas seven days from Mesurado. where we found all the people waiting with open arms to receive us. they told us that they had long wished for the Americans to become situated among them. in order to have some one to teach them English. and to sell their produce to. and get what they desired at all times. They express the strongest desire to get learning of any natives I have ever seen in this country. all seem to express a strong wish to become white Men, (i.e. Read & Write &c)

At this stage of my observations I cannot perceive the least danger of settling in the very midst of them. they place the highest estimation upon their place being equal to this, Cape & Sierra Leone, and are not forced to gather to get occupation and money. A number of them are an intelligent and comprehensive people.

The situation of the Cape makes it one of the most desirable spots on the Western Coast of Africa it is high and receives the sea breeze. and runs westward from the main land. about 3/4 Mile into the sea, on which our Town is situated, and all around the Cape abounds with Fish & Oysters. the largest I ever saw. The place appears to be healthy. and the natives report it so. they tell me that several Englishmen has remained here from. three to twelve months and never complained of sickness. one of our passengers from Baltimore took the fever at this place and was laid up with it three days before we arrived at Palmas and four days after our arrival he appeared to be quite well and over his sickness. if receptacles are placed on the Cape, I hardly think that new comers will be sick in climating. The country around it is not interpersed with Swamps & Mangroves like it is about this place. It presents a beautiful view. raising gradually from the Sea board. and may be seen for twenty miles in every direction. and a beautiful place for a farmer. who can raise (of the productions of that Country) Rice. Corn. Yams. Sweet Potatoes. Sugar Cane. Cotton. Palm Nuts. grow wild in the greatest abundance. in the Woods and many other useful plants. Cattle, Sheep. Goats and [illegible] fine and fat as I ever saw. and various kinds of [illegible] fruit. The forest abounds with fine Timber and as good as ever I saw in in my life. and no place can boast of better. A short distance in the interior the Camwood tree presents as lofty an appearance, as the ~~American~~ Hickory in America. Time is pressing and just now busied in getting the families off to Cape Palmas. and the Jupiter is about to sail, or I should have writ more.

Your Obdt. Humble Servant

Geo B Russell

To the
Board of the Md. State Col.
Society Baltimore

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834