Cape Palmas April 24th 1834

My dear Sir I have been engaged to day in copying what few letters I have written you since my arrival & I find them so very imperfect & hastily thrown together as absolutely to need an apology. I pass not unaware before now that I had given you an imperfect a sketch of our colony. In fact I had hurried thus to do it, who had no other special employment but to observe & communicate as Rev. William & Mr Jacobs. This together with my long illness & the many very numerous & important duties devolving on me will be a sufficient apology for the matter & manner of my communications. I hope hereafter to have more leisure & to be able to give you interesting information concerning the colony at least & our standing with the natives. But I have little hope that I shall be able to penetrate into the interior during this coming season. I cannot even find a day that I could get safe in leaving the colony. Some important work is going on, some goods to trade & offends, some some nation & colonists palavers are to be settled or some one is very sick. & sometimes all come together & tide myself into the bargain.

I am at present engaged in building a kitchen & nice house. I shall have my work cut out since season to lay in a store against the planting & growing time, all the natives are so impatient as to sell all off at one time. I am also building a house of timber first to be covered & to answer as a shelter for the guns & a guard house at night. Eight or ten men will always sleep there at nights, & as the sole number of the natives are have little to fear from a surprise or attack except by day & then we shall be prepared for them. In fact our present standing with the natives is such that I have little of that nature to apprehend from them. From our first landing I have endeavoured to convince them of the numerous advantages that would accrue to the country from our coming hither & they appear to be fully sensible of it. They appear to wish that we should settle down with them & become one people, possess one country & have one national flag in common. They appear fully to appreciate the importance of education & the advantages that would result to their children from the establishment of schools. They appear readily to foresee the almost immediate increase of wealth the country would experience in consequence

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834