that we were as ready to meet death one way as another. That as yet we never had done them wrong or were threatened unless when they were sensible that they had deserved it. That they had never broken the contract but lately made, to allow free trade with all tribes. That I had but one words, never to say (& if they persisted in their present course I should never meet them again to talk any palaver.) & that last, that, if they attempted to stop by force any trade coming to me or intercepted any trade goods which I should send for me, that war would then begin & it should not end while one American land on the Cape or until I had destroyed every native town, within gun shot of the Cape. This was perfectly understood to them & produced a deal of excitement & the menaces were so strong towards me that, being alone I thought best to make good my way home. I made all arrangements that night, expecting hot work on the morrow, when I should send my boat to Rock Town; but in the morning was agreeably disappointed by a message by the interpreter & headmen to the king, stating that they were convinced of their error & were sorry for the trouble they had given me. Since then they have been more quiet & less troublesome than heretofore. & I have been very forward & distant in any intercourse with them. I told them that I could have no more confidence in them; but if they wished peace they should have it & good treatment as before, but that I should always be ready, & if they took arms on a return as before to trouble me without cause, that I should take no palaver but let off my big guns upon the town at once.

May 20th I yesterday returned from a tour to the Cavally river, which I completed with much fatigue in two days. I left here on the morning the 18th at day light & having the day before sent my up the Grahway by the beach road I took a canoe at the head of the lake & arrived there in two hours. This lake is a beautiful sheet of clear, salt water, for an average half a mile in breadth, stretching from the site of the mission house about eight miles parallel with the sea beach, & in some places separated only by a wall of sand thrown up by the surf, of not more than fifty yards in breadth. At the narrowest place the natives once or twice a year dig a trench level with the surface of the lake & it soon discharges its waters into the sea, leaving an immense quantity of fish of all kinds, which are gathered up by all the tribes in the vicinity & smoked in great quantities. The sea very soon

fills up the breach thus made & the lake is again replenished by the rains & small creeks. The king of Grahway has three towns, one of which is very large & well built besides. I had formerly visited his town & had paid the ordeal of drinking his health, wives & eating a bullock with them. So that I was detained here only to breakfast, which I did most sumptuously on a dish called palaver sauce (the only pleasant thing I ever found connected with the words palaver) prepared at the house of the kings head man Grey. It very much resembles & is prepared from similar materials as the French dish called Callaloo but far surpassing it especially after a three hours canoe ride. I left Grahway accompanied by the king & several head men who designed to honour his Ex. the "Gubroo" with their company to Cavally; probably having in their minds eye the Bullock that must die on so important an occasion. On leaving Grahway I entered one of the most beautiful meadows I ever beheld, from one to two miles in breadth, stretching from Grahway pt to Half Cavally, as it is termed, a distance of near five miles. It was literally covered with fine fat cattle, sheep & goats belonging to the neighbouring towns. When within a mile or so of Half Cavally we were met by not less than a thousand men women & children in whose countenances & gestures nothing but wonder & astonishment were visible. & would that I could say and convey sentiments of decent, but not so. Their hair bound their heads like a well hoop'd cask or they would have burst from the tremendous screaming which issued rigged out in sounds unintelligible from every throat. This was enough to see their kings in the clothes I gave them, but a white man & a pack of the boot, was too much. Their joy & joy knew no limits as to their manner of showing them, & I much feared in duration, for the noise was absolutely insupportable. The town or rather towns of half-Cavally are very large, containing four fifteen hundred people, [grasping] supported principally by trading with the bush people. Their territory is not very extensive & as yet not extends to us as you will perceive by the deed executed by the other kings. I can claim a claim to it whenever I choose but do not deem it advisable at present. It would give umbrage to the kings of our territory as they were formerly at war with this people & Rock Town, from which the inhabitants of this (half Cavally) came originally. The head Grahway men at this place are the most intelligent of any I have found on the coast. One in particular who has lived in England three years is in all respects so far as I have observed a gentleman. I believe I might safely say that I was never treated with more civility & propriety than I was at the house of this man. I would have [illegible]

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834