I send you a horrible attempt at a map or draught of this section of the coast, which may assist you in forming a decent one. It at least has the merit of shewing what towns are nearest us & what the direction is by compass. It will correct one egregious blunder common to all geographical descriptions & charts viz that Cape Palmas is the southernmost point of the coast of Guinea. Even supposing the variation is 18° Grahway pt bears E. half South from my dwelling & I am but a few yds north of the point of the Cape. Grahway point pt bears E. 25° S. from this Cape by compass although from the Island off the cape it would probably have about E.S.E. the variation being 18° which would bring it E 4 p° South by true course. From Grahway pt the course is about the same not varying over 5 degrees to Tabou pt. This last is decidedly the southernmost point of Guinea. I have placed Rock town by mistake about 1 mile or 3 miles too far from our Cape, but I have no time to correct that error or to improve the appearance of the whole as an opportunity unfortunately offers to send this to the Cape Mesurado. I am now laying off the town lands, on the north side of the Grahway lake: at low water the north midway between the west end of the lake & the Mission house forms the western boundary of our first township which lies off agreeably with your directions 3 miles square. A part of the lands is very good but that bordering on the lake is very sandy, producing only palms. This I shall not preach out. Mr Thompson lately made a tour into the interior as far as King Boras country, for rather to what areas his country, for he went to his parents & found the land to improve the further he went. He ascertained that our line extends but 12 miles back instead of 20 as I calculated. I hope one may be contracted for all the country between the Cavally & Big River which you will retain as the boundary line between Grand Sestos & Baraway. There are an immense number of rivers on this river & it is reported to be of great length. —

Mon. 29th As opportunity now offers for sending to Cape Mesu I must close this long rigmarole by briefly stating what our real situation is at this time four month from our first landing. Every town lot with one exception is cleared, fenced & planted. I have built a large kitchen & new house 25 ft by 16, 18 ft stories high, entirely of African materials except the flooring plank & doors: A stockade fort & fort. both covered with thatch roofs. I have one native house for emigrants 72 ft by 18, well floored & weather boarded, 2 others of 36 ft each which I shall take down & reconstruct altering their location & putting both in one. I shall thus be able to accommodate 150 Emigrants within 1 month. Our Colonists have 12 frame houses, 4 of which are shingled & occupied. The others will be in one month more. 2 more houses are going up, one of which is two stories. The people have 7 weeks more in which to draw rations, at the close of that period I am sorry to say that few very few have any immediate means of support. This lets in rather unexpectedly made to very sensible that nothing but a little sense could be planted & I deemed it advisable to urge on their buildings as fast as possible. Not one of the emigrants who came from Bella with me has made any kind of a house as yet. They have been much of the time unable to labour at all.

I have been obliged, for another I thought it policy, to furnish funds to most

of the emigrants to pay motives for bringing timber & assisting them in clearing & fencing their lots. It encourages them, will stimulate the men exceedingly & give the colony a good name, as every house tells ten miles at sea. ~~Indeed it is a condition~~ Mr Benson one of the Emigrants who came out with Dr Ayres in the Cossayo says that our settlement is more in question progress than was Cape Mesurado 2 or 3 years after the first landing was effected on the island in the mouth of the Stockton creek. When we came to Bassa there was but one hut ready for a dwelling & we now have three & shall have, with good luck 10 more in less than a month, & Bassa had been settled a year & a half & had cost the Agency more than double what this has.

The public funds are nearly exhausted. The frequent of Native & colonists labourers about the public buildings & the amount that I have furnished the colonists, have drawn heavily upon me. I have laid out pretty largely in the purchase of palm oil & as yet have not been able to dispose of it. I have now on hand about 1000 gallons which I shall ship home by the next vessel you send out, if I cannot previously barter it to advantage. I have been obliged to send to Cape Mesurado to purchase nails, as I had no more than was necessary for our own use. Such things you see, the Colonists must have, & our store having been quite low I am necessitated to furnish them. I hope to be able to pay Repsman for the nails in palm oil inasmuch as he charged not 100 per ct profit.

The natives are at present very peaceable. I have settled some of the headmen in purchasing Mr Wilsons plank & they have appeared pretty much cowed ever since.

As it regards our Colonists, they are as well contented as can be reasonably expected. I have had some considerable trouble with them at times, but they have uniformly come to, after a fair reasonable talk. All the inconsiderable discontents & perplexities, ~~arising~~ necessarily ~~arising~~ accruing from a total moral, & physical & political change of ~~their~~ circumstances, if not arising from, are expected to be remedied by the Agents & this no slight matter to bear the brunt of all, & restain patience & wait I assure you. But I have no great reason to despond at complaint of ill success, when I reflect that Ashmun ~~was~~ the very spirit of conciliation, has been obliged to shut himself up for fear of personal violence, & has seen the colonists turn out en masse, break open the public store & distribute the provisions. —

I shall for some weeks have a decent complement of housing on hands as Mr Thompson is occupied at Gr & Monrovia on his own business & I can get no other assistance here. Benson is also at Monrovia. I needs a surveyor very much. I have already been obliged to ride through dust & briar until clothes & skin are nearly stripped from my loins & thighs. ~~He lay~~ out lands for emigrants & see to their location & advise & direct each one with regards to their proper course & to dispatch affairs at the public farm, will demand the whole time & attention of one man.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834