Letter
Resolution
to
Mr. Gardener
Mr. Bakstetter

To the Board of Managers of the
Maryland State Col. Society

Having been informed by Capt. J. Lawlin commander of the Schr. Edgar, that Doctr. Hall visited his vessel in person early in May, and gave him a letter, or letters for the U. States, I concluded certainly that he had made a communication to your Board of a subsequent date to the time of my departure from Cape Palmas. An entire ignorance that he had made such a communication, induced me to remain so long silent in Bryan after my arrival there.

I regret sincerely the circumstances which constrained me to resign my situation in the colony. The circumstances which led me to adopt that course, were most painful to my feelings; but I forbear to say any thing on that subject. It was not so much my own personal feelings, ~~which~~ as a duty I owed to Almighty God, and his church on earth, which influenced my conduct.

After tendering to you (by the ship Lafayette) my resignation, I continued with the expedition until the new colony was permanently settled at Cape Palmas. The erection of the government house was attended with some difficulty, as we were all unaccustomed to such work. We succeeded however in finishing it in about two weeks from the time it was commenced; at least it was enclosed and covered, and in a state of preparation to receive the Brig's cargo in that time. We were compelled to cut down the upper story between four & five feet, as the frame was entirely too slender for the elevation of the house. I am not accustomed to house building, but I think it was the most slender frame I have ever seen in a house of its size and cost. Many of the rafters were wind shaken and much shattered. Several mistakes were made in framing and marking the different pieces, which however, only gave us additional perplexity.

On the latter part of our passage out, but particularly from Monrovia to C. Palmas, there was much dissatisfaction manifested by the emigrants respecting their allowance of food. At Doctr. Hall's request I addressed them on the subject, stating the serious consequences which must result from their conduct. I informed them that there should be no just ~~ground~~ for complaint where the evils complained of could be remedied or removed. Respecting their provision, I assured them that it was your intention to furnish all the emigrants with a sufficient quantity of good substantial food to render them comfortable, and pledged my word that they should have it. Although this statement and promise was made at the request of Doctr. Hall, still their former allowance was continued without much alteration, and very much to their dissatisfaction. Thus my word became as an idle tale — a sounding pleasant, at least in their estimation.

Under such circumstances it was impossible that they could respect me as a man, a christian, or a teacher. Their allowance was I think 1lb. meat, 1lb. fish, 5lb. bread, tea and three gills of molasses for each emigrant per week. After words I believe the bread was increased to seven pounds and the meat diminished.

On our arrival at Cape Palmas the emigrants discovered not only an indisposition to work,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834