A vessel soon after arrived from Salem with a brig I purchased some cloth & powder & paid specie. The articles were very low & I might realize thereon & palm oil could not be procured in port. A few days afterwards a Spanish schooner anchored in our harbour & I bartered on half a hogshead of tobacco for cloth & iron. (Of this tobacco I will speak more hereafter). About a week before the arrival of the S. & Priscilla the Brig Ruth arrived from Philad. Jno Hanson owner & supercargo. Mr Thompson & wife came passengers in her from Cape Mesurado. Mr T. knowing that I was about commencing my house purchased at auction in Monrovia a quantity of lumber, lime, iron pots & Neptunes. The purchase was judicious & I accepted of the contract. I was obliged to draw on the Treasurer for 100 dollars to pay for the purchase by Mr T. I bartered two puncheons of palm oil with Mr Hanson for crockery & ~~cloth~~ & also my boat for cloth at 150 dollars, taking cloth at their current wholesale value on this coast. I parted with the boat because she was not strong enough for a cargo boat & not large enough for coasting, & no one was able to manage her sails. Now all these trades I have been necessitated to make & most of them to a decided disadvantage, from not having goods enough in the outset & I could not be supposed to guess exactly what might come. The S. & Priscilla of course found our pantry well supplied but I assure you her cargo was quite acceptable as I now have a full apartment & can do business more to advantage. ~~I am also [illegible]~~ ~~to [illegible] I [illegible]~~ But I am delighted to state that the goods like all others have brought their attendant troubles. The natives have laid claims to one half the cargo as belonging to them, & we must be satisfied with the amount agreed upon in our first palaver. I think that they are determined to pick your pot as far as they can & should I move give in, & make any considerable addition (& it must be considerable to give present satisfaction) prove, there would be no end to their extortions. They have doubled the price agreed upon for our provisions & carry it on boards of vessels in our harbour & sell it for half. There is no limit to the depredations which they are constantly committing. They have withdrawn all help from our towns & persuaded the bush people, & as far as they are able the beach towns the have our trade with us. & they are determined to bring us to their terms. But should we do this once, there is an end to our independence & we can never afterwards have any peace or transact any business with them in a reasonable manner. I have made every exertion to keep peace with them & to coax & reason them into good manners, but it is of no avail, they must fear us or connexion with them will be out of the questions. I am blamed on the one hand by the colonists for being partial to them in all differences which have occurred between ~~them~~ both parties & on the other hand by the natives for not giving them ~~to understand they have a friend at court~~ the same assurance. Peace has again come on to the carpet & they are clamorous for it, but they I steadily & uniformly deny. — The only inducement trouble I apprehend is to get rice for the people & for this purpose I would charter the Sela, a couple of months, but from your responsibility & prudent dread of drafts I had rather run the risk of starvation. To succumb & grant their unreasonable demands I never will, & I believe the majority of the colonists generally perhaps the writer of obstinacy to the same effect. I shall be obliged to forward rations much longer than the period fixed, 6 months but I shall sell the provisions at cost & have them blown for the public use or remuneration. I have before informed you that we arrived at least a month too late to do any thing at planting the ensuing year although I hope one year hence expeditious arrivals to have a quantity land, cleared & grubbed, that they may be stimulated to immediate exertion & can accommodate one hundred, with ease, & I hope ere they arrive that I shall have cleared up our political horizon & laid in a five hundred bushels of Rice — I shall take an account of stock on hands & make out my semi-annual ufe on the first of September & I trust it will be satisfactory when examined by your executive committee.

To satisfy you concerning the voyage of the S. & P. you had better consult their log-book — In very great haste I have the honour to be yours

J. Hall

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834