yield or make him any satisfaction until he resolved take some measures to stop their increasing depredations. He was about out of rice & had no hopes of obtaining any except through this town but I had concluded to put the whole Colony upon half rations myself among the rest & make an overture of reconciliation until the whole was effected: & then to demand what was due us from their people which I knew was already in their houses, or to let some come from the neighbouring towns. To give them their choice to pay us their debts for money advanced &c. viz. to open the passage for trade with the other towns or to fight with us. I say I had proposed upon this occasion but I had little doubt but if left entirely to themselves they would come forwards & make honourable proposals for settling the palaver as our notions would be entirely yielded to. In this unhappy state of affairs with danger from treachery on the part of Natives on the other, when we seek voluntarily submitted to bear the privations & sufferings incident to our present precarious situation solely with a view to secure our property from the increasing depredations of the natives: I had the strong mortification to see one of our colonists shut up to me by the King charged with stealing Cassada from their fields. His guilt was unquestionable. The King sent a message desiring to know why I sent him to steal. that if his boys stole from me I punished him for commanding it that he had a right to suppose the same of me." This completely changed the State of affairs. He totally men completely turned & we had nothing to do but back out. I mentioned not that I offered to give him up to the King: to make him pay or that I put him in irons & confined him to publick work. The Colonists were branded as Kings & we demands to be a reason with them. & the grounds that I had taken to make the King responsible for thefts was by this movement rendered untenable. I could do no better than acknowledge it. Some days after this the King came up the river to receive his good present &c. On being told what was due he affected to be in a great rage & pretended that other

actually to a great amount were due. & among the rest 1/ from Bacon of Rice. I knew this was a mere shaw & only a trick to cheat something. You are at this time knowing our present circumstances for provisions. I shewed the bottom of our provision bag & the amount of rice & called witnesses. reasoned &c. & threatened, but all to no purpose. They only knew that this was the last time that they would have the like advantage & if they were determined to trespass &c. I applied at last to Lieutenant Stockton but was misunderstood on at the time to purchase & at last compromised matters by giving them about 200 lbs of beans which was to load that I could have made 1/ off & 214 yds cloth. by this with about property belonging to them. This was hard but any & - privately rather than quit the land." I must either procure the cession & two or eight per Sustenance. Bimbi I was sensible that I put it into their power to make - at our cost purchase. (After this palaver was fairly settled trade again commenced & we have never on hand some hundred bushels of rice. but I found it impossible to keep any quantity of it cleaned & must procure a further supply in the bulk. Nothing however was done respecting the Armory until on Mr Davis a brother of the King who had been some years at Sierra Leone came home. He is a shrewd & cunning, energetic fellow. & was very soon convinced that matters were badly managed in town & set himself about breaking up the business. He very soon had some half dozen boys, sons relations &c who returned that had been long missing. I cannot but hope that in a short time we can make some permanent arrangement that will secure the property of the Colonists more than ever. A short time since I received a visit & dash from Mah King of Bassa Cove & Mr Ashmun to open negotiations for his territory (within you will recollect is our purchase though lying within our limits) but I found that it would not be advisable to press it at present but wait until schools had been established at Grahway & the Cavally River. & then they will see the advantage of being "America men" & eagerly come forwards & give up their territory to our controul. King Tom a mighty able Chief on the Cavally River

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834