marked him off amidst the mingled shouts & execrations of his friends & persecutors. This one circumstance will demonstrate to you the beneficial influence we even now begin to exert among the natives, & that our hopes of overthrowing their barbarous & cruel long established customs are not visionary. The number that annually fall victims to the accursed machinations & blind zeal of their Gree Gree men (a compound of Priests Doctors & Devils) is incalculable. During the nine months since our arrival four have been killed in this way in this one town, & within 20 miles of us we can number ten or fifteen towns equally large where this business is practised to the same extent. The sacrifices of Juggernaut cannot compare with this, either with regard to the number of the victims or the ~~[illegible]~~ horror of the sacrifice. In that case 'tis a religious self-immolation, in many instances stimulated by the noblest sentiments of our nature. The victim in fact dies a religious martyr & glories in his fate. But here the innocent falls a sacrifice to vile practice & Jugglery & suffers a shockingly painful & inglorious death as a criminal, which death is considered by these deluded people as an incontestable proof of his guilt as a "witch man" or necromancer. This evil calls loudly for a remedy & from the above incident you see a remedy is practicable, & at hand too. We might forcibly put a stop to it at once by legal enactments, but this is not expedient. The more judicious way to put an end to this & the many other diabolical & cruel practices of their Gree Gree men, is to diffuse light & information among the majority of the people. This course is slow, but practicable & sure. Many very many of the more intelligent natives already declare that they will have nothing to do with such business, but still they are overruled by the nobility, (~~[illegible]~~) & they cry out earnestly for more light! And to diffuse this light seasonably, the colony is inadequate, we must have assistance. Since my first acquaintance with the Colony at Cape Mesurado I have been decidedly of opinion that unless the natives of this country can be enlightened & improved, unless they can be raised to a level with the colonists & amalgamate with them, Colonization will prove a heavy curse to both parties.

And inasmuch as it does not seem immediately advantageous to the colonists to enlighten them, we cannot expect them to use any great exertions to do it. They have concerns of their own to attend to, & can only influence the natives by example. We must have the aid of Missionaries & teachers, & of these not a few. Independent of the welfare of the Colony, I do not believe there is a place on the globe where missionary labour would yield so great a reward. The population is dense, the inhabitants peaceable, intelligent & exceedingly anxious for information & there is no bar or hindrance whatever to the most full & ample operations of the missionary & philanthropist. The advantages that the Colony & the Missionary cause will mutually derive from each other is incalculable. The Missionary alone surrounded by barbarians totally dissimilar in every mode of action or thought, is viewed as a supernatural being, and although they may ever so much admire his precepts & desire improvement, still so great is the distance between what they are & would be, that the task seems too great for them to undertake, their resolution is inadequate to ~~the~~ the task & after a few ineffectual struggles, despondency & indifference succeed ~~their~~ to hope. But here we are introducing amongst a ~~semi civilized~~ people, many of whom are already accustomed to Europeans, ~~the~~ some of their own race, possessing the advantages of civilization, & ~~[illegible]~~ acquired even during a period of slavery & degradation. & of these advantages I assure you the natives are fully sensible & they are sensible too that they are within their reach, that the difference between them & the colonists is artificial, that the barriers to their elevation are easily surmounted, their ambition & perseverance are adequate to the task, & to effect this & speedily too, they only require instruction, instruction in the most general sense of words. To preach the christian religion to them in their present state, is to do nothing & worse than nothing, they are unable to appreciate its excellencies, & would place it & its teachers on a level with their own long established superstitions & their Gree Gree men. They must first possess the advantage of acquiring

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1834