had to retrace our course to Cape Messurado; if none there, to Sierra Leone, & so on; which might have entirely ruined our voyage. —— Had Government done her part like the Benevolent Societies & stationed a few vessels of war on this coast — say, two between Sierra Leone & Fernando Po, our vessels would feel at home here, & our commerce would rapidly increase. Now that the world has seen that vessels can be navigated without Rum, one great obstacle to the more frequent visits of National & all other vessels to this Coast has been removed. It is well known to you that but few years have elapsed since it was considered certain death for, at least one half the crews of all African merchant ships; & the cause I do sincerely believe was the use of rum. Now crews for this trade are almost uniformly shipped with the prohibition of rum; and I know of many vessels returning to New York without the loss of a man, & in fact no record on the log of sickness on board the whole voyage. —— Temperance in eating & drinking, avoiding exposure to the sun, and violent exercise; and making it a general rule not to be ashore after night fall; & I believe one may prosecute a voyage on the coast of Africa with as much safety as in any port of the world. —— It is to the English that we are indebted for the security of our trade & protection from piratical aggression; their language is used for trade along the whole coast. The French, Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese have to master an Africo-English. It is really astonishing that our Government should permit Settlements of her own citizens to remain unprotected on this coast, when they might be protected & fostered at so little expence; and next to slavery, I consider it the greatest stigma on our national character. —— But to return to the Colony. But eighteen months have elapsed since the present Governor, Dr Hall landed on this Cape with about thirty men & boys, and made a purchase of a large extent of territory without inserting the article Rum in the list of purchase money, & it has since been supported, & prospered without that article being allowed into the Colony in any way for the use of Colonists, or for native trade. Being but little acquainted with new Settlements, you may not place much confidence in my judgment; but I doubt much if any town in our western country has made equal progress with this in the same length of time, with the expenditure of twice the amount of Capital. — But to confine myself to facts — This village, now eighteen months old, contains twenty three framed dwelling houses of one & two stories: one two storied Store house and a commodious framed weather-boarded & thatched meeting house, independent of the Agency buildings which are a fine two story residence for the Governor; suitable outhouses; a large forty feet two story stone warehouse, handsomely finished on the inside, which would do honor to any of our towns. There are three well constructed receptacles for Emigrants; two of seventy five feet each in length, and one of one hundred & twenty feet. The latter stands on the public farm about half a mile from the village, on which also are being erected a two story dwelling for the Farming Agent, and a strong jail. On the farm lands, about one & a half mile from Harper, are nine dwelling houses occupied by late emigrants, and I should judge that there are fifty acres of land under good cultivation, which on a short time will supply a sufficiency of vegetable food for the whole Colony. — When I have said this much, it will be unnecessary to add that the people are enterprising and industrious, and the affairs of the Colony well conducted. There are two schools in the colony which are well attended both by Colonists & natives, and I am informed that they both make rapid progress. That the natives lack not zeal in the matter, I am well assured from seeing men of twenty & thirty years of age with their slates and cards conning their Alphabet. Thanks a missionary establishment has been under the care of the Revd. Mr. Wilson, who together with his lady appear to be admirably well adapted by their conciliating manners to win the affections of the natives which is indispensible in order to effect any change in their character. They both apparently enjoy excellent health, having become quite naturalized, although not a year has elapsed since they landed. —— The natives, although reported to have been heretofore the most dangerous this side of St. Andrews bay, are now perfectly friendly and peaceable, and look up to the Governor of the Colony as a Father. — The King made us a visit on board, dressed in a shirt, pantaloons and a New York cut black coat surmounted by two tarnished epaulettes a tri-cocked hat & long red plume ——

The natural advantages of Cape Palmas are greater than those of any other point of the coast. The anchorage & landing is decidedly the best I have seen; and although it has little trade now except Palm Oil, yet its situation (being the convening point between the windward & leeward coasts,) it must one day command the main trade of both, and become a depot for immense quantities of merchandise to be distributed by small Colonial crafts from one to two hundred miles each way.

If this slight sketch will afford you any satisfaction, I shall be amply repaid for the communication; for I assure you I have derived no little pleasure from acquainting myself thoroughly with so beautiful a Colony in this land of ignorance & barbarism ——

Of the matter herein contained, you may make what use you see proper —

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835