Harper Liberia Apr 3d 1835

To Rev R B Lathrop Esq
Cor Secy Md S.C.S.

My dear Sir. In my last communication from Fishtown Harmony I stated to you our relations with the tribes in our vicinity, detailing the palaver with the Half Cavally people & also my attempts to open a communication to the Cavally River via the bush country & of my sending for & exchanging presents &c with the bush kings in order to effect this object. All these attempts proximately resulted in the easy accomplishment of the object desired yet subsequent events demanded me for a time from bringing the affair to an issue.

I believe I have before intimated to you that King Freeman, Boler & Barbaro did not act in good faith in detaining the story to me, which I then suspected, but delay in order to investigate the matter at that time would have been exceedingly dangerous to the whole undertaking. Instead of owning the land as specified in the deeds they only have claim to a strip of about five miles in breadth from Cape Palmas to King Cavis country & of about the same breadth to Half Cavally. They have no claim relative to more than three miles on the River. The country between us & the River, a few miles from the beach, is owned & occupied by bush kings, totally independent of Freeman Boler or Barbaro. Knowing this to be the true situation of the country I was extremely anxious to treat with the bush kings, ere they perceived that we should ultimately be dependent on them for lands for our people & to obtain a prescriptive claim to this territory apparently as a matter of courtesy & kindness rather than necessity. But as I said before, while this application was entertaining more important matter claimed my attention. Having for some time been aware of the important & extensive influence possessed by King Tom of Robo Mah over the River people, I determined