if practicable to connect him in some manner with the Colony, or at least to cultivate a friendly intercourse with him. For a long time he holds off, having in the first place been greatly exasperated that our large Ships should take no notice of him in the palaver first held at Cape Palmas, at the time of our purchase; & also at not receiving any share of the money, as is customary in similar cases in this country. However he repeated kindnesses shown him through his heads made them at length manifest a more friendly disposition, & at the time ~~above mentioned~~ I was about effecting a treaty with the Cassa Kings, as above mentioned I received a friendly message from King Tom requesting me to visit him, stating his willingness to treat with me upon the subject of a cession of his territory, as I had often desired. Upon this, I immediately embarked in a Canoe for the Cavally River, which I reached in safety although completely drenched in the surf on landing. About two miles from the river mouth I procured the water which constantly dashed in upon us to be much ~~colder~~ warmer than the sea water generally, & on further examination I found it almost perfectly fresh. You may therefore judge with what velocity the Cavally discharges its waters into the ocean. From Baphroo's place I immediately dispatched a messenger to King Tom at Robookah informing him of my arrival, & that I would wait upon him the day following, & should effect to meet his head men & sub-Kings to sit in the palaver. Should he not be prepared then to give a slight sketch of the political ~~&~~ state of King Tom's dominions at this time. He is the acknowledged head King of the Kalyemah or Grand Devil country, which includes from ~~2~~ to ~~300~~ 200 square miles. Situated on the Cavally River, embracing both sides to the extent of 14 miles from its mouth, with the exception of a small town belonging to the Half Cavally people, & about three miles from its mouth on the west side, already ceded to & belonging to the Mad'l & Society, occupied by King Baphroo & a head man named Cranah.

(For the particular boundaries of which see deed.) He was formerly a Cassa King & resided some miles up the river, but Bite as he became more powerful he removed to the beach & built the town of Robookah, about four miles east of the River mouth. There are two Kings belonging to the Same Kibbo subject in other respects to him, who inhabit towns to be hereafter noticed up the River. There existed at this time a misunderstanding or jealousy between Tom & his sub-Kings arising to the following cause. As I said before (& of which I shall speak more particularly hereafter) this is the Grand Devil Country. In it is located the Grand Delphos which regulates the political movements of some of the most powerful tribes in Western Africa. This Oracle is consulted by all from Grand Bassa to St Andrews Bay, & I believe was formerly much visited by Ashantees & Mantees. The votaries are always obliged to make some remuneration in proportion to the magnitude of the matter under consideration, or the ability of the devotee, & the generality pretty ample as the nature of the answer or the benefit of the votary is supposed to depend in some degree upon its amount. You will ~~[illegible]~~ This is a kind of Nick pot pope or Bishop, to appoint by the direction of the Oracle people who manages the whole business & receives the offerings of the votaries. This he is obliged to distribute among the headmen of his tribe, to their general satisfaction, or he chooses to pass a short lived animal. The last of these dignitaries died by Sassy-Woods about a month previous to my visit to Cavally. Among the Candidates for his succession was King Tom himself. This greatly alarmed the two Cassa Kings, as they were sensible that in case King Tom succeeded he would trouble himself little about a division of the Spoils, & there would be an end to this ~~[illegible]~~ prolific ~~[illegible]~~ source of profit. They accordingly opposed King Tom & succeeded in securing the election of a headman of one of their Cassa towns. This greatly chagrined the King ~~&~~ & was one of the causes which induced him to treat with me, & cede his territory to the Mad'l & Society.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835