hoping thereby to throw the power he felt himself losing into other hands than those of his Enemies: & to secure to himself a good representation with his new allies.

I also subsequently learned that he had received some intelligence of my negotiations with the Grebo Kings on the river: ~~this would naturally induce~~ him to treat with me as I could offer any thing thought than & he readily fancied, that should an arrangement be effected with them, for opening a road between Cape Palmas & the River; it would materially lessen his consequence, & the value of his trading, or render it less an object of desire to the American Agent. All these circumstances led me to suppose that a treaty would be easily effected with King Tom himself, but at the same time I became more doubtful of the disposition of his Sub-King Will, I presumed even rather jealous of the able man in consequence & influence.

~~On Friday Oct 16th~~ The next day Oct 16th I crossed the large basin at the mouth of the Cavally & proceeded to Rokobah in a hammock slung on a pole, a most uncomfortable manner of travelling, especially when haste compels one to force the bearers into good sound trot. The town is situated on the beach about four miles from the river, is very old & miserably constructed both as to materials & location. The smallest town at the River mouth called Church & governed by Herkel one of King Tom's head men is infinitely more pleasant & preferable in every respect.

After waiting a proper time his Majesty made his appearance in his full dress, viz a pair of blue Baft trowsers, a checked shirt & handsome waistcoat, Dragoons hat & brass trimmings. His countenance is not the that of most African Kings, of the ordinary cast indicative of a bold energetic character. Although striking, it was at first sight by no means pleasing. His forehead is narrow & sloping, his eyes placed at great distance from each other, his cheek bones very prominent forming the base of a cone, the apex of which you have in his beard braided & coiled up under a very sharp chin. When deeply engaged in talking a palaver he has a peculiarity or habit of throwing his chin out horizontally, & straining his eyes to the exterior of their sockets which gives an expression truly diabolical. Notwithstanding all this

I found his majesty exceedingly kind, courteous & hospitable: & what was far more, well disposed towards forwarding the subject matter of my voyage. Another personage belonging to this town soon attracted my notice & I found, upon enquiry, he was worthy of a formal introduction to you. I refer to the Grebo man of the town, whose English name is Governor Ben. He is the head war man of the whole Grebo tribe, & probably possesses more real influence than any other man in the country. His person is very extraordinary: his countenance generally calm & placid, yet at the same time grim & dignified; he seldom speaks, but always to the purpose, & I noticed that whenever he had given his words upon any subject ~~under~~ in question, no one presumed to say more until he gave upon it. I remained in this man's company more than a week & daily had some business to transact with him; during the whole of which time I noticed nothing in his conduct or deportment that would derogate in the least from the character of any distinguished gentleman of the civilized world. & I had occasion to witness much to admire & gain at once my confidence & respect. For of course I could only at one glance fully to understand & appreciate the ~~importance~~ nature & importance of the business of my mission, & cordially & judiciously co-operated with me in all apropriate measures provided for its successful accomplishment.

I found on my arrival that King Tom had not as yet dispatched a real official, to his liege Kings, but only a notice of my approach. A messenger was now dispatched demanding their attendance. Of course one day would be lost ere an answer could be received. However in the mean time the palaver was talked with King Tom & he was fairly disposed. I at once gave him to understand that I should not make a purchase, that I was now this country man like himself, & should be see fit to join his country & share & enjoy the rebate in common with my people, very well: he would receive other advantages therefor than pecuniary ~~considerations~~ remunerations. I stated fully the aims & objects of the Society in establishing

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835