settlement on this Coast, & the beneficial results his country would ultimately reap therefrom, in case he favored their views. This palaver closed with the day, without any thing definite being effected as the other Kings were absent.

Oct 17 – We waited without intelligence from the bush Kings until 3 o'clock in the afternoon when the messengers returned ~~with intelligence that~~ stating that in consequence of their late opposition to King Tom in the election for Grand Devil priest they were afraid to visit his town, but would take the palaver as he should dictate. We now speedily set about the palaver & agreed upon the most important points, insomuch that I felt determined upon ascending the river; & forthwith despatched my boats Rhoamen for goods, pistols, ammunition & all necessary affairs for the voyage. This evening (Saturday) the enclosed deed was executed & signed by King Tom & Boatswain, & an escort provided of Gov Mar & others to visit the other Kings, & assist in settling the palaver with them. I spent Sunday the 18th at Robertsville. The men did not return with their baggage until late in the evening. Arrangements were made early on Monday morning to meet King Tom at Church, & dash thro' & heads were after I had over-hauled our baggage left at Bofphros place. This business was completed about noon on Monday & I parted with them ~~King Tom & Boatswain were in the most friendly manner~~ with mutual protestations of friendship & good-will. The business of preparations for ascending the Cavally river was now speedily commenced. All our baggage had been afloat to the rain from the time of leaving Cape Palmas on Sunday morning until its arrival at Cavally, & remained in bags until my arrival on Monday noon. Consequently many important articles were rendered useless, & almost every thing required brushing up. I spent the whole afternoon in mounting a large swivel in Bofphros big canoe, which I succeeded in doing so that it worked admirably. Most of the night was spent in making cartridges, repairing arms & loading. If attached again, as in our first attempt to ascend the river I was determined to be in readiness. I had with me three Colonists Rufus Lee, Howard & Nixon & about twenty native. Two large canoes were requisite for our men, baggage, arms & trade goods. All things were arranged & we had a few hours of unbroken sleep before day.

With me it was confined deep in secrecy. The near prospect of accomplishing an enterprise which for the past year had engaged my attention, & in endeavours to effect which, I had been uniformly foiled; the romantic mystery which enveloped the Grande Cavally region, inspired me with an enthusiasm little short of absolute mania. I had also received intelligence that the Half-Cavally people were busily engaged exciting the bush people to acts of hostility, & that they intended to dispute our passage at their river towns. I had abundant room for speculation.

At day break all hands were mustered & our baggage put on board the canoes. The rain poured in torrents & from the density of the opaque mass overhead we had but little hope of respite during the morning. But so many & more powerful obstacles had risen ~~in spirited our paths~~ to baffle our efforts, that rain seemed of little consequence. Never did African voyagers embark on the majestic Quorra with more enthusiastic delight than ~~did~~ I approached to stemming the mighty current of my favorite Cavally. Upon the repeated rains & freshets the last few weeks the river was much swollen & came down with great power, which obliged us to avoid closely under the banks for eddies & counter currents. From the basin as we proceeded up the river gradually contracted its breadth to a half mile & sometimes less. Notwithstanding the torrents of rain in which we were drenched the scenery failed not to excite admiration. We passed three beautiful Islands within a few miles of the river mouth, two of which had just yielded their crops of rice & were now thickly covered with heavy second growth of Cassada. The banks were elevated from eight to fifteen feet above the surface of the water & from the frequent repetitions in it occasioned by the rapidity of the current, indicated a great depth of the ~~[illegible]~~ stream. The western bank was covered to the water's edge with bamboo & other aquatics, bound into one ~~[illegible]~~

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835