dense impenetrable wood by the innumerable vines which then with African vigor shooting out in the greatest profusion. On the east side the prospect was far more interesting if not more beautiful. Most of the land had been cleared to a distance of from one half to two miles from the river bank & crops of Rice & Cassada had been successively reaped thereon. Some crops were still on the ground. Most of the way however a heavy growth of Spear Grass covered the earth, which led one almost to fancy he could hear the whetting of the Scythe & see the reapers cocks in the distance. In the back ground of this beautiful landscape presented to the eye the straight, closely huddled trunks of immense forest trees: ~~which, by their branches at the~~ uniting only by branches at their capitals. They appeared like the stupendous columns of ancient Architecture supporting the wide extended verdant terrace formed by their foliage. Considering the great velocity of the current, we paddled up rapidly, the almost incessant rain proved a grand stimulus to exertion. The ~~river course~~ course of the river was for the first three miles N.W. & N.N.W. gradually rounding for the next two miles to N. N.E & even to E at Plorah the first town at which we landed. The first indications which we received of a settlement were a canoe landing; by close walking we soon received through the ~~branches of~~ bush a few huts clustered on the top of a high peak. The hill itself seemed suspended from the branches of the immense trees which rose from its base. So romantic was the spot that one could hardly put it to a human habitation. Doubts of this we soon had convincing proof from a shower of musketry poured down upon us in honour of our arrival. Passing this town (Dena) we immediately came abreast of Nealoh another town subject to King Tourah of Plorah situated like the first mentioned. The rain now ceased & the sun suddenly burst forth with apparently ~~unabated heat acquired during its long absence~~ & burnt with an unusual intensity owing to the perfectly transparent & pure state of the atmosphere.

In a moment after leaving Nealoh we rounded to under the beautifully located town of Plorah. Nothing was perceivable of it owing to the immense trees shown on the margin of the River until you are near enough to jump on shore among the plantain trees between the houses & the water. The main part of the town that immediately overhanging the River is elevated about thirty feet from the water level. It is quite a city in comparison with our back towns & the houses are neatly constructed. I should judge it did not contain three hundred souls. But all hands were up & screaming as usual. We gave them a crack from our swivels while for a time cleared the landing. It was now about half past 9 o'clock. We had been three & a half hours on the passage. The distance is between eight & ten miles, perhaps it may exceed the latter. On entering the town I soon perceived our Robo chief friends sent by King Tom to assist in the palaver, among whom I was glad to recognize Jos Ware or Lemande as is his country name. We were obliged to wait at least an hour in the hot sun for the appearance of the King without whose welcome we could not presume to touch any thing to make ourselves at all at home; besides it would have appeared quite vulgar in the eyes of the Nobility present to manifest the slightest uneasiness in consequence of wet garments & empty stomachs. At length a long lank Loucher made his appearance & was introduced as King Tourah. He was decidedly one of the most contemptible ragamuffin looking pieces of Magisty that I ever encountered. I became subsequently satisfied that no proper correspondence subsisted between his person & character. After waiting a proper time to appease our cause for our baggage & a bagpoot as a breakfast. ~~Impatience or delay~~ Poor Capucinnas was despatched in a twinkling & soon made his appearance in a more acceptable manner with a pot of boiled rice. After breakfast I formally made known my business to the King & desired him to send for his Colleague, belonging to the next town up the River. This he promised

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835