This ended the palaver. After dinner the deeds were executed. Every specification was fully made & explained, giving to every clause the broadest interpretation, & much wrangling ensued previous to signing. After this the dashes were produced, this business had been in the heart from the beginning & although the civilized people they had appeared to feel a great deal for the benefit of the rising generation etc. which the present gift was the only inducement to action. At sight of the cloth taken, the king appeared quite indignant & sullenly demanded if the whole was a dash for him or for his people. He was informed that they were intended for him & people altogether. That he could divide them as he saw proper. His conduct gave a clue to the other, a scene of confusion ensued, which can only be interpreted in an African town. I quietly waited its termination near two hours, but in vain; reason & even words were out of the question. Night was approaching & I ordered the goods returned to the house. They all menaced us by gestures at least, & declared that we should not go up the river, that we should go back as soon as morning came. To all of this I made no reply & seemed perfectly indifferent to the clamour on all sides. This ~~seemed~~ & irritated them so much the more, & it seemed as if they would split their throats, & throw their livers from their bodies, so violent were their gestures. I feared no violence from them until we should attempt to ascend the river, but I doubted much if the palaver could be quietly set. I perceived from the first that the Holy Cavally people maintained a powerful influence over the minds of many. & although they talked palaver with us in the day, I was well informed that an embassy from Cavally offered us in the night. I knew that in case the palaver was not quietly set, ~~that~~ they would make one of our canoes & carry the goods down to Boplaas place, & let us ride down in the other. I had determined not to move our goods from the house in which we lodged, but to fix our swivel in the floor of the house, capsize the roof, & sides & then clear the town, which we could easily do, as we were sit-

uated immediately in the center, on the apex of the hill. First however I thought proper to use all palliative measures. In the evening I sent privately for King Tweah & dashed him as if for his kind entertainment, expressing my sorrow that the palaver was spoiled, intimating that I should have early in the morning for home. In the manner I secured several other headmen unknown to each other, among whom was the G.D. priest. He said that I must not go that he would induce the King to set the palaver tomorrow. Early on the morrow King Tweah dashed me a bullock & said I must stay until breakfast. I found the Holy Cavally people had been up last night & prospected their suit to have them then as high as they strongly, but their promises of remuneration fell so far short of my yesterday dash that they rather lost there ground by this movement. After breakfast the palaver was again opened & continued among themselves for hours at least. Finally I was asked if I wished to go up the River: I replied that I had settled my palaver, that it was goods & they knew it, that they had behaved so that I cared little whether they accepted my dash or not, that I would add a few things more & if they took it, well & good. If not I should do what I pleased. They decided that the money might be again produced. It was done, & I must own it gave me much pleasure to see the King roll up his tobacco in a piece of Dimmets. The receiving of money is their only bond to a contract. The moment the King's money was deposited in his chest a scene of confusion ensued that almost killed me with laughter. All hands simultaneously seized upon the spoil: pieces of bleached cotton were rolled round & round their sooty bodies, dragged in the mire & torn in every direction

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835