Some one more fortunate than his fellows would cut off himself in half a dozen folds, slash both sides with his cutlass & clear for the bushes. Eight or ten others would hold upon upon the division of a piece, when some long tow-headed fellow would dash himself into the ring, fold the cable in his arms, pave some half dozen fellows in the dirt & make his way off. I saw one old head move of a small town entangled in a coil of Shifting, he was so corpulent as to be hardly able to waddle. A few lusty youngsters mindful of his situation were tugging violently at each end, the poor old man was rolled among the mud & rocks, crying aloud for white half & mercy. Many other articles proved not so difficult of distribution or rather division. The pipes & looking glasses shortly fulfilled their destiny. Cutlasses & knives were drawn through many a naked hand. The tobacco was served by handfulls. Many of the head men were unable to secure even one leaf. One little fellow, a grandson for a bush town, particularly excited my compassion & merriment. In the midst of the fray they had torn off the cloth he wore from home, & he came begging for another. He was in a complete plight indeed, entirely naked, behind a think wooden roundabout in which he was buttoned to the chin. That part of his face which appeared between this & a think felt hat crowned over his eyebrows, indicated the deepest agony. He sobbed & whined so dolefully that I gave him a pattern of Rosaccles, which at least improved his appearance.

The palaver was now settled in good earnest & I determined to be off while the turmoil lasted, that they might not again pitch upon me. We accordingly took us hurry leave of King Tresch, manned our canoes gave them a parting gun & once more to my infinite satisfaction found our prows up the stream. King Gunoa of Haidee had sent a man the night previous to escort us to his town. I took him on board my canoe. My old friend Lemmah also was of our party.



We left Floor about 4 o'clock in afternoon of Thursday Oct 22d. The distance thence to Haidee is four or five miles. We arrived in time to witness one of those delightful mellow sunsets which I have thought peculiar to America, at least I never before enjoyed one in Africa. The town is on the east side & immediately overhanging the River, whose waters appeared to move onward with unusual tranquility. Opposite was the site of an old demolished town, noted only by the immense plantain orchards which now in the midst of an extensive Rice & Cassada field. Beyonde was the dense forest, occasionally overtopped by one of those magnificent trees, frequently noticed on the banks of the Gambia, whose dark green foliage formed most an emphatic contrast with the soft mellow of light just fading in the west. I am not so world worn but a scene like this would, under any circumstances absorb my attention & render me contemplative. But now after suffering three days & nights of clamour & confusion at that detestable Floor it was doubly soothing to my anxious & troubled spirit, & seemed an harbinger of lay troublesome hours.

I stated to King Gunoa, this evening, the object of my visit & that I hoped from what I had heard of his goodness of mind that the palaver would be easily set in the morning & I be enabled at once to pursue my journey. At this his majesty seemed not a little elated, & promised that I should meet with different treatment than he had been informed I had received at Floor. With this promise I turned in for the night hoping to enjoy the rest which I so much required. But as the luck would have it, the King's brother died that night in the house next us & the dismal funeral howl dissipated all hopes of slumber.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835