The next morning Oct 23d Nothing could be done until the man was buried, & this could not be, until the sun had ascended at a certain point in his downward course. (say 20 clock P.M.) Consequently the day was lost. I sounded the river in sundry places & found it from 4 to 7 fathoms. About sundown the head man concluded, heard what I had to say & promised to confirm every thing I had contracted for in the morning. On Saturday Oct 24th I came very near being again failed. A man was to take Sassy Woods for witching or poisoning the King's brother, & all hands must attend. With much coaxing & dashing I counseled this movement & got the man clear. We had nothing more to do but sit down, read & explain the nature of the deed, the obligations of both parties, & sign it. This was speedily effected. The dashes were now produced & at once accepted with, I believe, a sincere appropriation of thanks. It is with remarking, (although it may be of no service for you to know it) that I have never in any part of Africa met with so placable, civil, & courteous people as at this Grand Drei's Town. After breakfast I asked permission to visit the Grand Drei's which after much consultation was granted. Accordingly a canoe was manned, guide & Priest put on board, & we forthwith pulled away for this famous creek. The creek which leads to it empties into the Cavally close to the town. It is very narrow & deep, & comes down with considerable velocity. The water is not muddy like the river but very dark so that the bottom is imperceptible in no place. The banks are covered with large trees & a dense undergrowth of vines & other shrubs, oftentimes meeting over head & rendering the passage exceeding gloomy, & to a timid mind, wonderful. Upon our first entrance into the creek, the priest standing in the bow of the canoe dropped in all the insignia of his order; occasionally in a deep hollow tree

called upon his Dreilship informing him of our approach & quality of his new notary. We pulled up the creek about four miles & the landing was effected by a most miserable slushy path, in a circuitous route to the top of a hill, elevated something like 200 ft above the level of the creek, & a distance of at least one mile from the landing. Here we found a thatched shed & some blocks to rest ourselves upon, until the priest should go & see if Grand Drei had come this time, & if he will for look Cavally man". On stepping a few rods into the bushes, he commenced his inquiry in the same hollow tone, & was shortly answered by a whistle at a distance. He soon returned with a favorable answer, viz that we were welcome & Grand Drei be glad for look white man. We were now joined by another party who had come across the bush. We were here shown a certain tree having a hard grain bark which cuts like a knife, or rather scratches like a gritter, against which all were directed to rub their bodies, stating that it served to preserve life: which it no doubt would if external irritation was necessary. The boys all rubbed them covering with great satisfaction. I declined the favour. His distance majesty was now said to be waiting for us. We accordingly began to descend the other side of the hills, where no path at all existed except what was formed by a water course. This we followed near half a mile, oftentimes letting ourselves down around fast of perpendicular rocks, supporting ourselves by vines & bushes, then hobbling over masses of short stones, occasionally slipping into the brook, & wetting a foot or limb, now & then receiving a gentle hint from some overhanging thorn, to use more caution in a place so second. At length we overtook our priest & guide, the former seated under the cavity of a rock about 8 feet square, set in one bank of the rivulet, & slightly arched in front where the priest was sitting. A small square rock rests in the middle of the stream on which I had the honour to be seated, & which I believe is always occupied by any one consulting the oracle. I was then asked if

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835