would admit of opening negotiation with the Kroo people at present. When I gave orders to put out they became outrageous & threatened to stop us on our return. Hoping on our soon arrival at the Kroo country which had lately been leased by the Sao Pedro people with whom they were now at war. Here the old head man received our pipes & tobacco with thanks & good wishes for a prosperous voyage. We passed Blunt a small town on the western bank, & arrived at Denah near dark. The town of Dikra is located in the apex of a rocky hill, something like 150 or 200 feet above the river. it contains about 200 houses & perhaps 1500 inhabitants. The river here turns suddenly from north to east forming opposite the town a beautiful water bound plain, covered with a luxuriant growth of our tropical vegetables. You have a full view of the river in the South as far as Sekra. This is really a splendid, charming situation. It was to the King of this place that I formerly despatched a messenger, inviting him to visit our settlement, that I might induce him to permit me to open a communication through his territory to the Niger. The messenger was also requested to invite the King of the Kusso country, residing between this & Cape Palmas. With Boe Opicon commanding the Kusso King told the messenger that he would inform the King of Denah, & both come together. He sent a child to tell the Denah King which was equivalent to mocking him, & came to the Cape alone, thinking by so doing, to render himself more consequential & procure a larger dashe. This management I had never learned until my arrival at Denah, of course I was astonished to find King Sick ill disposed towards me. On the evening of my arrival he gave my head man to understand that we could not be allowed to proceed up the river on our voyage. This was not the most pleasing intelligence, situated as we were in the midst of this large town, & having at least 500 goods muskets near. Open opposition was useless. We had other sources also of disquiet, less important, but more immediately annoying. We

A heavy charge from at least one thousand people, void of all restraint or decency, determined at the hazard of broken pates & bloody noses to gratify their curiosity: not curiosity to see a white, but to watch his every action & gesture. The slightest movement of any kind as spitting, eating, drinking, taking off one hat or even looking at any another, occasioned the most deafening & continued clamour. All this I endeavoured to endure with Christian like fortitude & resignation: but soon the hut became so oppressive, & the air in the closely shut house so impure from their peculiarly odorous breath that my physical powers could not longer bear up against it, & I was obliged to resort to artifice to sustain life. The house was finally cleared, & we were found alive in the morning, when light revealed to us the candle of the atmosphere of one of our senses before insupportable. Six days previous to our arrival they had killed a very large Elephant about twenty miles distant, & had just succeeded in depositing the whole in & about the palaver house for division. This animal when newly killed has a peculiarly disagreeable & very strong smell, enough to turn any delicate stomach from receiving a morsel; but now that it had been six days exposed to the sun by day, & moon by night & had become completely re-animated, it emitted a stench inconceivably horrible. Of this savoury melange of the quick & dead, the whole town of Denah had become fully saturated, so that no hope of exemption or momentary freedom from this ill pervading deluge of putrefaction remained. The breath & perspiration of the inhabitants exhaled it even more deadly than the disjointed carcase itself. This rendered my case hopeless as the latter might have been shunned, but the former never. - I had not supposed it possible for the human stomach to receive so revolting a substance, much less to

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835