Beyond this beautiful green drapery. Fancy alone can penetrate. It may be the abode of water Nymphs or Alligators. Naiades or Bacchanals. Leaving them to themselves just stretch your eye through the long vista formed by the variegated banks till it rests on that slight structure, in the distant crown of the acclivity, which gives a brighter reflection of light than the surrounding dark green forest. This you will perceive on your approach is the site of a native town. You soon see the conical bay-reed houses crowning its summit; for a little distance on either side you will soon distinguish the bright, short, green grass, on which are feeding flocks of sheep & goats, with great numbers of sleek black, fat, beeves. A nearer approach will introduce you to nothing more interesting: the dirt soon commences which I will share you & myself too. When you have occasion to be seen thus much through the dull perspective of my pen. You will have a correct view of the Cavally from Denoah to its mouth — Of the face of the country back from it, I know nothing from personal observation. I should think however from what I could learn that it was neither elevated, nor marshy, but a cultivated, pleasant, arable country, capable of yielding abundant heavy crops of the most exhausting produce with comparatively little injury —

Before day on Monday morning Oct 26th the loud wailing of the women gave me to understand that my poor little patient had taken her departure for a less palaverous sphere, & deeming it improper to trouble King Ash in his grief, I ordered all hands quietly to ship our baggage, & we were soon under way. The sun had not yet risen to dispel the dense heavy fog which proved exceedingly chilly & disagreeable to me, although it stimulated the hands to most vigorous exertion. After paddling up one or two miles from Denoah we saw no traces of cultivation, nor of the labours of man. The land was much less elevated than what we had heretofore passed occasionally shelving to the water's edge & skirted with mangrove; although no

indications of marshes were observed. The soil also appeared more sandy & rocky. Perhaps this may account for its not being cleared. I could however perceive from Denoah that there appeared to be an elevated ridge back from the river. About seven miles up we passed a beautifully elevated spot on the eastern bank; a curve of the river here forming a deep spacious bay. I ordered the men to pull across, but no. I demanded the cause & was told of a tradition that is current among them & universally believed. viz. That a big Snake once inhabited this place & subsisted entirely on the canoe men who passed up & down; that so great was the dread of him, that the river was actually abandoned, & a camping place was opened on the opposite side. At length the head men of Eneamo contrived to slay him in the following manner. They heated a stone for some days in the fire, then killed a sheep, & quickly stowing the stone up in his abdomen, put the whole into a canoe & pushed it into the stream. The Snake (as in duty bound) followed the first & soon died in great agonies. Notwithstanding years have elapsed since this famous exploit, they affirm that no canoe has ever approached that bank. & this I easily believe; for neither threats nor entreaties could induce them to put me on shore or even cross the stream. About eight miles from Denoah we encountered on the starboard side a very bold rock which juts shelving into the stream. Never did cold limed bullock's ears meet with a more cordial reception; & mine entire was a prime article. From this, we quickly brings you to Eneamo on the Eastern bank. The land becomes considerably more elevated than any yet passed. Eu-don-ne-vous a town at some distance from the river on the west side, is situated on an elevation of three hundred feet. We had not a fair view of it until our descent. We this forenoon passed the towns upon which notice on the map, all of which are beautifully situated & are generally about the size of Flock or Bridge.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835