danger from freshes or floods. The privileges of any kind of mills or machinery at this place must be immaterial, from the rapidity & succession of the falls & the divisions of the river. That they will at no very distant period be accomplished to some extent I think we have great reason to hope.

After landing our canoes & baggage at Hayes, most from the head King of the country at Attea, that we must visit his town. Said to be close at hands. Having concluded that neither time, funds nor duty would admit of my further ascending the river, I determined to visit Attea. Leaving our Sickel, ammunition chest & some heavy baggage at Hayes carrying only our small arms, we set off for the Kings town. It will be useless to attempt to describe the vexations of a journey of six miles through a thick undergrowth of bush & brier, following a zig zag bush path, where you had only anticipated a distance of half a mile. My patience was completely exhausted also my strength; for at least half of the way I was obliged to walk, owing to some obstructions in the path. Steep ascent or descent, where it was impossible to carry me in hammock or on man-back. After ascending a mountain of from four to six hundred feet elevation, we arrived at the large town of Attea, which completely covers the apex of this perfect cone. The ascent was in some places extremely difficult, abrupt & broken; our path however was always good as we followed the pastor course, or rather the water from the heavy rains followed the beaten track, clearing the paths completely of their shrubs & soil. We entered the town amid a mingled shower of rain & musketry, & the increasing roar from thousands of standard guns, & the deep heavy booming from this mighty polaver house drum. I have often endeavored, although in vain, to give you an idea of the uproar & confusion caused by my entrance into a native town, therefore I shall not again attempt it. But suffice it to say, I never before saw the human countenance indicate astonishment, wonder or admiration. I never before heard a full chorus of human voices. In this case, I felt that my whole life had been that of stillness & silence till the arrival of this hour. The whole town is well secured by a high, strong palisade of river plants. In entering which, we were conducted through a long narrow street enclosed on both sides in the same manner, occasionally passing little openings or doors which led to the separate enclosures of the different families belonging to the town, each enclosure containing

from five to twenty houses. The great palaver house is built on this main street in the very centre of the town & on the highest point of the mountain. They turned us into one of the enclosures or pens containing the Kings houses & family. Here we suffered from the combined evils of fatigue, hunger, wet clothes, rain & uproar; not to mention the extreme danger of suffocation. We were obliged to keep a breathing passage clear at the doors with bayonets. Kindly seeing that we would not quietly permit or suffer them, they faltered, & I was obliged to open a gap in hand & play upon the naked cravings; this I did so effectually that the slightest movement from one would afterwards clear the passage. After passing a troublesome evening afterwards in this manner, I enjoyed an uncommon share of sleep during the night, & my bones pounded, much refreshed & in good spirits. I had an opportunity in the morning to view the extent of the town & the practicality of its location. As I before said it occupies the entire summit of the mountain, is completely secured by palisades, is at least one mile in circumference & as thickly studded with houses as the north will possibly admit of, & contains at least three thousand inhabitants. The view from either side was romantic & beautiful beyond description. I have said so much of the scenery on the river even from my first out-set in the deluge of rain, to this place, & been so lavish in my terms of admiration, that I fear you will think it mere habit, or a desire to excite an undue interest in the reader; & I would have spare you, if I could in justice, but I cannot. There was a wildness of beauty, magnificence & grandeur before me, such as I never before anticipated. The mirror of nature abundantly repaid me for all the vexations & confusion. On the south side my journey to Hayes, although greatly interesting now, was not so much calculated to excite my admiration. The whole region presented to the distant horizon was charming, covered with hills & dales, the little patches of rice & green sward surrounded by the dense dark forests. With the aid of my telescope I could plainly detect one of the innumerable hills before me, crowned with the sharp points of native houses, indicating that the whole country was inhabited. The northern view differed from that of the south only that in the distance, for as the eye could reach, I could trace the dim blue outline of an extensive, elevated range of mountains, apparently running parallel with the neighbouring coast.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835