large town and this was the end for some days. I at last found that they did not intend to regard my demands for damages, and were determined that the disputed land should not be settled upon, They even made open threats that if I attempt to build a house upon the land they would not only pull it down but ~~would~~ kill those who worked for me, and if I made war upon them, they would move to the Bush, and then they would kill us, when ever they could catch us. The new Emigrants of course, under these circumstances could not settle upon their land, and if this land was given up to the natives, more than a mile and a half would intervene between our farms, and in our present enfeeble state no, lot of emigrants would venture so far from the main body. I shall send a map to explain more fully why I was particularly anxious about this land, and no consideration would have induced me to give it up under the circumstances in which I was placed. Tabso was anxious to avoid war with these people, nor did I wish to offer to purchase this land as they might have refused to sell it, when they found I was willing to buy, and by so doing I would have acknowledged their claim and layed open an ~~and~~ avenue for further imposition ~~in future~~. I therefore adopted this expedient as the last effort to preserve the Colony from war; I requested the Revd T. L. Wilson to let them know that as I was a new Governor I would Dash the King and head men if these palavers were not in the way, they were not to be informed however that I knew that he communicated it to them. I also offered to settle the thief palaver by paying for the damages if they would grant me a public road through the large town, all of

which was unavailing. Things had now come to such a crisis I was determined to abandon persuasion and prepare for the worst, and issued the following order.

Proclamation — Owing to a peculiar state of affairs arising out of depredations committed upon the farms and stock of some of the citizens of this Colony, by some of the natives inhabiting the native towns of Cape Palmas; And whereas there appears to be little hopes of the said natives settling the dispute amicably on the contrary they have through their King and head men laid claim to land which has been divided to the new Colonists, and to which land, the natives of the said Cape Palmas towns have not the least shadow of a claim, having received a just compensation for the same and which compensation is so acknowledged by some of their head men, and as they persist in this pretended land claim which no doubt was intended in the first place to set aside the claim we had upon them for depredations, and as it is now evident, that some more decisive steps must be taken to preserve the peace and welfare of the Colony, and to let them see we are not to be intimidated by the threats they are now openly making against the lives and property of some of the Colonists, and that we are determined to have our rights at all hazards, I deem it my duty to issue this my Proclamation commanding that unless the dispute is settled between the Goverment of this Colony and the natives of Cape Palmas before Wedensday the 30th day of March, that after that date all trade between them and this Colony shall cease: And I hereby command that the order citizens residing on this side of the publick farm hold themselves ~~ready~~ in readiness to repair at the fireing of two guns in quick succession, to the Agency house and all those citizens residing beyond the publick

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836