well trained at present that one of our people can take a thief, or criminal, of any description through their towns and lodge him or her in jail ~~(which is kept up by the Public Town)~~ without any one of them daring to molest the officer in the discharge of his duty. When I first came here, some of our people were bringing a Woman belonging to the large native town before me, for stealing as they passed through her Town. the King and some of the Head Men released her. I had them imediately summoned before me, and repremanded them ~~at the same time~~ for it or cer ~~explained to them why I was the most proper person and why they had no business to interfeere. I told them if the person was a thief I had witnesses to prove it if he or she was not a thief I had also witnesses to prove that, and in this way I always heard both sides and they but one, I also told them if it was a crazy man or woman I was a better judge than they, and if it was a child too small to punish I had as much sense to know it as they had, and besides all this I was Governor (This last was an argument they could not gainsay)~~ The King said he had let the woman go because he did not think she was a thief. I told him that I would not permit any one to interfere with my Officers in the discharge of their duty ~~because notwithstanding the argument this people was [illegible] and that I had proof the woman was a thief, and told him what proof I had~~ He acknowledged having done wrong and said although he had let her off he would bring her before me. He did so, and I made her pay five times the amount of the Potatoes she had stolen, in Cassadas, since which we have had no difficulty on the score of the native interfering with the execution of our laws.

On the contrary ~~at present~~ they are as obedient to them as the Colonists and are quite as desirous ~~if not more so than a large majority of the Colonists~~ to please me and be thought good citizens. They have also more confidence, and place more trust in the ~~words of the~~ officers who settle ~~my~~ their accounts than the Colonists generally ~~do, which~~ This is an object of vast importance gained to the cause of Religion and Morality ~~upon~~ this part of the Coast; ~~as~~ Before the settlement of this place, the Natives in the neighbourhood doubted all that foreigners told them. I am at present engaged in building a Long House or receptickle for Emigrants. It is to be a framed house, one hundred and ten feet long, having eleven rooms, raised a short distance from the ground and covered with shingles in lieu of thatch as I think past experience demonstrates that Palm leaf Thatch does not answer the place of Shingles, nor does any other that we could procure here. I will give two reasons why it does not. In the first place the Natives will not place the Thatch on as they would for themselves, they can not be hired or persuaded to take the necessary pains. Secondly the Thatch is destroyed in a great degree whilst it is yet green by hundreds of Bugs, Lizards &c that afterwards have their nests in it and are continually shakeing down the dust and dirt, all of which evils render one of these Thatched houses absolutely untenable during the rainy season. The Fortune Emigrants was particular Miss Fortunate in this respect as well as some others, as soon as the rains commenced the sick, dying and dead was drenched, and when it happened to rain at night and whilst it rained those that could (without exception) rolled their beds, and bed clothing up and endeavoured to find a dry place to stow it

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836