Doct. George Ashmun
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
To
Doct. John A. Savage
157 Second street
February 16 1837

Duplicate

Harper's Ferry, January 19. 1832

Jno. H. B. Latrobe Esq
Dear Sir,

It is now the most since my arrival here accompanied by a loss of health, I feel that I am better prepared from knowledge acquired during this time, to communicate concerning the affairs of the colony. We are now living at peace with all on neighbors, the little difficulties and alarms, had occurred to settle at the commencement of my administration, have given place to better feelings on their part; & I trust, the result has not been wholly lost upon myself. In endeavoring to rid of all these troubles, arising from the petty thefts of the natives, many of which, had been passed over unpunished, as I told had then become, from success, that depredations were determined on a large scale, which were no less, than abstracting from the Society's store by means of false keys, whole pieces of cloth & other goods in twilight and in spite of caution had been taken to place a watch on said premises.

Finding things in this state, on my arrival, I proceeded to reconnoitre the store inside & out and soon determined to put additional locks on the doors the best I could procure and iron bars to all the windows, except one where I found some. I also ordered a watch house to be erected outside for the guards. I, as soon did the natives find that I was determined to put an end, at all events, to their filching the store, than they so arranged their plans between the hours of the guards, as to enter by false keys & pilfer one evening about 500 Yds cloth of various descriptions and 50 lbs Tobacco (all on hand) some iron bars & other small articles.

Things could not proceed in this state as the Society's representative, I could not sit down quietly, and almost be convinced that the Cape's people had possession of their property which they had obtained by fraud; consequently repeated representations of the subject were laid before King Freeman, but he coolly replied, without exerting himself in the least to discover the evil doers, "that if Gardner stole King this man, King Sabby catch him, & Governor put him jail". Receiving no satisfactory action in this quarter, my next application was to the native magistrates & constables whom I assured, that if they did not aid me in finding the stolen goods, "the good name of the Cape's people would be lost forever in big America," their reply was, that they did not wish to