up the path which led directly through their town to the Cape & thus prevent the entrance of every one who happened to be off at that moment.

From Mr Wilson. I learned that they had promised that the palaver should be talked the next day, & if I could maintain my position, & keep things from proceeding to any further extremities, he entertained the hope that all difficulties would then be settled to mutual satisfaction. Affairs wore a gloomy appearance towards night, when the Natives who had gone out to their days labor on their farms & to the swamps on their return to their homes, were prevented from passing through Cape Town, and hastily fled for shelter to Mr Wilson as they were completely unarmed & at the mercy of their foes.

Things passed off quietly enough on our part, though we heard throughout all hours of the night the palaver drum beating, and the warrior blowing to keep the people & those on guard awake, for they it seems having as much dread of us had all their men under arms all night. At 8 AM. I sent word by Yellow Will to the King that I was ready to talk the palaver which it had been mutually agreed upon, should take place at his town this morning about 10. I proceeded to the palaver ground which I found occupied by the King & leading men, and 400 or 500 of the natives the majority of whom were armed in some fashion or other. A nod of recognition greeted me from Peak alone of the Chiefmen; the King & others were as immovable as statues. I had the pleasure of their meeting & greeting Mr Mc. Gill the Asst Agt who had been out surveying the proceeding day & did not arrive in town before the Natives had determined to keep out all the Americans who were then outside of their barrier, Messrs Gross Vice Agent & Jackson one of our pilots were also present, by invitation of the King, I suppose, as the latter had also been prevented from entering Harbor.

After we had taken our seats on the opposite side of the palaver ground (which was circular) to the King & headmen and Mr Wilson by consent had addressed them to much acceptance; King F. opened the palaver & addressed himself to Mr Wilson particularly, by recounting all the injuries which they had received from the colonists

since the first settlement, many of which are quite imaginary, leaving out of view others which were utterly false. He concluded by saying, that he did not wish Mr Mc Gill & myself to sit down here, as we did not treat them in the manner Mr Hall & Mr Holmes had done — that Mr Mc G. said he did not care for Mr Hall but, that I had given me dash as other Governors had done. After much palavering, which the King resisted to the last, I prevailed on them to hear me speak

~~Having previously, that the King & Sherbrooke [illegible]~~

all idea of many of the colonists from the knowledge which some of his people had acquired from having visited the U. States & the footage of the people of color. I commenced by calling up on Simlah Walla & others who had known me in Mississippi, to testify that I came not to reside among them because I was a poor fellow & wanted chips — that it was well known to Simlah & others in America that the great men there had appointed me to be their representative at Cape Palmas, to do good to every man as well as Americans; & that the King & headmen without giving me an opportunity, had brought this palaver to prevent me from doing as the Board in America had requested me to do."

I then proceeded to answer the King on the most important of his complaints, which I had noted down, but as soon as I had cleared myself of his accusations on any one subject, he would start a fresh with something never dreamed of till then, before that fairly ended, the whole assembly became uneasy, and determined to break off the palaver, much to my mortification, till the afternoon.

At 4 P. M. when called to the palaver ground I perceived an evident change in the minds of the people: they all came but unarmed & their countenances were a pleasing aspect. King Freeman again run over a long list of grievances, all of which are too ridiculous to be named, & when he had wearied himself with talking, declared the palaver set. Not wishing to speak again, I begged Mr Wilson to say to them, that the only cause of the present palaver was the constant stealing by their people from the colonists, & if that could be stopped by the King & headmen I had no fear of any difficulty hereafter. To manifest their sincerity that all difficulties were adjusted

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837