Baphis the palaver King or high priest was called upon by the king to seal it in the most solemn manner of their country. This was done by Baphis standing up in the presence of all & appealing thrice to some higher power, perhaps to heaven or the that the palaver was set &c &c. This ended this famous palaver, a kind of initiation which all new Agents have to undergo.

On the next day while on a visit to Mr. Wilson's King Freeman sent word that he wished us to receive him & the headmen at the Agency House: thither we repaired and shortly after they came &c with a small black heifer which the King presented me as an offering to dash for his abusive language on the preceding day. I accepted it & embraced the opp. to tell him that I hope after we had been better acquainted we should talk to him on the most amicable terms.

I have been length on this subject as wish you to be informed of every particular.

Public Farm

I have already informed you, that I found about 3½ acres under cultivation, & that I had as much more cleared & planted. The season was too far advanced for any thing else. I order cassada to be put in, believing that even they were preferable to having it grow in bushes. All the labor that could be procured lately has been engaged in clearing up for pasture & cutting down the larger trees as it is my determination to fence an enclosure for the farm stock as soon as native labor can be obtained to make the fence; and against the arrival of another planting season I have seven or eight acres additional prepared and cultivated.

I am sorry to inform you of the total failure of the cotton seed sent to this place. It was a sad disappointment to all, but more especially to two or three individuals who had entered with warm interest into its cultivation. They are willing to make another trial, and think that there must have been some defect in the seed. Perhaps they had been wet with salt water. They are much pleased therefore to learn that you are about to send out more by the first conveyance. The colonists generally prefer raising cotton to Tobacco as but a short time would elapse, should the cultivation of the latter be undertaken, before the natives would also engage in the business, and thus an end would be put to our tobacco trade which is now, one of the greatest importance & most profitable to the community. In short Tobacco is our pocket money, all the trifling articles such as eggs, oysters, cassada &c &c are generally rated by the leaves — one leaf for an egg or oyster and five leaves to a head. From this, you will perceive, in a moment, that if our Tobacco currency were done away with, the Board would have to introduce Specie as we are not so lucky, as some of our sister colonies, in having a paper one.

The land so far as the road has been opened, is in many spots, admirably suited for the raising of coffee and I have been using my best endeavors to procure seed and young trees or shoots from Monrovia, for the use of the farm & colonists generally: as yet, I have only succeeded in procuring about 500 coffee seed which were very politely forwarded to me by Jno Lewis Gruner Esq. of Monrovia, and a most acceptable donation never was sent to an infant colony. They have all been planted with the greatest care, and I trust, to have a good report from the majority of them in about two months by having their appearance in Liberia above ground. I have written to Monrovia, to procure, two bushels more of seed purchased for distribution among the colonists & also all young trees or shoots that can be procured.

You have been already informed, that we have a pair of oxen in training belonging to the farm. I intend to increase their number, and at present, I can do much needed light work, yokes & chains. These oxen though small, answer admirable purposes, in hauling out timber & plank, from the country into town; and in fact, when more generally introduced, will render us quite independent of native labor in many respects. The colonists are quite pleased with the idea of having oxen to plough their lands, & I hope, by easing them of the heavy labor of digging, it will afford them more strength to enter in to planting & cultivation. I will not enlarge on the great want we stand in of the articles which you design sending in the spring expedition (see notes)

I have employed as many colonists as have offered themselves on the farm, & there is so much to do that I have never been able to procure half the American labor I was

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837