anxious of putting on it. Colonists in debt to the society, with a few honorable exceptions, are in no great hurry to cancel it. I have caused another well to be dug on the western extremity of the farm, in the vicinity of the New Long House, so that new emigrants have but a few paces to walk to procure water.

It may not be amiss to mention, that I shall be under the necessity of putting up a new substantial picket fence around that portion of the farm which may be under cultivation another season. The common fence of the natives, indeed at all times, lasts but a few months, after which daily repairs have to be made upon it and eventually it is nearly as costly as a good substantial fence from pickets or plank.

State of the Farm

As to the agriculture of the colony, the colonists generally have but little planted on their farms; as the season has been, so they say, a very bad one. Last year at this time, they had more potatoes & vegetables than they could consume; and I am credibly informed, that they had actually to throw them out on the ground. It requires but little cultivation, to demonstrate, that after having his house up, and his land once under cultivation a man may maintain himself & family quite decently, if he will only bestow a good portion of his labor on his farm himself, and not trust so much to native hirelings. But I should not be dealing with candor, if I concealed this from you, that the colonists generally do not enter on farming with that spirit & activity which we have been accustomed to witness in U. S. There is a presentiment before hand in their minds, that a living cannot be made by it; & this increases every day, if they meet with the least discouragement. If the natives, who are fond of potatoes grub a few of their hills, or cattle happen to break into their enclosures, all is despair, and the labor of months is suffered to go to ruin.

Some allowance however must be made, as this is now the height of the dry season & all planting unless of cassadas, is almost in vain. The great demand for shingles, plank & scantling by the different Missions, and the Agency, is also, I suppose the reason why the majority of the colonists are in the swamps almost daily.

Poorly off as we are, I am happy to say that we were able to supply the United S. Frigate Potomac & Brig Dolphin, with a variety of articles of refreshments: and our colonists seeing the great demand for all their produce, fowls, ducks, sheep, goats &c ~~have taken heart on account and determined should they be in~~ ~~formed previously of the visit of another vessel of war, to lay in abundant~~ ~~ly of all the articles above enumerated.~~ Their visits are beneficial in more respects than one, and I hope, the growing commerce of the U. S. on this coast will encourage the Government to order out others. At present all the heaviest work on the farms is done by manual labor; what the effect will be when the plough shall travel through the soil, and they are relieved of this burden we have no means of determining. Every thing however would lead us to suppose, that the change would be for the better, that the now barren soil would bring forth abundantly, and the heart of its owner be gladdened by the cheering prospect before him of a plentiful harvest. The principal articles now raised are potatoes, cassadas & plantains almost all the vegetables which are produced in U. S. I am proud to inform you, that previous to the arrival of the colonists, but little heed was paid to the cultivation of the plaintain by the Cape Palmas natives, but seeing the success of Mr Gross, on a soil which was pronounced incapable of producing any thing, owing to the innumerable No. of lancerots thereon, they have entered on its cultivation anew, and have actually planted acres upon acres, as far as the eye can reach on the opposite side of the river.

Colonial Schools

Our School has been in a drooping state since my arrival. I found all the children attending a school put into operation & supported by the Methodist E. Mission. The great anxiety of the Board on the subject, was made known to the acting superintendent and he was given further to understand, that I was instructed by our Board to have an efficient School put into operation as soon as a suitable teacher

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837