to Mr Ruspurum to know if they could get some work done & to know if they would be allowed to come into the harbour for the purpose of calking their vessels. The Spaniards who manned the boat came ashore, took lodgings in ~~one of~~ the house of one of the colonists.

On monday morning the Blacksmith was put to work & the whole settlement was taxed to furnish tools dishes &c for the men. Hearing of these things I had an interview with Dr Savage & he told me that he had already expressed his unqualified disapprobation of the affair to Mr R. I felt it incumbent to add my testimony & wrote him a letter communicating all the facts I knew in relation to the case, what influence ~~would~~ be exerted ~~in the case~~ on the minds of the colonists & how it would be regarded at home — & recieved for reply the following

"Dear Sir:

Since the receipt of your favour of last evening, I have made its contents the subject of inquiry. I learn that the vessels now now in the offing, under Portuguese colors, were purchased at Bona from an Englishman of war, after her guns had been thrown overboard & the vessels run ashore; that she was purchased for the purpose ~~of~~ of being used as a cartel to convey the different foreigners then on shore at Bona to Galinas; that she has not been engaged in the slave trade since her purchase; that she has been overhauled by the Etna & another English man of war lately; & that she has not a single slave on board. They have made application to me to be allowed permission to come into the harbor to put some repairs on their vessels being in distress; & I cannot see how I can refuse their request; for it is my candid opinion, that they are likely to do the colony less harm by being allowed to repair their vessels in our harbor & depart, than if she should be cast away on our coast & her crew scattered among the native tribes." The letter concluded by saying that Mr Ashmun once protected two slavers who ran ashore at Monrovia & was not censured at home for it.

Now in relation to the facts above stated, I would remark that they were all derived from the Boats crew on shore at the time; is it reasonable for Mr Ruspurum to rely upon the staments made by these impressed men, when it was their interest to fabricate a falsehood. As to the vessels being overhauled by the Etna & another English man of war, it might or might not have been so. Two things are entirely compatible — ie that these men of war may have overhauled the said vessels & found nothing for which to condemn her, & Mr Ruspurum at the time

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

4. 1837