And while laying before them the various duties incumbent on every good citizen, and exhorting them to cultivate union and a friendly feeling among themselves - to avoid as ruinous, the least appearance of faction and party spirit - and to a strict and scrupulous observance and obedience of the laws of the Colony - As if to increase the mingled emotions of joy & gratitude, who should arrive in the harbour at the time but Doctor Hall the first and former Governor and founder of the Colony, in the brig Niobe from the windward who also remembering that it was the anniversary of the Colony, - that on that day three years ago he first laid the foundation of Maryland in Liberia saluted the town with two guns. -

The occasion was one of the deepest interest. Three years past and the very spot on which we were assembled, was in a rude and uncultivated state. It was a wilderness, a covert for wild beasts But the forest had now by the hand of industry been made to disappear. Neat and comfortable dwellings had been reared. A commodious house dedicated to the name of the true God had been built. Nor was this all. To it the untaught native African repaired to learn the way to heaven - Schools under the support of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Methodist Missionary Societies have been opened for the instruction of the heathen - And here live a plain, moral, industrious and in many respects a happy people, the descendants of those whom avarice dragged from Africa now in the possession of the blessings of liberty and equality. -

Services at the Meeting House being concluded the procession again formed in the same order as at first, and returned to the Agency House, - where the citizens after partaking of a little plain refreshment prepared previously by the direction of the Agent in the form of a luncheon, were dismissed for the day - The writer would here beg leave to remark, that though but recently arrived in the Colony he felt delighted with every thing around him, and cordially participated in the good feelings of the citizens - convinced of the excellency and wisdom of the plan of making temperance and agriculture the motto of the Colony, he would heartily congratulate the Maryland S.C. Society in the success that has attended its operations in the establishment of this growing & prosperous Settlement at Cape Palmas. -

R.

Rev John Rover
Harper, Cape Palmas
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Maryland, Colonisation Society
June 8th 1837

Maryland Historical Society
The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers
II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books
4. 1837