Middletown and Rock Town and by King Freeman King Bophro of Cavally was the prime mover of the affair, though all the other chiefs seemed to enter heartily into it; the idea was very flattering to your Society at the expense of the poor Colonists and the Black people, who were to be their chief cattle and no more, for bearing things they brought to the beach.

The Chiefs at Cape Palmas, King Freeman, who spoke all the prisoner said that the Black people were poor; their women had no clothes; that when Dr Hall first came he told them that he came not to repudiate the price of rice, palm oil or bullocks; but that a new Governor would come whose business would be to do this; that I was the new Governor; and therefore in a general convention of the leading Black men they wished me to give to Dry Tobacco Handkerchiefs & Zipi Fatitrice & Blue Beads & Zipi Cloth & Cross Iron & Crockery for the poor Rice, and I had of every description of goods for the poor palm oil. —

The prices demanded were not unreasonable, but as we had not the poor Rice on hand, with the new Engagements and all the Chiefs who were entirely dependent on the Agent, I saw no way by which I could induce the Residents than by partially agreeing to pay it until I could do better. Mr Waite attended the Council by my instruction and though he took his utmost endeavors to show them the unfairness of their proceedings, it was all of no avail: They knew we had no rice on hand, & embarrassed & distressed to any extent in the Ground: we must therefore either give their price or starve. After viewing the matter in every point of view, I concluded that trade would and must regulate itself notwithstanding all combination on this point.

It depends altogether on our settlers whether the natives can be induced to their present high prices or not — if they attend as they should to their farms the natives may ask what they please for their rice. A great blessing may result to the Colony from this movement, if it teaches our people that they have been too dependent hitherto on the natives. Upon reflection it is known that from our location and without a small capital we are really too much in the power of those people to extort whenever they please. It would be well to prevent such in future by placing here a small capital of fifty dollars; say one of ten or twelve tons.

2. Reestablishment of Native Magistrates constituted. — I believe I informed you that King Freeman had ~~put down~~ ~~transported~~ Four Officers for their activity in detecting thieves, and finding stolen property some two weeks after my arrival. You will be pleased to hear, that all the Black Kings and Headmen have bound themselves to support and protect all who may be appointed to this office. They have further agreed, that no King shall hereafter of his own accord, abolish them; and that they shall be acknowledged by the whole of the Grebo people, and by them alone, in grand palaver can be done away with. Accordingly Native Magistrates and Constables have been appointed in all the towns, and their names registered in a small book; so that all crimes in those towns can at any moment be referred to them. I conceive this to be the grand point gained, for heretofore in all our palavers there has been a great difficulty in referring to a certainty delinquent natives without the

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837