a copy, in order that I might have an opportunity to contradict some barefaced falsehoods which I heard were inserted in it. But to this hour I have received no answer.

I am pleased to know that there is one witness in the case whose evidence the Board will receive with due weight. I refer to Dr Hall; who has a knowledge of most of the circumstances of the case; & whose decision was, that Thompson should not leave his family & the colony, & become in all probability, a castaway & ruined man in every sense of the word.

You have been informed already of the deep prejudice of the colonists against Thompson. Dr Savage was careful to fan the flame, by informing the colonists that he came to Africa with this knowledge derived from the Board & Dr Hall. Before the trial some were for hanging the man, & the most lenient were for banishment & confiscation, while the law only required fine & imprisonment.

This is the second case which has happened under my notice since my sojourn, where the prejudices of the community were all arrayed against the defendant. As your agent, I have endeavored to bear myself aloft, my line of duty being plainly marked out in my instructions; but it is peculiarly hard to have your conduct & motives arraigned, because your judgment may differ from men whose sole determination is to see only one side of the question. I have said repeatedly, that I believe Thompson was guilty of what he confessed to Dr Savage, & of course could not remain in the mission, but that was not enough: my private views must sway me while on the bench, & I must give offence to those who are determined to crush the man to gratify their deep rooted prejudices.

This is a fair statement of the case; and it is your prerogative to nip in the bud all intermeddling by the missionaries with the concerns of the Colony, or to appoint one of these your agents, & allow your humble servant to descend to private life again.

There are peculiar difficulties surrounding our agent here; he has to contend against the ignorance of the people at all times; & should he be a man of independent principles some of his decisions will be likely to be displeasing to the missionaries who may view things in a different light. To you alone he has to look for support, if right; and should his decisions meet your approbation he has no thing to fear.

Respectfully submitted.

P. S. Enclosed are also attested copies of Dr Savage's letters to Thompson marked A.

The Monrovia despatches were safely forwarded &c.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837