John B. Russwurm Esq
Cape Palmas Br. Africa
By
Schr. B. Sabrina Esq.
Nov. 1st 1838.

cocoanut, rose & pine apples.

Public Farm — Has been prosecuted with considerable energy during the past season, but owing to its being a very unfavorable one, very little has been raised except cassadas & potatoes. Pains were taken to have on the ground a quantity of manure: and the spot when the cotton seed was put in was well covered over. It was thrice ploughed, as it was my determination to give the seed a fair trial, but this second experiment has proved no better than the first; and if cotton is to be raised in quantities, it must be from the African seed which thrives finely. In fact the plant grows well, but when it begins to bear, there is a small insect which plays havoc among its pods before they are picked. I calculate that 200 ℔ have been raised this season in the colony. The experiment so far as it has been tried by the colonists, proves that the land should be well broken up & manured, as there was a striking difference in the several patches; and where most labor was expended in preparing the ground, there, the plant was most thriving.

Though in the rainy season, we suffered much for want of rain; as there were ten or twelve weeks in which we had none. Even the cattle suffered for grass, and those at work had to be fed on corn or cassadas. Our corn notwithstanding, had quite a tolerable look, but when it was harvested the injury which it had sustained from the drought was evident from the small quantity. I planted about an acre to show the colonists who are daily complaining that they could raise corn if they would only put forth the requisite quantum of of labor. All cavilling on this head is nearly silenced as corn has been harvested two seasons. Our leeward natives raise it so extensively as to load vessels, and ought Am. people to sit down with folded hands & say they cannot raise it? Shame on their laziness, they ought every one to serve some hard master 5 years longer in the corn fields of Louisana.

Our oxen have done exceedingly well, and without them I should find it difficult to get along. Besides doing the farm work, they have hauled lumber for various individuals. The pair which were first broken are still at work, and increased in size and value. The colonists see and know these facts, yet every one who can purchase an ox doomed him to slaughter.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838