all its decrees and judgments have been carried into effect without the least difficulty, all submit to it. Three cases of grand larceny have occured lately which were quite provoking. In the first, a fine cow was taken from the mission premisses at Mount Vaughan and killed, and the thieves escaped detection; in the second, a bullock was carried off from Agency farm and killed; but the thieves were not so fortunate in this case, as they are now undergoing their sentence in hard labor on the farm. I am sorry to inform you, that the thieves in both cases were Americans. — The third case was, if possible, still more provoking, as the property attempted to be stolen was native and the thief a colonist — This increase of crime shews, that there is some defect in the present mode of punishment — I am of the opinion, that the laws are too lenient, and that a more vigorous mode of imprisonment and employment must be adopted. To carry this into effect it is important, that a new stone prison be erected during 1840 — that it be divided into male and female wards, and that a regular jailer be employed. Our present jail is merely a log house about 10 feet square, incapable of holding more than 4 prisoners at a time.

And while on this subject, let me inform you of the want of a Court House. It is what we cannot do without, if we wish to see justice administered with due formality; and I have been thinking that you had better appropriate a specific sum toward the erection of a stone one. Every year's longer residence in Africa convinces the most sceptical that it is waste of means to erect wooden buildings, for churches, court houses, schoolhouses or warehouses; for what the rainy season leaves uninjured the bugabugs or termites are sure to finish during the course of the year. I have selected an elevated site near the Presbyterian church, and as opportunity offers shall collect the rock.

Steam Mill site — Under the impression, that the mill will be out this fall, I have been much put to it, to fix upon an eligible site for its location — and the reason is, the scarcity of timber in the immediate vicinity of the cape. It appears, that nearly all the land within our first purchase, had been occupied by the natives for farms; and wherever this is the case, all the large trees are either cut down, or left standing to be killed by the burning of the smaller bush. Though there is but little timber up Hoffmans river, the advantages of having the mill near some running stream are too great to be lost sight of. Perhaps our neighbors from Rock town, Grahway and Cavally may be induced to bring logs for sale for a fair compensation. Its ultimate destination must be on Cavally river, but I am dubious of the propriety of putting it there at present; until we have a settlement at Denah or its mouth. I shall endeavor to see Baphro before its final location to learn, if possible, if his majesty has any idea of the great advantages it would be to his town to have it erected near him.

Oberon's emigrants — Are all placed on their farms in comfortable houses, and if they cannot make a living it must arise from sheer idleness. Some few are dissatisfied and wish to return, but they are the most worthless of the number; while again, there are those, whose age and infirmities give us but little reason to hope, that they will be of much service to their adopted country. It is the opinion of your agent, that it is waiste of money to send out persons over 50 years of age; as it takes the young and middle aged, months to recover their former strength, after passing through the fever. Some never regain it, but remain weak and feeble all their days, and is it reasonable to expect that persons of 50, 60 and 65 can pass the ordeal without being literally consumed? I hope the society will not lose sight of what has already been submitted to them, respecting the

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1839