number of women and children without protectors who are thus cast on their hands in a new country. They are hard subjects to deal with.

Cape Palmas people — You must be pleased to hear that the best understanding exists between us and the Cape Palmas natives. For several months past, we have not even had a thief palaver to talk, until very lately, when King Freeman came forward and stood as security for three young lads who had robbed two American farms. The C.P.P. appear more industrious than we have ever known them; and instead of the daily palavers to which we have been accustomed, at this season of the year, we have nothing but peace and good will to cheer us on our way. It is true, the past season has been one of great plenty, and the care which consequently devolved on them to secure their crops, has occupied much of their attention. We cannot, but indulge the hope, that they are falling in imperceptibly with civilised habits, as there are many symptoms which would indicate such a state, the most interesting of which, is a desire on the part of the King to do away with the abominable sasswood palaver system, and a more general inclination to recognise the private rights of individuals. The work of accomplishing the first, must be gradual, as the system finds strenuous advocates among all the younger members of the tribe. The beneficial effects of the latter, are already visible in the increased number of Canoes lining the beach undisturbed, and more vigorous efforts at fishing.

I am of the opinion, that King Freeman, Yellow Will and a few others of the leading men have found out that honesty is the best policy in their dealings with us, and if matters depended solely on them we should be troubled, but little with palavers of any kind. Would not have you believe that this feeling is a general one — far from it — as the majority deem nothing more meritorious than to steal from colonists, and their endeavor to swear them out of even their own coat if possible. It is the hardest thing imaginable to get at the truth of any story, as lying is practised from their cradle up, and if detected, considered no disgrace. Unless thieves are caught in the act, or with some of the chattels, it is difficult even to bring them to justice, as woe would be the lot of the unlucky wight who should reveal their names to me. No matter what his rank, he would be mulcted in a heavy fine.

War on our borders — I consider it my duty to inform you, that war has been raging for some months in the Krabah country, ~~for some months~~ between the Sawrekahs and our foes the Barroways. So near are the contending parties, that we frequently hear the firing of guns, whenever an engagement takes place: but country wars are merely scare-crows, as the natives think great execution has been done, if 2 or 3 happen to fall. The sum total of loss, in their several engagements, is 6 or 7 Sawrekahs and 11 or 12 Barroways. I have driven quite a profitable trade in supplying the former with our refuse fire-arms in exchange for rice, and confered a favor also, as the latter were interdicted from trading in the colony. The result of our troubles with the Barroways alias Barackahs, has been highly beneficial to our agricultural interests. We have been taught by it, to depend on our own resources. Formerly all the beach people, would in times of scarcity depend on those in the bush, like the Barroways, for supplies of cassadas & rice; and this knowledge begat in them so much pride and insolence, that none

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

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