With him as your Agent & partner, there can be little risk in engaging in the trade. I would enter more into details, but he is so well qualified to give them, that it is unnecessary.

Since June 10th. I have purchased 3 hhds Tobacco – 2 paid for in oil and one in bill exchange (having given Dr Hall all the oil on hand a few days previously) and so great is the demand that all could be disposed of in the Factory. I am sorry to say that the Bras Tobacco is very inferior, and I would never have purchased oil with it without some of better quality being mixed. It is to the society interest to send out as good Tobacco as any regt kings. Dr Hall's was very superior. The heads should be small & long weighing not above 5 heads to the ℔. Our trade is altogether in the bar with Tobacco. I have still on hand 1 hhd & part another of Bozas Tobacco.

The Brig Cipher Capt Dogly Salem, Mass. is now here trading. I have bought from him 2 hhds Capital Tobacco a 20 cts – or 300 dolls for the – & one hundred for civil officers, and paid him in oil at 40 cents – and have still on hand 1000 galls oil. Procuring but 2/3 hhd Tobacco from Dr Hall, I was compelled to buy one from Capt Harrington as mentioned above. Dr Hall brought out 33 hhds.

The natives & colonists are pleased with the idea of having 2 small vessels belonging to the colony. Dr Hall will inform you that I am to pay him 950 galls oil, besides 4,500 cwts rice already delivered; so that the will cost the board but a trifle. My contract was to pay in rice. There is a great scarcity of rice at Mesurado, which might have been avoided if Gov R had purchased 2000 cwts at $1 per bushel when offered: but he was afraid it would benefit your society. He has lost his fine cutter in G. Bapa bar. – The Grand colony are much in want of an Agent for trade: they apprehend an attack from the fishermen. Gov R. talks of treating it up. This would be a pity as it is a fine country abounding in timber, coffee & oil, & in immediate vicinity of Rio country. The territory besides, contains but few natives – a great recommendation. Gov B. lost their new schooner Natchez in Momora bar. The fallacy that 2 N S vessels of war have been on the coast, without visiting Cape Palmas. Dr Hall will give some insight into this affair.

I have promised the "Latrobe Artillery" & "Howard Volunteers" two standards which I hope will be sent out with Mr Mefill. I am sorry to say that the provisions sent out on the Brazen for Agency House were quite inferior. If I live on the coast of Africa I still like pork flour, butter, hams &c

With much respect,
Your Obdt Servt
Jno. B. Pinnoran
Agt S.C.S.

P.S. We make pork butter very weak, not sufficient for table.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

6. 1839--1840

1840