bargain. She is quite roomy, and just the vessel you want for your colonial purposes, if new. I have can make her tight the will answer admirably to carry rice to Monrovia market.

Camwood region – You have been pained that the people there (2½ days journey from the beach) have expressed a desire to open a new path to the Cape, which I have encouraged all lands, by sending out messengers & presents. In fact, we have invited me, & expressed their determination to open the path. An unavoidable delay has occurred from the natives all being engaged at their rice farms. As soon as they are through, I shall move this business again, and my hopes are pretty strong, that we shall have Camwood brought direct to Cape Palmas before the year is out.

During this year, we have been visited by two vessels of war belonging to the U.S.: the Cyane & Grampus. Such a visit every six months would tend much to make us believe that the friends of Colonization, had not forgotten their distant colonies in Africa. The effect is also beneficial on the natives – impressing them with the idea, that any wrong done us in trade or by fraud would be sure to be avenged. Our traders on the coast also, would come in for protection, as they are sometimes now imposed upon by English vessels, which are far more numerous, than Americans.

I hope you will succeed in the present effort you are making to procure a vessel of your own – for the double purpose of bringing out emigrants & trade. Our missionaries all, have promised you a preference about their freight; & from the quantity sent out, I am fully convinced that little spare room would be left. The different missions would certainly fill up, at least, one third of a large vessel.

Should palm oil ever bring a fair price again, there could not be much risk in trade. You will want a roomy vessel as the returns are very bulky. Since the destruction of the factories at Gallinas & New Sestos, traders are unable to procure cash & bills on Eng. as formerly, and it is my opinion, that Specie will be a very scarce article on the coast, another year. I am informed by a vessel 20 days from Fernando Po, that there are upwards of 40 vessels of the largest class, waiting palm oil cargoes in the Calabar & Bonny rivers; & that the price now paid for oil must ruin all parties concerned – my informant further stated that not one half will be able to obtain cargoes, though paying almost double the price last year. I have long been of the opinion, that we buy much cheaper than traders to Leeward (except the merchants at Cape Coast & vicinity)

The semi-annual accts up to Jan 1st are ready, but as Mr Ney is sick at present, I prefer sending them by the next opportunity. Accompanying this, is H. S. McGill's bill for such supplies as I could not do without – for which I have given him a bill of Exchange on the Treasurer. An affection in one of my eyes prevents my making a fair copy of these dispatches, besides the illness of Mr Ney.

I have the honor to be
Your Obdt. Servt.
Jno. B. Ruttenden
A. Md. S. C. S.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1841