carry with it an open censure, that your Agent had carried matters too far; and did it not open a door for future contention, which he foresaw & gave notice to the Board. This was the first case, and I have referred to it, because I believe all after palavers with the missions arise from the measures then pursued. You may think this strong language, but I mean no disrespect by it.

We now come to the case in hand. We need no details. The Committee to whom it was referred have made a full & explicit report, & it has been accepted by the Board; welcomed by the leading colonists, and was considered final till the despatches by the Harriet arrived; wherein I am ordered to refund any amount of fines which may have been collected from the Presbyterian mission. Some men are conscientious in small matters, others in greater — McVilvin's conscience will not allow him to countenance the performance of military &c &c under no pretext whatever — neither will my conscience allow me, to sensible of having only performed my duty in approving the decision of your highest Court, to decree that the fines be refunded out of the Colonial Treasury). Again, I beg the Board to believe that no disrespect is intended. I am only expressing what is pent up in my own bosom, in this new land of freedom.

Had the despatches been sent first before the fines were collected, instead of the report of the Committee, they might have been remitted, and your Colonial Courts & agents tacitly censured, but as matters have proceeded so far, we must either be censured publicly, or approved of silently as well as publicly.

This refunding the fines has been boasted of publicly by Lavage & McVilvin as a matter decided on long ago, on account of the illegality of the Colonial proceedings, and how are the poor ignorant colonists to know any better if the fines were refunded back here. Will they not hereafter have a slender opinion of any decision which may emanate from our civil or military Courts, confirmed even by your Agent? I assure you, Sir, that so much insolent language has been circulated against your laws & Government in Africa by the missionaries, that want of firmness in sustaining your Courts, will be highly prejudicial to your interests, &c. It is true, you may not wish to take a cent, not of the funds of the missionary society, in that case, I would respectfully entreat you, that the money may be refunded in U.S. & let independent of all action in Africa — The fines paid by the Presbyterian mission amount to $44.75 and by the Epis. to $19.25 both in currency + + + + + + I believe, I am further strengthened in the course decided on, by a former resolution of your Board, not to interfere with the final action of our Courts. I refer to J.M. Thompson's case.

Great guns were heard towards Gorkawoy on 6th inst. and I have since been informed by Blackwill, a headman of the Country, that a French Squadron of 3 vessels of war have been there and purchased the country for a Colony which is to be commenced in 6 mos. They have taken formal possession in the usual mode adopted by civilized nations. They have also purchased Grand Butan, a little to the North of Since for a like purpose. The squadron have since passed to Cape Palmas, and perhaps upon other sites, without calling at Cape Palmas.

After reading your despatches & finding that the late out-