had been made on behalf the Government. Fearing they might endeavor to approach our boundary still nearer, I dispatched a secret messenger to Fish Town to see how matters really were, & to investigate certain statements which were made (either unguardedly, I believe) by Rev. Mr Grosvold of Mr. Wilson's mission, about their having purchased Spence rights (of trade) to Fish Town, and also the right of occupancy to the exclusion of all others.

When King (Spence's nephew) was on the coast, I made frequent request of him for a sight of his deed from natives of Fish Town: his invariable reply was, that he had left it in England. I was not satisfied, and said as much to Mr Harvey; as he had with him deeds for flights of trade for a dozen other places which he would have sold for a song. It is now evident that his answer was given at the instigation of Mr Wilson, & kept in the dark, whilst a serious injury was being inflicted on the Society's interests in Africa.

The messenger sent was so successful as to obtain a sight of Mr Wilson's deed from the Headmen after considerable delay — a copy of which will be sent you by Dr Hall's vessel — taken verbatim on the spot. When the natives were informed of the tenor of the deed drawn up by Mr Wilson himself or Dr Wilson, they all protested to a man and declared that they had been fooled & would not abide by it — Amount of payment about 25 or 30 dollars. The question on which I am anxious of instruction is this, "Have any individuals or a society a right to buy land on our borders from natives without your consent"? Would U.S. allow Great Britain that privilege? I shall await your reply, informing you in the interim, that the Fish Town people are well disposed towards your colonists, though efforts have been made to prejudice their minds. The native black man has more sense (brains) than strangers give him credit for.

You will be pleased to learn that we have not lost an individual by the fever — all are doing well even the Catholic missionaries, hard had it lighter than common. Dr Boarton returns by this vessel: they seem pleased with the colony. I have assigned them 9 lots in East Hope near the Fair Hope mission. I suppose they will demand some farm lands in time. I have 2 new houses nearly ready — & 2 others under contract for Harriet's Emigrants. — Palm oil is quite a drug on the coast — I have 26 puncheons on hand — 2500 or 3000 Gallons.

In a former letter, I informed you that 6000 Coffee trees had been set out — 2000 on the public farm — the coffee mania continues quite strong as 30 or 40 of David Wilson's trees are now in blossom or bearing — he has upwards of 70 of nearly 3 years — and other Coffee must have been as well off had they taken equal pains. I have lately introduced the Cocoa from Fernando Po, through the kindness of Capt T. W. Hand of Boston —

I shall endeavor to send to U.S. J. Cornish & J. Bodley as per instructions by this vessel — They are both valuable men — & full dependence may be put in their statements — the wishes of the Board, conveyed through Dr Hall relative to certain individuals of Harriet's emigrants shall be obeyed to the letter.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt.
Jno. B. Russwurm
Agt &c &c

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1842