Minor were sent for from Mt. Vaughan — on their arri=
=val, a messenger was despatched for King Freeman —
he refused to go on a first summons, but despatched
word for the Lieutenant to come and hold the pala=
=ver in his town. Upon a second call however, from
Fair Hope, he went, accompanied by some of his
headmen. Before he left town, he sent me word
that he was called by the man of war Captain
for a palaver. In the palaver, Lieut. Ring would
not allow King Freeman to speak a word, but told
him that his people had robbed Mr Griswold, and
he must therefore make them pay him 2 bullocks for
a skeleton which was stolen, and sell rice enough
to repay the property, minus — To this vague decision,
after a while, King Freeman agreed, and a book was
made and sealed in due form. Two or three days after
King Freeman carries the two bullocks and settles the
skeleton palaver, and offers Mr Griswold six more
additional bullocks which he had collected from
the thieves, with some rice to settle the palaver. Mr
Griswold refused. In the mean while, the Vanda=
=lia had proceeded to Leward. On her return, the
palaver is again carried to Capt. Ramsay, and the
same officer sent on shore to reprimand King
Freeman for not performing his contract; Freeman
shews what he offered Mr Griswold, and the
impossibility of settling it as Mr. Griswold wants,
which is, to replace his cloths and copper rods, &c, —
in all about 150 dollars. Lieut. Ring tells Freeman in
conclusion, that he must pay Mr Griswold 300
Coos rice, and if he does not, he will burn all
his towns. Freeman gets angry and tells him he will
not pay that amount. — he can burn his towns if
he pleases &c gets up and takes his headmen away —
That same evening John Davis and a grandsess man

employed by the Vandalia, are detained on board, as hos=
=tages. Thus stands the palaver.

After the first palaver was held, the missionaries went on
board to dine with Capt. Ramsay — at table, the question
came up about the palaver, and it was then asked Mr.
Griswold, if application had been made to the civil
authorities on shore. Reply — No. When Lieut. Ring came
a second time about the palaver, Dr. Green who accom=
=panied him called upon me, and the subject came up
for a few moments. He was asked by what right Capt.
Ramsay took upon himself to meddle in this palaver. —
He replied, because Mr Griswold was an American
citizen, and they were bound to protect them and their
property. He was asked then, if such was the course
pursued in South America and other parts, where the
Governments were weak and feeble, and where no pre=
=vious application had been made for redress. — He
replied such was the course pursued. Nothing fur=
=ther passed, as he was sent for by the Lieutenant. —

But to proceed. Finding that matters were likely
to come to some crisis, and perhaps endanger the colony,
I sent our constitution and code — laws for the natives —
and the declaratory ordinance of the Board to Captain
Ramsay for perusal. After detaining them nearly a
day, he returned them with a polite note wishing
to know, why said papers were laid before
him, To this request, I complied in as brief manner
as possible, as you will perceive by the copy of
letter marked No. 6. Sept. 28 — Lieut. Ring again
came on shore with the boat manned by the ship's
crew, and opened the palaver when King Freeman
was asked what he was willing to pay, and
the amount was fixed at 300 Coos Rice and 6 bul=
=locks. In the boat, were cutlasses and muskets under
a tarpaulin, so persons who were on the wharf,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

7. 1841—1842

1842