that the laws lately passed were equivalent to declaring war & should be considered in that light: they tried & soften matters and said "they had no idea of war, it was only trade palaver; they had passed the laws in council, & only the same assembly could break them, or take them off. Freeman alone could not take them off." Matters remained in status, till Wednesday noon, when Commodore Perry arrived with his squadron.

As soon as we could communicate (which was by Rev Mr Hazelhurst going off in a canoe manned with colonists.) it was arranged, that the Commodore should call a palaver for King Freeman & his Grebo chiefs, and enquire the reasons for this hostile movement on their part.

When the palaver was talked & questions asked for this step none could be assigned worth naming, except that they wanted more for their produce". The reply was that they could act what they pleased; but there must be no more roving course laws laid; roads to & from the Colony must be open & all; & the Commodore hoped, King Freeman & his allies would not be foolish enough to array themselves against the Colony again — nor against the missionaries — to this Freeman & his allies agreed, & promised to pass no more such laws. ~~again~~. So much for the palaver, about trade &c.

On the day the Commodore landed a salute of 13 guns was fired. Two hours afterwards, I was informed that 2 Paibo men had been shot at Mt Tubman Station for refusing to leave their guns, & insisting on forcing their way in to Cape Town. It is supposed the firing of cannon led our Bush neighbors to believe that we were engaged in action with Cape Joseph & they came in on that quarter to assist & plunder. Those from Paibo, who came afterwards to enquire the reasons for their men being shot, stated, that their object was a visit of condolence to Tom Freemans family, on account of his recent decease — but it is our general impression, that so large a number as 30 or 40 armed men could hardly be spared from one town (& they too at war with their neighbors) unless on a war party. The mischief has been done & Tom tells me he is doing his best to save us from war. At request, I have sent to invite them in to talk the (Bush) palaver; but do not intend to pay, as they are too late. At the same time who passed our guards before

when Cape Town was burned, & killed Parker this family. I am in hopes the palaver may be set without war. My native ambassadors are still out — but we look for them in soon today with others from Bush.

The Rev Mr Payne has had so much difficulty with the Half Cavally people before & after the passage of the late laws, that the "Decatur" was sent down by the Commodore to bring him & his lady to the Cape, where they now are.

After settling our trade palaver the squadron proceeded to Half Bessly where, the Commodore was fortunate enough to kill two of the principal ones concerned in the murder of Capt Farewell &c. & eight or ten others. Five of their towns were burned. Several were wounded.

I am pleased to find among the officers, Capt Mayo of the "Macedonian" Lieuts Poor & Counter & others from Maryland. From some of them, I hope you will hear about the colony.

While palavering with Freeman I embraced the opportunity of again offering to purchase his town rites. We can remain much longer as near together. Pardon this hasty letter. I shall address you by first vessel more at length & give you some details of my tour in the Interior.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt
Jno. B. Ashmun
Agt. S. C. S.

P.S. Since writing the above, Capt Mayo has authorized me to say "that he has been over the Colony — is well pleased with matters, & will make it the subject of a special communication to you".

We are much in want of a brass field piece mounted a four pounder — also good muskets. Respectfully U.S. Government — all these presents for the Mission —

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

8. 1843—1844

1843