that the Governor, King & headmen had not given the white men his water, but that it had been discovered accidentally, by one of them in their walks on the beach. They hoped he would not be angry with them. Further, the Governor & McGill had come from Cape Palmas, and insisted on our removing all restrictions from this water; promising to dash you (Devil) two silver Dollars, 4 bars Tobacco and 12 pipes, to take all the palaver upon themselves. Therefore, if the Devil was angry he must make palaver for the Governor who had dared to drink his water, and for the man of War Captain, who had carried off some casks before we knew it.

The whole scene throughout was very amusing, as his Majesty whose residence is on an island opposite (where the dead are deposited) was invoked aloud twice, for 5 or 6 minutes each time by the old Governor, a very shrewd & sensible man. So amusing, that even Yellow Will my headman & others present as intelligent, could not refrain from laughing aloud, which, I believe, they would not have dared to do, had we not been present to keep off his Majesty's wrath. The whole closed by our saying, that in our opinion, the Devil had no water in his domains; & that our hearts always gave God, who created all things, thanks whenever we discovered so fine a spring as this. They smiled, but we felt assured, that in persuading them to relinquish this water, we had effected some good — removing one stumbling at least out of the path — & in this manner, one after another

their country superstitions must fall, if they are become civilised.

As we had never taken possession of the territory, the present time was deemed by us both an interesting one; not only for that, but to select a site for our town — which we did by locating it immediately back of Spence's factory, where is now a small native town (to be removed after harvest) which is to be considered as our landing place, & peculiarly adapted for a ship carpenter's yards.

Upon hinting to Capt Craven overnight our intention to hoist the Society's flag at noon next day (7th) he was kind enough to offer a complimentary salute of 12 guns, though in the midst of painting his vessel, with most of his rigging down. This was gladly accepted, under a promise to be returned when the Porpoise again anchored at Cape Palmas. Accordingly at 12 on 7th instant, a flag staff was erected, and the Society's flag displayed to the breeze for the first time, at Fish Town, amidst the roar of cannon from U.S. Brig Porpoise. The natives also fired several guns near the flag staff on this interesting occasion. We were too few to make any demonstration, but my feelings, I assure you, were of the most agreeable kind.

I deem it my duty to apprise you of the abandonment of the Fair Hope Mission Premises by Mr James & family according to instructions from his Board; and a cession of the same to Md. State Colonization Society on 31 ultimo. The various buildings on the premises had been disposed of some months previously to Mr G R McGill & others.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

8. 1843—1844

1844