cotton cloth. The country, I learn, also abounds in ivory. They are described as a peaceable people, very numerous & powerful; & I have concluded, that if we could once win our way to their country, the advantages of an intercourse with the colony would be apparent to them; & they would adopt measures to keep the path open for trade. Now, I am informed, they frequently come to the Cavally with trade, & if they now reach the Bassa, they not depend to its mouth, & visit the Colony. Their nearest tribe is 3 or 4 days walk from the Cavally. The beach people say the intervening tribes are Cannibals who hunt after human flesh, but all unite in describing the tribes of Poh as hospitable & kind to strangers. I detest our Beach neighbors very much, as they are not over anxious to have us penetrate into the interior. Some of the Pohs evidently lean on the Arab country — Mandingoes also visit them.

You will be gratified to learn that trade making is quite common among us. We have made over 1600 pounds soft hard soap in our family, & the last vessel here only sold 5 boxes. It is my desire to see the spirit extend to other articles which we must finally manufacture in the colony as do without — Our leather & cotton cloths can be made, & must be, before we can with propriety boast of trying to help ourselves. And while on this head, I beg you will send out by next vessel at least 12 spinning wheels, 1 Box cotton cards, 12 doz. hilling hoes; 30 kegs nails and 12 or 15 hhds Tobacco. The females all blame me that no wheels & cards have been sent out.

A little time as our Camwood trade has been open, there has been purchased by us all upwards of 50 tons. We have every prospect of an increase, and the demand for trade goods is unprecedented. We want powder, iron, iron pots, guns, S Strips, B. Baft, Chip hats, cutlasses &c. &c. I am introducing a check for Camwood.

The sales for 7 months from February to Sept. will probably amount to $500 & upwards. The pay for licenses has been received in currency — for tonnage & duties in Camwood & little cash. Include license in the above amounts. I have paid no duty on goods purchased for the Society store, as none is paid at Monrovia or Sierra Leone when wanted for the Government.

I am waiting the arrival of a Bristol trader to dispose of my ivory & to trade goods, preparatory to another bush tramp, when I shall probably be absent 3 or 4 months. When stopped on my first visit to the interior, I was only one days walk from the Camwood region. The same tribe (Boassobohs) now carry the camwood to the Cavally river, as so many obstacles are thrown in the way by the Tobohs & Kers Cavally people.

French men-of-war frequently visit Gassaway and dash Blockhell the chief — but no buildings are yet put up, though the site for a fort has been marked out. I wish the French would relinquish their right & title to our Board: they seem quite jealous of any of our colonists visiting there for trade. I draw by this vessel in favor of Dr Mahlle for two hundred dollars on his salary.

Have the honor to remain,
Your Obdt. Servt.
Jno. B. Pinnerman
Agent S.C.S.

P.S. Since I began these lines, the prospect of the ultimate success of our little party of explorers begins to brighten, as Freeman has agreed for his son Prince Simlea (just returned from Demerara) to go; & the services of Polech, a great trader to Poh, are likely to be secured. His son & boys have just arrived to enquire what I want of Polech, for whom I sent some days ago.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

9. 1845—1846

1845