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Cape Palmas, May 4, 1848

Dr James Hall }
Comdr Am & SLS }

Dear Sir:

Mr Bout informed you in his letter of April 4. 1848, that I was absent at the Seeward on account of my health. I returned soon enough to see the "Amazon" soil; and should have written by her, if necessary. My health is much improved from the trip, but I am still feeble. My voyage extended to the island of St. Thomas, and I was absent just nine weeks. I hope it will not prove altogether unprofitable as far as the interests of the colony and society are concerned. At "Napoleon farm", some five miles in the interior from Cape Coast, I found the real bread fruit tree, and procured 24 young plants - but as they have not arrived yet, I am afraid I shall lose them all.

At any rate, I have the promise of the seed from the ripe fruit, which I heretofore thought could only be propagated from the plant. At St. Thomas, belonging to Portugal, I saw a most fertile soil, owned by the laziest people on earth. Not more than one third was cultivated: the people groan under a heavy duty of 10% on all importations & exportations.

I found on my tour, the greatest ignorance and some prejudices prevailing as far as the American colonies were concerned: these, of course I labored to dispel. I saw no location to be compared to Cape Palmas.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received

A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848