The quantity of exports from the Colony since the commencement of present year, has not equalled that of the same period in last year by two thirds. For two months we have positively done nothing in the way of procuring P. Oil — this applies to all traders in the Colony.

The famine from which we suffer, has been felt from Grand Cess to St. Andrews Bay: the season for making Oil has gone by, without being improved, the natives are too intent in farming to give any other engagement a thought: the same state of things exist in the interior as far as we have any information.

The boat "Curlew" purchased by Gov. Russwurm has made two voyages out to Grand Cess, and another to Rockbookah Tabou and Berriby. Her returns from Leeward was only One hundred & twenty Gallns P. Oil, for Cargo Rice — from the windward Eighty Cargo pepper —

The smaller Boat trades exclusively to Gaawaay, purchasing upon an average one hundred & fifty Gallns Oil per month.

The War at Cavalla prevent the passage of Native traders up and down the Cav. River — the natives having sided with one of the other of the contending parties. The Tabou people have involved themselves by suffering a party of Half Cavallas to land from their Canoes, and waylay a party of R. Cavallas women on the beach the latter were cruelly butchered — It is to be apprehended that our C. Palmas people will become involved in it soon when Rock Town & Fish Town will commence hostilities.

I cannot perceive any course whereby I can check or avert the disasters that threaten our territory by the general warfare raging, and can only promise to keep our Colony from any participation in it. We cannot force them to make peace yet we can withhold aid and support even from C. P. people if they bring a war upon themselves by an unjustifiable interference with others.

We have had no palavers with the Native since Governor Russwurms departure, they are anxious to avoid or prevent them. I am truly glad of this, as we are not now in a condition for ~~to~~ meeting any serious palaver —

Rice crops are promising — it is not yet gathered — Our hopes of an early supply are not however sanguine; from C. Palmas people we cannot expect any, as all that they can spare is, or ought to be sent to River Cavalla, for the support of the people; who have made no farms. Rock & Fish Towns supply Half Cavallas and they are positively dying from starvation. These circumstances will likely prevent the influx of Rice from these sources as well as from the interior. Our only dependance for a supply will be upon our Boats, by trading along the Coast.

The Revenue of our Colony is at a low ebb — not one cent in the Treasury, nor the slightest prospect of any being paid in until the arrival of Trade. The issue of Treasury orders in anticipation of Collections, has led to the payment of recent duties in such orders. These orders were in [illegible]

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848