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Cape Palmas November 6. 1848

J. H. B. Latrobe. Esq.
Pres: Md. State Col Soc.

Hon: Sir

The present is the first opportunity we have had for forwarding letters to the U. States since the departure of Gov. Buchanan: report from the colony at that time has doubtlessly led you to anticipate the news of distress and suffering among the Colonist.

In August last I sent the Government sloop to Monrovia for the purchase of Rice. a small quantity was procured for which Two dollars per bushel was paid; we could not at the time purchase a grain of the article in our vicinity and as our Colonist were subsisting on Palm Cabbage and the leaves of the potato vine. I felt it a matter of duty to do so much to relieve their distress. Rice is yet scarce, we cannot purchase from the Grebo tribe, and as it is an indispensable article with us, the largest of our two craft is constantly engaged in bringing it from the leeward. her size however is so small that she brings barely enough to meet the daily demands of the Colonist.

Trade in Palm Oil is dull, we have not in the last five months purchased as much as was purchased in as many weeks of last year. Camwood is not in demand therefore we do not buy it. Malagetta Pepper is abundant, but as its sale is very uncertain we cannot venture to purchase any quantity.

The war between the Cavalla people interferes with our trade on the River and also on the sea board as far down as Bassa

In July last I made efforts to reconcile the parties and visited the tribes for this purpose. The River Cavalla people (Baphroo town) would not listen to any propositions that could be made, denied me the ordinary rights of hospitality, and as they say but for our being Americans would have used us roughly for venturing upon the office of peace makers. we were of course unsuccessful: as I was previously informed of their Native customs I was in a manner prepared for their ill usage, and by this only escaped injury. After our return home messengers were sent down to enquire of them their motive for their unfriendly reception, the only was that it was "Native fashion". Many individuals of that town are indebted to our Colonist and the Agency, as they stubbornly persist in prosecuting the war to the injury of our trade I have demanded of them immediate payments and as they have

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848