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Cape Palmas, Jany 18, 1849

Dr James Hall
Gen. Agt ACS

Dear Sir: On my return from the Leeward coast in April 1848, I informed you that the combined forces from the English, French & Dutch forts were about to attack the King of Appolonia &c. The troops landed & drove the foolish King from the beach & the bush, where they followed him, and another battle was fought and he was captured with a large amount of gold dust — which he always had on hand, as he was the only merchant in his country not allowing any of his subjects to trade with foreign vessels. The goods bought from vessels he retailed to his people at 2 or 250 per advance. All masters of vessels who have dealt with him affirm, that he thought less of human life than any other despot on this coast. But his riches & his glory have departed, as he is now incarcerated in Cape Coast Castle from whence it is rumored, he is to be transported to Botany Bay or New South Wales.

Cape Appolonia has been taken possession of by the Brittish, and several Cape Coast merchants have already placed factories there for the purchase of gold dust & ivory. I never heard that the natives dealt in palm oil; in fact, they had so little encouragement from the despotism under which they groaned, that I wonder, they could engage in any trade at all. The country appears to be a fine one, between the French fort at Apinee and the Dutch Dr Apino. I observed several dismantled forts along its coast, and like the rest of the neighboring region, I suppose it was once, a great slave mart; as all those splendid forts at Elmina, Cape Coast and Accra, you are well aware, were built by Europeans for the better security of carrying on the infamous traffic in human beings — Alas! that even in the 19th century, the greatest foe to human happiness is man — what has has so depopulated the country around Monrovia, in some parts of which, the heart is pained to see a fine champaign region for miles without an inhabit=

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

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