

Harper Cape Palmas  
September 18. 1851

My Dear Doctor

Your letter to Gov Russwurm dated 25<sup>th</sup> March last was not rece<sup>d</sup>. until the 26<sup>th</sup> ulto: it remained at Senoe several months: numbers of the Era & American was rec<sup>d</sup>.

I wrote to you in June last, and to Mr Satole in July both letters were sent by way of England: this is written to go by the "Gem" which will go from this direct to Gabon and then home, so it may not possibly reach you before next year. We feel very uncertain as to the arrival of any vessel from Baltimore this year.

Mr Burns visited Monrovia a few days after our threatened war with the natives, and wrote letters by some vessel homeward bound upon the subject referred to in yours. B. was not far from correct as Mr Russwurm did probably save us from a fight, the result of which owing to its suddenness and our entire want of preparation was a matter of great doubt. We were in the first place entirely ignorant of the cause of the onset, we saw the natives advancing upon us fifty or sixty strong all armed, and seemingly bent on our destruction, it was no time then for parleying, seizing the first weapons that were at hand we were forced to meet them, they had passed the Government house and were about passing mine when four guns were pointed at them, when they stopped short and as I was the nearest one to them leveled several guns at me, whilst we stood thus for an instant Sarah ran from the Agency house, through the crowd of natives and across our line of sight of our guns, she being among them caused us to pause, next to enquire into the origin of the outbreak, and finally to turn the natives back with the promise of a speedy enquiry into the conduct of Woods son - the whole affair was begun and ended in fifteen minutes.

Your accounts of the prospects of Colonization in Maryland are far from encouraging: it does not however on my mind produce either surprise or disappointment. Is it not perfectly natural that intelligent coloured men who leave the U. States for the express purpose of self government should prefer settling under the government & laws of the Republic? Were you a coloured man and about to emigrate, and in possession of correct knowledge of the laws of the Colony and of the Republic, would you not prefer the latter? Our Constitution and laws may be undesignable, they may guaranty to every man equal right & privileges our people may have it in their power by industry and enterprise to acquire wealth, still it is not sufficient, something more is essential to the reality of self government: this may be a mere name or idea (not unprovided for in our Constitution nor unattainable by us) disconnected with any solid advantages, still there is something gratifying in our immediate participation in "Republic of Liberia"

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Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received  
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851