

Cape Palmas
December 15. 1851

Mr. James Hall
Major Agent Md. St. Col. Socy

Dear Sir

We are on the most friendly terms with all of the Native tribes around us, and they are all warring with each other. The River Cavallas with Rabokat - The Peddy with Garaway, and the Sandika's with the Wretho's in the interior. Half Cavalla & Gaway together are threatening our Cape Palmas friends, and are only kept in check by their apprehension of our interference. The Cape Palmas in turn are threatening others thus as old Jim Wilson says "its dog eat dog". As we cannot command peace I am content, so long as we are unmolested.

We have been actively engaged in our preparations for defence, and have made such progress that we feel more secure. Even if called suddenly into action I think we would give our assailants so warm a reception, that they would hardly be persuaded to try it the second time. We however do not apprehend any collision between the Natives & Colonists, as the former have enough on their hands just at present, and it is to their interest to keep on good terms with us. They are besides apprehensive that my preparations are indicative of a warlike spirit. I am satisfied that any cause should operate to prevent hostilities.

King Freeman and family have become very unpopular; very recently his enemies adopted a very significant method of apprising him of it. The last King Wah, was murdered by the friends of the present one, to open his way to the throne. The remains of Wah were thrown in the Lassy wood bush. Those opposed to Freeman pretend to be filled with remorse for the injustice done the last King, and say that ill luck has followed them ever since; they have collected the remains of Wah, and with all of the powder belonging to the burial or crowned heads have deposited them in consecrated ground, built a house over it, and deposited therein lots of traps for his use in the other world. They have the Freeman that unless he amends his ways, he is apt to be treated as his predecessor.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received

A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851