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Harper, Cape Palmas, August 14, 1855

Dr James Hall,

Dear Sir: Replies to the despatches from the President of the Society and yourself as General Agent, were forwarded by the "Lora" via Rio. And as the "Estelle" by which I hope to be favored with a line from you, has not reached this front, though her arrival at Monrovia was announced here nearly a month ago, very little of this communication as may be perceived by its general tenor, is intended to be official. –

The subject in reference to the purchase of the native towns, is found to be one of the most delicate character. Feelers were sent, in order to try the minds of the most conspicuous and influential; but it was no go. – Their conduct and bearing in all dealings with the Colonists have been of an unexceptionable nature since the change of government, and it would be barbarous under the circumstances, although a number of them have removed across the river, to insist upon their selling their towns at present. They have lived so long under the wing of the Americans that a want of confidence in themselves to exist separate and alone, menaced as they most assuredly would be by other tribes whose effects in being brought to our market have suffered a material deduction, and in some cases actual plunder, makes them stick the closer to their old home. – They see by the number of lots recently given to new immigrants and other persons in East Harper, and near their town (formerly a small town but now quite a large one) that our aim and object is to crowd them so as to induce their removal. Now and then, slight dissatisfaction is expressed in reference to the taking up of much farm land for the accommodation of new people; but this will ever be the case as long as they remain so near us, and I am afraid afterwards.

We have had some little excitement and internal commotion among our people lately – a few weeks ago; but it died the natural death incident to such stirs there. – As matters did not ripen enough for ~~the~~ action on the part of the government, no notice was taken of them. The excitement, grew out of a legal course about to be pursued by the government to compel the surrender by John B. Bowen of a chronometer and other nautical instruments of a British Cutter called the "Rose of Liverpool", and lately driven ashore at Poh river by stress of weather,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

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