further that the Kéké lands was theirs and no one had the right in any wise to alien or alienate the same, but themselves. This positive declaration on the part of the Rocktowns again opened the question: (the land had been surveyed) with all its concomitant evils albeit the Government in no wise chagrin at this untoward occurrence, but forthwith sent a messenger to convoke another Conference - to tender again the friendly mediation of the Government to avert a rupture - but ineffectual. The Rocktowns peoples declared the land is theirs - and the Palmas people were not be allowed by them to cultivate the said land, and, in the event they persisted it would be the sure harbinger of war! and they would not respect the survey of the lands had by the Commissioners. Matters wore a menacing aspect. The Government had discharged its duty compatable with its then present ability. however the Palmas people continued to clear the land for planting, as well as on their guard for an attack. The Rocktown people continued to menace the Palmas people with war. The preparation for war was vigorously prosecuted by both parties. on the February the Rocktown people fell upon the Palmas people on the Kéké land, killed two and wounded two men - and put the others to flight. they returned to the Cape in the greatest confusion in their inglorious retreat. Many swam across palmas river - amidst the volley of the Palmas women abusers. communication between the two tribes was closed. The Palmas people suspended the further clearing of Kéké. Confined their planting operation within the limits of the American settlement. thus matters remained with the exception of ambushes warfare on the part of the Palmas people. on one of these ambush occasion they killed one man of the Rocktown untill the 22 of February the two belligerent tribes meet in a regular pitch Battle on the windward beach. which resulted in the complete defeat of the Rocktowns. their loss was thirteen men killed - many wounded. The loss on the side of the Palmas was one man killed, - and fifty seven slightly wounded, thus far the chiefs of the respective Belligerents had taken

no active part in their hostility. in the meantime the Government had been advised that the Rocktowns people had solicited the aid and succor of their ancient allies. the solicited succor had been promised. this would have drawn the Palmas allies into action also, the Serrie allies would take the field as soon as the harvest season was over, the Government received authentic information in this respect. the Government could but be anxious in this matter to avert the impending difficulties. in the early part of the month of May the "U.S. Brig of War Dolphin", Capt. Thomson arrived in harbour. The Executive informed him of the state of affairs, and requested the cooperation of Capt. Thomson with him in the adjustment of the war, which he kindly consented thereto, and tendered the Executive a passage in the "Dolphin" to visit Rocktown. the "Dolphin" laid off Rocktown. the King, and principal head-men of the Rocktown tribe was requested to come on board, to adjust the war difficulties to the first message they declined - a second not more successful however a few round shots over the Town, and into the Town from the Dolphin guns - when up went the white flag - and off came a canoe, with a messenger expressing their willingness to come on board for the adjustment of the war on any terms the Executive would propose to them, being late in the afternoon it was determined that they should come on board the next morning, at which time the Palmas delegation would be present and have their differences settled on the terms the Government would submit accordingly. the next day the two delegations from the two tribes came on board, after a free conference it was agreed that peace should be established. The exchange of the several prisoners, taken by each of the belligerent parties, the civilisation of Kéké was to remain in close operation untill the Government should make known its disposition. The two tribes agreed by the present treaty to submit to that disposition whatever it may be. they agreed that the present adjustment was final. the various hostilities having been gone through. they took their friendly leave of each other.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1857