Palmas people never visited Rocktown. The Government from time to time was duly advised of many untoward circumstances that bore evidence of evil neighbors with regard to their darling object resentment the Government heard nothing definite. however the Government in no wise felt alarmed at these unusual occurrence, but endeavored to profit from the authentic information which had been so kindly given. nor did the Government change its policy towards the Cape Palmas people in consequence of the information which had been received. Sunday Night Dec. 1856. Testimony of an unquestionable character was received that, that night was designated for an attack on the Americans, in corroboration of this fact, that properly a Massacre was premeditated several facts was cited. Men from the Towns, had been sent to witness the Dismissal of the several Congregations on Sunday - the numbers who attended service, men, old and young from this report they may be enabled to judge how many would attend Evening worships. how many would likely to remain at home at night. Respecting the source from whence the Intelligence was received the late hour. their was no time to be idled away. the Citizens was generally informed - guards was posted every precaution comparable with the shortness of the notice. and the importance of the occasion, to insure safety was resorted to. the Canons was arranged for defense. Ammunitions was distributed. The unexpected moment was awaited with Breathless anxiety when the Savage onslaught would would be made upon the Colonist. few slept. early part of the night the Three Towns was a perfect Ball room. The natives merriment was reflected with vivacity on the night in question, since that memorable night they have never danced, several friendly natives who brought trade in on Saturday remained over Sunday night. witnessed the the fact, and was much alarmed at the preparation in Town (native) for war enquired of their Relations what all this means their answers was quite vague, as the night

advanced they overheard several of the Town people say, the Americans had been the news and now it was all over with them. night passed without any outburst on the part of the Natives - it did occur to the Authorities that this was the method of the Palmas people Resentment, this fact was of sufficient importance to apprise the Government to review the connecting link of circumstances, that had been communicated, to the Government in reference to its action in the Treaties with the Rocktown, and allies.

On Monday Dec the The Executive requested the King and the Principal head-men of the Three Towns, to meet him in the Executive Chamber, to Institute an Inquiry in the premises, at ten O. clock A.M. His Excellency, requested His Honor the Lt Governor to be present, also the Secretary of State, to meet in the Conference to advised with His Excellency - on the morning - the Conference convened a Denizen native African meet his Excellency on his way to office, and tried him to Interrogate "See Palm" knowingly as well as sharpely the Conference was prize. The Executive Chambers was shown open to allow the Citizens generally an opportunity to hear the Disclosures also see what might be elicited relevant to the massacre, or premeditated insurrection by the Palmas people. as anticipated quite a concourse of citizens gathered anxious to hear the facts of the at first doubtful Insurrection. at the hour appointed the Delegations appeared in the Executive chamber, where the Governor and Council, was in readiness to meet them. The Conference opened without much respect to Formalities by the Government. The Interrogatory put first by the Gov: to Tecowies did your people arm themselves to Massacre My people? Will! to this he answered no: the question was put to each of the Delegation, a seeming triumph at the negative response was significantly enjoyed by them. At this moment the Governor Interrogated "See Palm" the Gov: put his eyes in "Palms" he reiterated the question to Palm. did you not know! that your people had prepared themselves to make an secret

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855—October 1857

1857