Attack on the American people last night! do you not know "Palm" that your people had passed inspection on Sunday afternoon, also the Distribution of powder. and your Palm Sharpened your knife to cut my throat, was not fines imposed. And collected from your Soldiers for not coming pursuant to your Head-men Orders. to these leading questions. The King and Principal head-men, hid their faces in their hands. "Jeeseville said Governor we are much much ashamed for this palaver set it to day. The Gov: questioned Palm whom did he tell. was the other Head-men ignorant of this Matter. he said he told them age. they are we acquainted. and. approved of the step. the disclosure having been made. They now attempted to justify this armed character. and divest it of its Criminality by the most flimsy subterfuge that some person or persons whose name was unknown to them. had told them. that the Gov: had engaged the service of the American Flag ship that visited Palmas in Decr. 1856. to Bombard their Towns. this circumstance was related by facts to which His Honor the Lt Gov: cited their attention Julie an intelligent native man who had heard this minor credible circulated. in the Towns. the Gov: was absent on a visit to river Cavalla to adjust the riverLg. Julie proposed to enquire of the Hon J. J. Gibson whom they familiarly knew as half Brother the Principal men in the Towns. Encouraged him to see Mr Gibson accordingly he visited Mr Gibson and asked him if the American people was not preparing to fight them. also the report relative to the American man-of-war, razeing their Towns to this statement Mr. Gibson assured Julie it was all a mistake and not a word of truth in the rumors. They was asked if Julie did not so inform them. this fact was not denied by them. They fell back upon a remark made by the Lt Gov: in substance that if the Tribes residing on the river Cavalla and Cittizens did not close that river and quiet their petty disputes and allow trade to pass down and up the river. the American people would

close that river with powder and Balls. The Governor endorsed this observation. of His Honor,

Their pleas in justification being thus divested of all specious circumstances. their nefarious plot proved abortive. they then said. some American Lads had told them. the Americans intended to make war on them in three weeks from the time he tied them the Sunday night in question – was the expired time. this was another reason alledged for their preparation. not to commence it hostilities. but to defend themselves in the event of an attack. on them by the Americans. consonant to the statement of the unknown Lads. the fact being thus established by their own confession. His Honor the Lt Gov: Administered a salutary reproof to the Assemblage in substance. some two or three months ago. a number of natives fell in company with three Americans in Sue Traces field. the American in hunting had fired a clump of bush to drive the game from their lurking place. these natives had some dispute with the Amerians – without any just cause of provocation on their part. said let us do now what we have been talking about – kill these – this matter was adjusted without a muscet. and they promised then never to threaten another American life. he said to Palm you old man sharpened your knife to cut the American throats – you old men had your people guns loaded – in readiness to massacre our wives. and children. for what! the American people kindness. and various friendship towards them was cited. he then asked them if this was their gratitude for the many favors they had been the recipient of the American people. their silence was ominous. the fact of an insurrection. being explained. the duties of the Instituted Inquiry having been thus satisfactory solved. the Conference adjourned to convene at the call of the Governor. it then became essential that a respite should be taken. to advise what remedy should be adopted

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855—October 1857

1857