Drayton was caught in the Street & made common cause with the Rock Tower people. He induced them to plant an ambush on the beach between their towns & also to send all their large war canoes by sea. to lie off Cape Palmas. He then ordered the King & head men to come to the Cape & tell the palaver. This they refused to do while the war canoes were threatening them from sea. Said they would come when these canoes returned to R. I. Drayton informed them that unless they came at a certain hour to tell the palaver he would fire upon their town. At the expiration of the time fixed he opened fire, & the town was soon in a blaze. An old head man came out with a white flag, but was forced to fly from the shot. In their retreat they burned up all the Colonists houses not protected by the stations or big guns. Afterwards they came nightly & burned others houses. The Aborigines of Rock Tower people soon joined, marched down the beach & burned all the Grahway towns to Half Cavally. At the last advices the Natives were suing for peace, but the Governor insists that the Grahway people shall remove to Berry, the town of their enemies, out of the limits of the State, & that the Cape Palmas people shall keep the Cavally River. This was objected to, & the matter rests where Mrs R. left. [redacted] — Mrs R. says that many few of the Colonists knew of the proposed attack. her brother R. S. McNeill was first apprised of it by the guns. Even the fire-eater Major Woods is disgusted at the proceeding. the officer in command of the guns could hardly believe he was to fire, & required repeated orders. Mrs R. estimates that at least one third of the Colonists are houseless & have lost their all. The Rejoice premises at Mt Vaughan are destroyed, the occupants barely escaping with their lives. Such is a brief outline of the affair

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1857