derived from the most reliable sources. All agree in their conduct of Drayton. He seems to have opened all but arbitrary powers. On receipt of the intelligence here Dr McGill at once went down in the Schr Geo. R. McGill, ordering the Misses Shoppard to follow. Mrs R. came up in the Geo. R. & the Dr remains in the U.S. It is a great satisfaction to me that he is on the ground but his protracted stay excites apprehensions. He promised to be back here by the 28th ult. I have been anxiously looking for him or his report will govern my actions in a great degree. That very great assistance is needed cannot be doubted. In fact the existence of the Colony depends upon it. As many are anxious to leave for this place, I sail from this day after tomorrow, & if Dr McGill does not arrive before that time, I shall buy what provisions are in market here with a view of landing them there & shall also buy what surplus stores the Ship may have belonging to the A.C.S. Rice is very scarce along the entire coast here & there is no flour in market, nothing in way of provisions except a few bbls of salt meat. Because the Negroes have lost all their clothing I shall get a few coarse of domestic prints &c. It is ~~strongly~~ ~~the duty~~ I should have concerned offensive operations ~~without some provocation~~. Had the natives ~~made an attack~~ resistance the Colony must ~~continue to be a burden~~ for them. There are not 20 rounds of ammunition after the first days fire. Luckily McGill had some in store.

I need not say how painful all this is to me. I am truly sick at heart & had rather die than risk Cape Palmas. But I will not complain. Possibly the above may not be confirmed in the worst features. Pray excuse haste. I will close for the present

Very truly & respectfully Yours James Hall

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1857