July 5th I intended to have sailed for Cape Palmas this morning, but Dr McGill came up yesterday in the Mous Shoppee, bringing the most pernicious intelligence from that place. All that I have before written was confirmed, the shade of Drayton only being darkened. But the worst remained to be told — The Natives in vain sued for peace on honorable terms or on being permitted to remain in their country, but no. they must go to Benby. Cross the Cavally or be exterminated. An attack was resolved upon — The Natives were encamped along Shoppee Creek on the main land side — Drayton fitted out some large canoes, two or three, in which were two guns, the best Winchester & everything. These were to attack them first on the Lake while the Rock town people were to assail them in the rear — The attack was boldly commenced. The canoes running into a creek or inlet, on each side of which was an ambush of Natives, — who did not discover themselves until the canoes were well in. They then poured into them a fire of musketry. So severe as to throw them into confusion & cause them to retreat — They backed out firing, but the recoil of one gun split the canoe. & I believe the other or others were upset. At any rate 26 choice young men were killed & drowned, & both guns of cannon & all the stores, ammunition &c fell into their hands — a complete defeat of the Americos — The Natives are now triumphant hemming the colony in all round, picking off all stragglers who are obliged to search of food — The Rock town & Half Cavally allies are withdrawing — the settlement is under martial law, all provisions secured out for rations. They have just enough to stand them but a few weeks. Dr McGill left all he had there. What makes it worse there is little or no rice in the country — & not a bushel of that or any kind of bread stuff to be obtained here — There is possible to detain the Ship I would do it even provided to leave Tuesday for rice. Then I might be too late to effect any good at Cape Palmas. & it is doubtful if I can any way by Dr McGill fearful entirely to influence Drayton — Letters from Mr Hoffman & me are even more discouraging than Dr McGill states.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1857