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Drayton wrote to Prest. Benson, the Agent & the English Consuls have rendering aid. The Consuls are powerless we refuse of our being in port. Most unfortunately an English war Steamer left but 12 hours before the arrival of D'Kidd — President Benson has laid the matter before the Legislature now in Session, about to adjourn. I had an interview with him early on receipt of the intelligence. He seemed disposed to do all in his power, but the Govt is crippled & in debt, having so recently ~~[illegible]~~ guaranteed the Liberia loan. The Legislature had passed a bill authorizing him to try & effect a loan, but the ability to do so is more than doubtful. Knowing that nothing could be done without funds, I authorized Mr Benson to intimate to his Council that I would make a loan to the Govt. in case an Expedition could be sent forthwith in aid of Cape Palmas, that the aid should be granted unconditionally, no claim therefor to be made for annexation as a County. I felt justified in making this proposition, in fact I can see no other entirely safe way of sustaining the Settlement at Cape Palmas. I await the action of the Leg. to day with no little interest — yes, with dreadful anxiety & apprehension —

July 8th A bill has passed both houses of the Legislature, authorizing the President to effect a loan of $10,000 of practicable & to enlist a force of 225 men to proceed at once to Cape Palmas. The bill passed on the 6th & a general parade was ordered for the 7th when about 100 volunteers were obtained, more may yet be added from this County but it is expedient to obtain some from Baltimore &c. I have consented to detain the Ship a few days, until the Expedition can be got ready & then take what can be obtained here on board & sail directly for Cape Palmas. The Govt have displayed all credit for promptness in action. We shall take on board

Maryland Historical Society

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

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