By English Mail Steamer

79 II A 28

Monrovia May 1. 1862

Dr. James Hall
Baltimore Md.

Dear Doctor,

The "Palmas" left this port yesterday Capt. Hall quite well. Whether the Brig would limit her trade to our Liberian coast, or below Cape Palmas depended in the quality of the Oil to be procured. George did not pay tonnage dues, nor the duties on his cargo; he decided to proceed to Bassa first, and if the prospects of trade and the quality of Oil warranted, then to arrange for trading at all point between this and Cape Palmas. We purchased 5 Nhds Tobacco for the Brig making payment for it in Palm Oil procured at Gallinas & Cape Mount, it is equal to Lagos, entirely free from dirt. It is reported that the Oil now made on the Bassa Coast is of an improved quality, this comes from so many sources that we are forced to credit it.

The Eighths of Powder have been shipped on board the "Palmas"; one or two barrels excepted that Lynch was induced to exchange for lumbeths.

We have received various accounts from up-country, all of which will in time be examined and reported upon. Frank Russwurm has gone down in the Brig to collect old debts & make returns of Merchandise that remains unsold to enable us to make a regular wind up of your business.

The "Somers" the "Belle" and the Brig "Ann" have all arrived here within one month, and all have made moderate sales of provisions, trade is however very dull, Oil, drafts and specie scarce. Foreigners do not now take government paper because there's nothing in our Treasury for its redemption. We are here making large calculations based on Benson's ability to make a raise in the U. States; will he succeed? I have no reason to suppose that he can, beyond the small amount due for Lagos, and that is precarious.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

1862