May 6. — We are having here an unusual season; up to date we have had no rain, or not sufficient to warrant the planting of our rice — its difficult to procure sufficient water for ordinary domestic purposes on the Cape. At Palmas the rice planted early in April is killed by the sun — Cassava & Potatoes are not to be had there so that they are threatened with a famine. We have sent down to Rock 2000 Cwts of Rice within the last month, but it is not enough to supply settlers and Natives a single month.

We are unable at present to impart to you any reliable information concerning the prospects of your business — In order to the collection of debts and dues at Baesa & Sinoe, we do hope that George's operations will be confined to the Liberian coast, yet we have not used a single argument to influence him in the matter — we are well aware of its being necessary for him to procure good Palm Oil, and we fear notwithstanding what we hear to the contrary that the pure article is not yet being furnished on the Baesa coast. In the neighborhood of this place, and at Cape Mount where we have not to compete with foreigners, the natives have been induced to furnish good Oil, but at all other points foreigners trade, or have establishments — they buy dirty Oil and we are constrained to do the same or give up trade. We pay the natives here and Cape Mount 50¢ pr. Gallon for Oil, in trade goods. Goodell's concern prevents our influencing the natives to clean the Oil.

Your son was in good health when he left us — was careful & prudent; generally starting for the Brig at 4½ to 5 p.m. and bids fair to persevere in this prudent course — he is not likely to suffer at all in his health. Please present respects to Miss Carrie & Mrs Geo. All well with us. to you & our dear health and renewed prosperity —

Yours most truly &c

Wm. Gill, Bros

By Sam'l Miller.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857—November 1863

1862