from them. From our first landing I have endeavoured to convince them of the numerous advantages that would accrue to the Country from our coming hither, & they appeared to be fully sensible of it. They appeared to wish that we should sit down with them & become one people, possess one Country & have one national flag in common. They appeared duly to appreciate the importance of education, & the advantages that would result to their children from the establishment of Schools. They appeared readily to foresee the almost immediate increase of wealth the Country would experience in consequence of having a constant & ready market for their produce & of the stimulus it would be to industry & they were fully sensible of the total change that would ultimately take place in their national character in almost every point of view from living in contact with our America Africans. Yet with all this they are so fickle and capricious that we are obliged to be ever upon the look out. They have twice called all their people from our Town, & forbid all trade or intercourse of any kind with us, & the aspect of affairs was so threatening that we were obliged to be all night upon our arms. But they have uniformly come forward the next day & set the palaver of their own accord. They appear rather to wish to intimidate us, that in affairs of trade we may come to their terms, than to commence actual hostilities; for, as I before observed, the more intelligent of them are sensible that the Country will ultimately be much benefitted by our settling in it. There are however many very influential head men in this Town, who know very little of the customs & habits of Europeans, & 'tis next to impossible to convince these that we have any good object in view, & so jealous are they respecting us that when you speak of the subject of schooling their children, & teaching them our mechanical arts they shake their

heads, & will not believe one word of the matter. And inasmuch as all palavers & matters of business have to come before this Sanhedrim 'tis almost impossible to effect any thing with them; all business respecting our Colony being new to them, they have to act without precedent. They have no regard to a strongly ratified contract; with them a breach of faith is common, & in many instances considered laudable, especially where the matter has been managed adroitly. Theft is common & seldom punished excepting when their Cattle are purloined, in which case the thief is either expelled from the Country or shot. They are upheld in stealing from Vessels or Colonists by the King, & all articles so obtained of any amount are divided amongst the headmen, the thief retaining a moiety thereof. This has been, & will be for a long time a great hindrance to the prosperity of the Colony, & many will suffer severely when they commence farming, & are more scattered. At present clustered as we are on this little Cape, with a constant night guard of two men, something is missing every night, & in many instances great boldness is manifested. They have slipped their hands through the wattling of the houses & stripped the bed clothes from the sick, yet 'tis impossible to see them, owing to the darkness of the nights during the rains. I have authorised the guard to shoot down any native, who may be found prowling about Town after dark, & the King has sanctioned the order, still we cannot prevent it. What our people can do when scattered over an extent of Territory I cannot tell, but I hope ere that time to stop this business through the King & headmen; so soon as I think we are strong enough, I shall make the King responsible for all thefts committed by his people, & in case of thefts committed by natives from other Towns, carry the palaver there, & demand restitution. I traced some articles

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II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834—November 1837

1834