to Grahway the other day, & immediately went down & called a palaver, & not only procured those I went in quest of, but in the same house found four other valuable articles, that had been stolen from the Colony.

May 15: To give you some idea of our (precarious) situation at this time, I will just mention the occurrences of the five past days. As I have before stated to you our provisions are becoming very short & of our American bread stuff, we have not enough to serve for four weeks. Of this the head King in our vicinity was informed, and although all palavers respecting trade had been set for some weeks by a convocation of Kings & headmen, he determined to take advantages of our circumstances & raise the price & also prevent our trading with the tribes except his own. He accordingly forbid all his people from bringing us any article of provisions & also laid an embargo upon all intercourse, with the neighbouring towns, particularly Rock Town, with which he & his people were formerly at War. The people of this Town, (Rock Town) had been our only reliance since our arrival, for procuring rice, & were at the time of this truck of the Kings, actually, measuring out Rice to us in the Store. The King sent up his head men, ordering them to bring no more rice, nor take any goods of me to purchase more with. (which is the custom here). This was placing us in a very unpleasant situation, & could not be but ill with. Thinking I could coax them out of their unfair and illegal notions, as I had always been able to before, I mounted my ass, & went down to the Town, where the ~~War~~ Head men were all convened, & commenced talking the matter over & reasoning with them, upon their unjust proceedings, but all to no purpose. They did not pretend to reason, but only said they would do as they pleased right or wrong. I then

states fully our circumstances to them, that unless they permitted the Rock Town people to bring rice we must starve, that we were as ready to meet death one way as the other, that as yet we never had done them wrong, or ever threatened violence when they were sensible they deserved it, that they had now broken the contract but lately made, to allow free trade with all Tribes, that I had but one word more to say, & if they persisted in their present course, I should never meet them again to talk any palaver & that was this, if they attempted to stop by force any trade coming to me or intercepted any trade goods which I should send for Rice, that war would then begin, & it should not end while one American lived on the Cape, or until I had destroyed every native Town within gun shot of our fort. This was totally unexpected to them & produced a deal of excitement, & the menaces were so strong towards me, that being alone I thought best to make my way home. I made all arrangements that night, expecting hot work on the morrow, when I should send my boat to Rock Town; but in the morning was agreeably disappointed by a message by the interpreter & headmen from the King, stating that they were convinced of their error, & were sorry for the trouble they had given me, & since then they have been more quiet & less troublesome than heretofore (and I have been very formal and distant in my intercourse with them. I told them that I could have no more confidence in them, that if they wished peace they should have it, & fair treatment as before, but that I should always be ready, if they took a notion as before to trouble me without cause, that I should talk no palaver, but let off my big guns upon the Town at once.

May 20: I yesterday returned from a tour to the Cavally River which I completed with much fatigue in two days. I left here on the morning of the 18: at day light, & having the day before sent my ass to Grahway

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834—November 1837

1834