by the beach road, I took a Canoe at the head of the lake & arrived there in two hours. This lake is a beautiful sheet of clear salt water, upon an average half a mile in breadth, extending from the site of the mission house about eight miles parallel from the sea beach, & in some places separated only by a wall of sand thrown up by the surf, of not more than fifty yards in breadth. At the narrowest place the natives once or twice a year dig a trench level with the surface of the lake, & it soon discharges its waters into the sea, leaving an immense quantity of fish of all kinds, which are gathered up by all the tribes in the vicinity & smoked in great numbers. The sea very soon fills up the breach thus made, & the lake is again replenished by the rains & small creeks. The King of Grahway has three towns, one of which is very large where he resides, I had formerly visited his town, & passed the ordeal of saluting his head men, & eating a bullock with them, so that I was detained here only to breakfast which I did most sumptuously on a dish called palaver sauce, (the only pleasant thing I ever found connected with the word palaver) prepared at the house of the Kings head trade man Grey. It very much resembles, & is prepared from similar materials as the French dish called Callaloo, but far surpassing it, especially after a two hours canoe ride. I left Grahway accompanied by the King & several headmen, who deigned to honor his Excellency the "Gubnoo," with their company to Cavally; probably having in their minds eye the bullock that must die on so important an occasion. On leaving Grahway I entered one of the most beautiful meadows I ever beheld from one to two miles in breadth, extending from Grahway pt. to Half Cavally, as it is termed, a distance of near five miles. It was literally covered with fine fat Cattle, Sheep & Goats

belonging to the neighbouring Towns. When within a mile or so of Half Cavally, we were met by not less than a thousand men, women & children, in whose countenances & gestures nothing but wonder & astonishment were visible, & would that I could add comae steterant, voces faucibus haesurunt faucibus, but not so, their hair bound their heads like a well hooped cask, or they would have burst from the tumendous screaming which issued sans intermission from every throat. 'Twas enough to see their kings rugged out in the clothes, I gave them but a white man & a jacket as to boot was too much. Their fear & joy knew no limits, as to their manner of showing them, & I much feared in duration, for the war was absolutely insupportable. The town or rather Towns of Half Cavally are very large containing over Sixteen hundred people, (quelsons) supported principally by trading with the bush people. Their Territory is not very extensive & as yet not deeded to us, as you will perceive by the deed executed by the other Kings. I can obtain a claim to it whenever I choose but do not deem it advisable at present. It would give umbrage to the Kings of our Territory, as they were formerly at war with this people & Rock Town, from which the inhabitants of this (Half Cavally) descended. The head trade men of this place are the most intelligent of any I have found on the Coast. One in particular who has lived in England twelve years, is in all respects so far as I have observed a Gentleman. I believe I may safely say that I was never treated with more civility and politeness than I was by this man. His house was built by a native of Cavally in European fashion, framed & weather boarded but covered with thatch. The nails & hinges were made by the Country Smiths. The lower story was used as a Store & the upper as sleeping & drawing rooms. I rested myself on a hair mattress

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834—November 1837

1834