To Jno. H. B. Latrobe Esq., Cape Palmas, Oct. 15th. 1834.

Dear Sir,

In my last pr. Schooner Sarah & Priscilla, I informed you that an embargo had been laid upon all our Commerce by our neighbour King, and that we should soon be in want of provisions. I will briefly state the cause of this movement on the part of his Majesty. There had been a large quantity of plank stolen, belonging to Mr Wilson; and the people of this Town and Grahway, mutually accused each other of taking it. I had a talk with King Freeman upon the subject, and he agreed to send to Bolo and examine into the business. After a few days he came up and informed me that he had sent a man, & Bolo had examined his peoples houses & found none, and that none could have gone to Grahway. A short time after I was informed by Bolo, that the King had sent no messenger to him, and he had heard nothing about the plank. Thus stood matters when the schedition arrived. After despatching the Vessel I sent word to Bolo & Bapkro to come and receive their goods. On the morning of the day in which I expected them, King Freeman came up and complained that I had not treated him properly as head King, in not sending him word and letting him call the others. I then told him that I could not trust him to deliver any message, that he had deceived me in his intended communication with Bolo and that I could not respect him as a King unless he acted like one, and punished thievery, instead of fostering it, that I was sensible if he pleased he could at once put an end to it. At this he became engaged & forthwith proceeded as above stated. He forbid the other Kings Bolo & Bapkro from taking any goods due for Territory or even the letters which you sent out, and allowed no one to communicate with our Town. Thus matters stood for about three weeks & I had

determined not to yield or make him any satisfaction, until he would take some measures to stop their increasing depredations. We were about out of rice, & had no hopes of obtaining any except through this Town, but I had concluded to put the whole Colony upon half rations, (myself among the rest,) and make no overtures of reconciliation, until the whole was expended; and then to demand what was due us from their peoples which I knew was already in their houses, or to let some come from the neighbouring Towns. To give them their choice to pay us their debts for money advanced for Rice, to open the passage for trade with the other Towns, or, to fight with us. I say I had purposed upon this course, but I had little doubt, that if left entirely to themselves they would come forward & make honorable proposals for settling the palaver, ere our rations would be entirely expended. In this interesting state of affairs, with savage men threatening on one hand and starvation on the other, when we had voluntarily submitted to bear the privations and anxieties incident to our present precarious situation solely with a view to secure our property from the unceasing depredations of the natives, I had the extreme overwhelming mortification to see one of our Colonists sent up to me by the King charged with stealing Cassada from their fields. His guilt was unquestionable. The King sent a message desiring to know why I sent him to steal, that if his boys stole from me I accused him of countenancing it; that he had a right to suppose the same of me. This entirely changed the state of affairs. The tables were completely turned, and we had nothing to do, but back out. It mattered not that I offered to give him up to the King, to make him pay or that I put him in irons and confined him to publick work. The Colonists were branded as thieves, and reduced to a level with them and the ground that I had taken to make the King responsible for thefts was by this movement rendered untenable.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
C. Foreign Letter Books

1. January 1834--November 1837

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