APPENDIX.

Extracts from a Letter from Dr. James Hall to John H. B. Latrobe, Esq. Cor. Sec. Md. State Colonization Society. Written at various dates, from April 24th, to August 17th, 1834.

April 24th.

I am at present engaged in building a kitchen and rice house, and trust that I may be able to lay in, next rice season, a store against the planting and growing time; the natives are so improvident as to sell all off at one time. I am also building a kind of timber fort, to be covered, and to answer as a shelter for the guns, and a guard house at night. Eight or ten men will always sleep there, and as the site overlooks the native town, we have little to fear from surprise or attack except by day, and then we shall be prepared for them. In fact, our present standing with the natives is such, that I have little of this nature to apprehend from them. From our first landing, I have endeavored to convince them of the advantages that would accrue to the country from our coming hither, and they appear to be fully sensible of it. They appear to wish that we should sit down with them, become one people, possess one country, and have one flag in common. They appeared duly to appreciate the importance of education, and 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 and ready market for their produce, and of the stimulus it would be to industry; and 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 Americo-Africans. Yet with all this, they are so fickle and capricious, that we are obliged to be ever on the watch. They have twice called all their people from our town, and forbade all intercourse or trade with us, and 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, and 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 have before observed, the more intelligent of them think that their country will be ultimately benefitted by our settling in it. There are, however, many influential head men even in this town, who know very little of the customs and habits of the Europeans, and it is next to impossible to convince them that we have any good object in view. So jealous are they respecting us, that when you speak on the subject of schooling their children, and teaching them our mechanical arts, they shake their heads, and will not believe one word of the matter. And inasmuch as all palavers and

matters of business have to come before this Sanhedrim, it is almost impossible to effect any thing with them; all business respecting the 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, and in many instances considered laudable, especially where the matter has been managed adroitly. Theft is common, and seldom punished, except where their cattle have been purloined, in which case, the thief is either expelled from the country or shot. They are upheld in stealing from vessels, or the colonists, by the king, and all articles so obtained, of any amount, are divided among the head men, the thief retaining a moiety thereof. This has been and will be, for some time, a great hindrance to the prosperity of the colony, and many will suffer severely when they commence farming, and 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, and in some instances great boldness is manifested. They have slipped their hands through the wattling of the houses, and stripped the bed clothes from the sick, yet it is impossible to seize them, owing to the darkness of the nights during the rains. I have authorised the guard to shoot down any native, who may be prowling about the town after dark, and 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 and head men. As soon as I think we are strong enough, I shall make the king responsible for all thefts committed by his people. and in case of thefts committed by natives from other towns, carry the palaver there, and demand restitution. I traced some articles to Grahway, the other day. I immediately went down and called a palaver, and not only procured those that I had gone in quest of, but in the same house, found four other valuable articles that had been stolen from the colony.

May 15th. To give you some idea of our situation at this time, I will mention the events of the last five days. As I have before stated to you, our provisions are becoming very short: and of our American bread stuff, we have not enough to serve out 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 and head men, he determined to take advantage of our circumstances and raise the price, and also prevent our trading with all tribes except his own. He accordingly forbade his people from bringing us any article of provision, and also laid an embargo upon all intercourse with the neighboring towns, particularly Rock town, with which he and his people were formerly at war. The people of this town, (Rock town,) had been our only reliance since our arrival, for procuring rice, and were, at the time of this trick of the king's 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, (which is the custom here.) This was placing us in a very unpleasant situation, and could not be put up with. Thinking that I could coax them out of their unfair and illegal notions, as I had always been able to do before, I mounted my ass, and went down to the town where the head men were all convened,

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