and commenced talking the matter over, and reasoning with them upon their unjust proceedings, but all to no purpose, they did not pretend to reason, but said they would do as they pleased, right or wrong. I then stated fully our circumstances to them; that unless they permitted the Rock town people to bring us provisions, we must starve; that we were as ready to meet death one way as another; that as yet we had never done them wrong, or 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, which was this, that if they attempted to stop by force any trade coming to me, or intercepted any trade goods which I might send for rice, that war should then begin, and would not end while one American was left on the Cape, or until I had destroyed every native town within gun shot of our fort. This was totally unexpected to them, and produced a great deal of excitement, and the menaces were so strong towards me, that being alone, I thought it best to make my way home. I made all my arrangements that night, expecting hot work on the morrow, when I should send my boat to Rock town; but in the morning was agreeably surprised by a message, by the interpreter, from the king and head men, saying that they were convinced of their error, and were sorry for the trouble they had given me. Since then they have been more quiet, and less troublesome than heretofore; and I have been very formal and distant in my intercourse with them. I told them that I would have no more confidence in them; that if they wished peace, they should have it, and fair treatment as before; but I should always be ready, if they took a *notion*, as before, to trouble me without cause, to hold no palaver, but to let my big guns off upon the town at once.

May 20th. 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 18th at daylight, and having the day before sent my ass to Grahway by the beach road, I took a canoe at the head of the lake, and 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 to the sea beach; and 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 below the surface of the lake, and 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, and smoked in great numbers. The sea very soon fills up the breach thus made, and the lake is again replenished by the rains and small creeks.

The king of Grahway has three towns, one of which is very large, where he resides. I had formerly visited this town, and passed the ordeal of saluting his head men: and 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 king's head trade man, Grey. It very much resembles, and is prepared from similar materials with the French dish called callaboo, but far surpassing it; especially after

a two hour's canoe ride. I left Grahway accompanied by the king and several head men, who deigned to honor his excellency, the "Gubnoo," with their company to Cavally, probably having in their mind's 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 Point to Half Cavally, as it is termed, a distance of near five miles. It was literally covered with fine fat cattle, sheep and goats, belonging to the neighboring towns. When within a mile or two of Half Cavally, we were met by not less than a thousand men, women, and children, in whose countenances and gestures nothing but wonder and astonishment were visible; and would that I could add, *comæ steterunt, vocesque faucibus haesunt;* but not so, their hair was bound to their heads like a well hooped cask, or they would have burst from the tremendous screaming, which *sans intermission*, came from every throat. It was enough to see their kings, rigged out in the clothes I gave them, but a white man, and a jack-ass to boot, was too much. Their fear and joy knew no limits, as to their manner of shewing them, and I much feared, in duration, for the roar was absolutely insupportable.

The town, or rather towns, of Half Cavally, are very large, containing over fifteen hundred people, (guessing,) who are supported principally by trading with the Bush people. Their territory is not very extensive, and 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 and Rock town, from which the inhabitants of this (Half Cavally) are 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 twelve years in England, is, as far as I have observed, a gentleman. I may safely say that I was never treated with more civility and propriety than I was by this man. His house was built by a native of Cavally, in the European fashion; framed and weather-boarded, but covered with thatch. The nails and hinges were made by the country smiths. The lower story was used as a store, and the upper as sleeping and drawing rooms. I rested myself on a hair matress, laid upon a high post field bedstead, and was favored the while, by mine host, with Paddy Carey, and sundry other popular airs, upon a fine-toned chamber organ. The room was ornamented with many good English engravings, a large looking glass, and contained the common useful articles of chairs and tables, &c. Owing to the jealousy existing between these people, and the gentry who accompanied me, I deemed it advisable to stop but a short time.

From this to Cavally river, a distance of eight miles as near as I could judge, I took what is termed the bush path, and it carried me through a delightful country, the greater part of which is included in our purchase. The surface is gently undulating, and covered with a quick growth of small wood, the whole having been cleared for rice and cassada; and we passed many fields of these vegetables, which are the main articles of food in this country. To an enthusiastic admirer of nature, nothing could be more de-

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47