to send this to Cape Messurado. I am now laying off the farm lands on the north side of Grahway lake. A line running true north, midway between the west end of the lake and the mission house, forms the western boundary of our first township, laid off agreeably to your directions, three miles square. A part of the land is very good, but that bordering on the lake is sandy, producing only palms; this I shall not parcel out.

Mr. Thompson lately made a tour into the interior, as far as King Cava's country, (or rather what *was* his country, for he went to his funeral,) and found the lands to improve the further he went. He ascertained that our lands extend but twelve miles back instead of twenty, as I calculated. I hope ere long to contract for all the country between the Cavally and Big river, which you will notice is the boundary line between Grand Sesters and Jarroway. There is an immense number of towns on this river, and it is reported to be of great length.

June 27th. As opportunity now offers for sending to Cape Messurado, I must close this long letter by briefly stating what our real situation is at this time, four months from our first landing. Every town lot, with one exception, is cleared, fenced, and planted. I have built a large kitchen and rice house twenty-five feet by sixteen, one and a half stories high, entirely of African materials, except the flooring plank and doors. A stockade fort and jail, covered with thatched roofs. I have one native house for emigrants, seventy-two feet by eighteen, well floored and weather boarded; two others of twenty-five feet each, which I shall take down and re-build, altering their location and putting both in one. I shall thus be able to accommodate one hundred and fifty emigrants within one month. Our colonists have twelve framed houses, and four are shingled and occupied; the others will be, in one month more; two rock houses are going up, one of which is two stories. The people have seven weeks more to draw rations. At the end of that period, I am sorry to say, that few, very few have any immediate means of support. These lots were necessarily made so very small, that nothing but a little sauce could be planted, and I deemed it advisable to urge on their buildings as fast as possible. Not one of the emigrants who arrived from Baltimore with me, has erected any kind of a house as yet. They have been, most of the time, unable to labor at all. I have been obliged, (or rather I thought it policy,) to furnish funds to most of the emigrants to pay natives for bringing them lumber, and assisting them in clearing and fencing their lots. It encourages *them* and will stimulate the new comers, and give the colony a good name, as every house tells ten miles at sea. Ben Johnson one of the emigrants who came out with Dr. Ayres in the Oswego, says that our settlement is now in greater progress, than was Cape Messurado two years and a half after the first landing was effected on the island in the mouth of Stockton creek. When we were at Bassa, there was but one lot ready for a deed, and we now have three, and with good luck, shall have ten or more in less than a month; and Bassa had been settled more than a year and a half, and had cost the agency more than double what this has.

As regards our colonists, they are as well contented as we could reasonably expect. I have had considerable trouble with them at times, but they have uniformly *come to*, after a fair, reasonable talk. All the innumerable distresses and perplexities, necessarily accruing from a total moral, political, and physical change of circumstances, if not arising from, are expected to be remedied by the agent, and it is no slight matter to bear the brunt of all, and native palavers to boot, I assure you. But I have no great reason to despond or complain of ill success, when I reflect that Ashman the very genius of conciliation, has been obliged to shut himself up for fear of personal violence.

I shall have, for some weeks, a decent compliment of business on hand, as Mr. Thompson is necessitated to go to Monrovia on his own business, and I can get no other assistant here. Benson is also at Monrovia. I need a surveyor very much. I have been obliged to ride through brush and brier until clothes and skin are nearly stripped from my lower extremities. To lay out lands for emigrants, to see to their location, and advise and direct each one with regard to their proper course, and to inspect affairs at the public farm, will demand the whole time and attention of one man, and a man for this purpose we must have.

I have appointed the 4th of July next, as a day of thanksgiving after our old New England fashion; and I doubt not, but you will consider it, under existing circumstances, well-timed, and becoming a christian community. Not a day, or hardly an hour passes, but I feel an inward conviction, that we are and have been specially favored by Divine Providence, and I judge that a public expression of our gratitude for such favors, would not only be our duty to the Great Author of all good, but gratifying to our pious and philanthropic patrons.

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE INHABITANTS OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

Gratitude has ever been considered one of the noblest attributes of our nature, and a prominent characteristic of the wise and virtuous of all ages; and gratitude and thanksgiving to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, for all blessings, constitutes an important part of both natural and revealed religion; and no duties are more strongly enjoined upon us by the inspired writers than to enter into the gates of the Most High "with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise, to be thankful unto him, and to speak good of his name." Since we are exhorted thus to express our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for our being, preservation, and the many other blessings we individually enjoy, it especially behooves us, the inhabitants of this colony, at this time, publicly to express our deep sense of divine favor and protection. We humbly conceive that if ever there was an instance of providential interposition to promote and favor the views and exertions of men, it has been strikingly visible, in enabling us, thus far, to accomplish an undertaking the most liberal and philanthropic, and one which we trust merits the smiles and approbation of heaven.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47