To the members of the Board of Managers of the Colonization Society.

CAPE PALMAS, *Sept.* 5, 1836.

The following, gentlemen, are the words of King Freeman, and as nearly literal as it is possible for me to write them. The visit of Simleh Balla to America, I believe, will result in real and lasting good to his countrymen. And I must return you my sincere thanks for the favourable manner in which you have presented myself and other missionaries to their confidence and regard. It does us real good thus to be noticed by distant friends. It will be well for you to repeat these tokens of kindness to King Freeman and his people, especially by sending letters of friendship and instruction to them. 'Distance,' I would not say, 'lends enchantment to the view,' but gives force and weight to your letters. Those of us who live among them are known to be 'mere men,' but you who live in 'big Merica,' are supposed to be a little *super human.*

Yours truly and respectfully,

J. LEIGHTON WILSON.

King Freeman to the gentlemen of the Colonization Board of Baltimore—
Naheveo, (greeting.)

Mr. Wilson be hand for me and Simleh Balla be mout for me for make dis book, but de word come from me own heart. He be true I send Balla for look you—he eye be all same me eye, and dat word he peak be all same he come out me own mout. You do Balla good when he lib to your hand, dat be all same you do good for King Freeman. I tank you for dat, Balla tell me you hab fine country, I believe what he say, cause he no fit for tell lie. I tank you berry much, gentlemen, for dem dash you send me. I like um plenty and go keep um all de time. But I tank you berry much for dem law you send me—he be good law and all my people go do him. Pos' I hab dem law first time I no go do fool fash all time—dis time I go make all me people do dat ting what you law tell me. I tank you plenty gentlemen, for dem good law. I tell all man go hear Misser Wilson talk God palaver, and yiserday so much man go till plenty hab for to stand outside de house.

Soon Balla go for Merica first time me go long way bush and tell all man say he must make fine road and bring plenty trade for Cape Palmas. Me heart tink say he guin do him soon.

Me hear say you hab plenty slave in you country. Me hab one word for peak dem. You must come me country den you be *freeman* for true. Dis country be big and plenty room lib here. Pos you come, I peak true, me heart be glad plenty for look you.

'Pos any gentleman want come me want him for come too—me heart glad for see dem too much.

Me word be done now—I tank you berry much for you dash and you law. I go lub you till me dead. Me send you one country chair for you look at. Me go put pickininny country word for you see.

A good child loves his father, he loves his mother.

KING FREEMAN, *alias* PA NIMMAH.

DEPARTURE OF THE NIOBE.

Since the founding of the colony of Maryland in Liberia, it has been the object of the Board of Managers to send regularly from the state, a spring and fall expedition. This has been accomplished. The Ann carried out the first emigrants, and Dr. Hall, the first agent, in the fall of 1833. The Sarah and Priscilla sailed with supplies the ensuing spring; in the fall of 1834, the Bourne left Baltimore with emigrants for the colony; the following spring, the Harmony; in the fall of 1835, the Fortune was chartered and sailed for Cape Palmas; the Financier carried out the spring expedition of 1836, and on the 31st of October in that year, the Niobe, with thirty-two emigrants and the necessary supplies, weighed anchor for Maryland in Liberia.

Dr. Hall, late governor of the colony, had chartered the Niobe for a trading voyage on the western coast of Africa, on his own account, and the Board of Managers availed themselves of so excellent an opportunity to despatch the fall expedition of the last year. By the same vessel, the American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions sent out the Rev. David White and lady, to join Mr. Wilson, already located at Cape Palmas. Mr. White took with him a printing press, and a highly respectable coloured man as printer, fully competent to take charge of it. Dr. Savage, a missionary for the Protestant Episcopal church, as intimated in the last number of the journal, sailed also in the Niobe, carrying with him the means of erecting a mission house and other necessary buildings, in anticipation of being joined in the coming spring by Messrs. Payne and Minor, also missionaries of the same church. The Methodist Protestant Church appointed David James their agent at Harper, with a view of preparing the way for more extensive missionary operations. Mr. James is a coloured man from Cecil county, of exemplary character, in communion with the church, and of excellent abilities. He will be fully competent to pave the way for other labourers from this denomination of the christian world.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47