LETTER FROM CAPE PALMAS.

(From the Frederick Herald.)

The following letter, which has been obligingly handed us for insertion, is from a coloured man, who left this neighbourhood, some two or three years ago, for Cape Palmas: it conveys a flattering account of the happiness of his present condition, in comparison with his former. It will be read with interest by those who knew him, as conveying information which may be relied on with certainty, and as contradicting falsehoods which have been widely ciculated in relation to this prospering colony.

CAPE PALMAS, *Sept.* 4, 1836.

DEAR SIR—I have received and read your very kind letter of June 27th, with a satisfaction in some degree proportioned, I humbly trust, to your christian courtesy and affection, and I feel that I can never be too sensible of your merit, nor too grateful to you for the pains you have taken to communicate so desirable information to me and my family. An anxious solicitude (as you anticipated) for the welfare of my children, and the situation of my friends and neighbours, had long borne with oppressive weight upon my mind. Many a tear and wakeful hour can witness how ardently I desired to hear from them, if no more, before I die; but, sir, by your kindness this consuming want has been fully redressed. I sincerely lament that such an incredulity as you expressed, and one too so replete with embarrassment and difficulty to themselves and to their colour universally, exists among the coloured population in America, in reference to the existence of such a place as Cape Palmas; likewise that they question and try to invalidate the many assertions that emancipated persons wishing to come to Africa, and shipping for that purpose according to the directions of the Colonization Society, do not safely arrive at that place, and are received and welcomed to our shores as a free people; I lament that there are designing men, actuated by motives of self-interest, or party spirit, who are so abandoned by truth and uprightness as to coin and circulate such glaring falsehoods. We are here, blessed be God, and though some weak and fickle-minded, who badly want a master, or whose minds are destitute of strength, solidity or enterprise, may look to the land of bondage, long for their chains, talk about their flesh pots, or weep for the tombs of their fathers, I and many others are determined to stay here to live, and here to die, knowing that 'better is a little with contentment, than much and trouble therewith.'

As to the report about starvation, of which you make mention, it is a palpable falsehood. I never wrote it, I never thought it, and what grieves me worse than all, is, that I have any relatives concerned in such a fabrication; and if they continue such a course, I awfully fear 'the curse of the Lord will be upon their houses, and their children far from safety.'

I heard from Calbert about six weeks ago; he was then well and doing well; but as to the young woman you wrote of, I am not prepared to communicate any information. Calbert is at Caldwell, one of the upper colonies.

Sir, I feel the weight and importance of your appeal to my christian sympathies, and have already expressed, in part, my opinion as to the country to which I have emigrated. I have had but one mind, but one sentiment, but one purpose. That is, that the hand of Almighty God is in it, and his sleepless eye over it, and that whosoever avail themselves of the opportunity and offer of the Society, may be subsequently, nay, eternally benefitted. But in any place, if people are dissatisfied, they will be unhappy and miserable; and there are some here not pleased with the place, and the probability is that there will be more or less in every expedition. All persons have not enterprising minds, and this is one essential thing in people circumstanced as we are here. This is the reason why you hear of so many evil reports about our colonies, but for my own part, I see nothing here to frighten people, but rather much to encourage them. If I know any thing about things lovely and of good report, liberty, civil or religious, ought to inspire any slave to be free; but when both these and many other things are presented as incitements, the spirit of freedom should impel him to action, and when that freedom can be legally and quietly procured, a circle of endeared acquaintances, the prospect of pecuniary benefit, the sepulchres of departed kindred behind, nor difficulty, nor danger before, should restrain him. Though I meet with some difficulties here, as well as others, it is not more than I expected, and I am fully persuaded that no man, properly weighing the matter, need lament the hour of his embarkation. In religion I enjoy myself better than I ever did in America, and better than I ever expected to here; but our way is opening, our borders are enlarging, and the church is winning its widening way rapidly. Upwards of forty have been added to us this year, more or less of every expedition is brought in. Our prospects among the natives are flattering, and we are praying that the Great Head of the Church will give us a great harvest of souls among these ignorant people. My family are all well. I hope indeed that you will be so kind as to answer this, and let me know what prospect there is of my getting my children. I need not ask you this, you will do all for me you can. Give my regards to all that inquire after me.

I am, my dear sir, your very obliged humble servant,

JACOB GROSS.

To CHESTER COLEMAN, Esq. *Frederick city, Md.*

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47