I have commenced two additional houses 20 by 16 feet, for new emigrants, and one nearly the same size to serve as a temporary residence for the new teacher, all of which are nearly shut in from the weather, though they will have to remain unfinished some time for want of plank. So great is the demand, that I have been unable to procure five hundred feet for the last ninety days.

5. *New Township.*—If I have a correct understanding of the ordinance in relation to townships, it is time that some name should be given by you to the land, now being occupied by the Tubman people. The ordinance ordains that each township shall contain nine square miles; and if we extend the present township of Harper to a small brook on the immediate vicinity of Mount Vaughan, bounding it on the north-east by the river, and on the south-west by the beach running parallel with Sheppard's lake, three or four miles as you shall direct, I think we shall then have a sufficiently large township.

6. *New Volunteer Company.*—You will be pleased to learn, that a new volunteer company has been formed and chartered by the council. They number upwards of thirty; and have assumed the name of the Howard Volunteers, after the late honoured president of the society. O. A. Chambers, the teacher of our free school, is captain. The members are principally the late emigrants from Baltimore. They appear to be proud of the privilege of bearing arms in defence of their adopted country.

7. *Supplies, &c.*—In compliance with your request, a table has been made out, to show in what manner it will be for the society's interest hereafter, to invest money in trade goods to the best advantage, to send to this market.

A calculation has also been made to show what quantity of rations it would require to furnish one hundred emigrants with six months provisions after landing. I have preferred putting these calculations in a separate sheet, which you will find marked B.

8. *Stockades.*—As early as possible after my return, the subject was taken into consideration by the council, and a law passed, ordaining that the colonists should be divided into two classes, one of which should turn out every Friday under the care of the assistant and vice-agent, for the purpose of culling timber. I set carpenters at work, who have succeeded in putting up the frame work of one block-house at the public farm, and as soon as plank can be obtained, I shall have it finished. I have caused the long four pounder, purchased of Doctor Hall, to be mounted on a pivot and placed on a circular platform erected by our masons.

In noticing your instructions for the erection of two block-houses with a palisade between them, so as to separate our town from king Freeman's, I suppose the Board are not aware that there is quite a descent from our town to theirs, and from the rocky nature of the soil, it would be impossible to put down palisades, that would remain any length of time. It would be impossible to get them down any where near the water's edge, and if our town is to be separated from king Freeman's, a wall of sufficient height from the sea to the river, will alone answer the purpose. The only spot suitable for a block-house to command the native town, is the one where Fort Hall formerly stood, or some where in its stead.

9. *Roads.*—After much palavering, the long desired and long delayed road through king Freeman's town, has been obtained, by the payment of five dollars for the removal of houses of the first class, four for the second, and three for the third. There has always been an opposition on the part of the king and head-men to the project; but I have constantly kept it in mind, as it was one of importance, and much desired by the Board and colonists. The necessity of a road was foreseen by all my predecessors, and they did their best to open it; but the natives could see no use in it till we got our carts and oxen at work, when they felt that we could not pass through without damaging their houses. At present every native man of any note among them is in favour of the 'treet' as they call it. I have gone to considerable expense in cutting down the hill on the easterly side of the town.

Our Maryland avenue has also been opened to within two or three miles of Weissah, about seven miles in extent, and I am proud to have it to say, that

the further we advance into the interior, the better we find the soil. But the Cape people are very jealous, and I had many palavers before they gave a reluctant assent that the emigrants per the Baltimore, should go beyond Mount Vaughan. Many of them tried hard to convince me that it was never the intention of the last agent to advance any further than three miles in the bush.

HARPER, *Cape Palmas, April* 26, 1838.

DEAR SIR:—I had the honour of addressing you by the brig Susan Elizabeth, which left here for United States, via Monrovia, December 27. Since then, the brig Niobe, with the expedition, &c. has arrived and landed every body and every thing in safety,

Tubman people.—My late advices informed you that there were seven frames erected on their lands: you will be pleased to know, that they are all of them so far completed as to be inhabited. Two other frames have been since erected. They are busied in preparing their grounds for planting. Considerable cotton seed has been distributed to them, and they have pledged themselves to give it a fair trial; and I believe they will. I have also given them some coffee seed. Every day they remain here, I believe, strengthens their attachment to their new country. Should they keep together as they have commenced, they must, in two or three years, with ordinary industry, be considerably ahead of the older colonists. No land in the colony is equal to theirs, and so well aware are the colonists generally of this fact, that I have daily applications for exchange of lands, but it is my policy to keep them by themselves. *They are much in want* of some *jacks* or *horses.* As no garden seeds were sent out in the Niobe, I am unable to supply them with any, of which they stand in much need. Would it not be well to send out an assortment of seeds by every expedition.

Schools, &c.—We are glad to perceive among the passengers in the Niobe, Mr. B. Alleyne and lady, who are to be employed as teachers for the ladies' school. Our present schools are as full as they ought to be, and as children enough to fill another school have come in the Niobe, there will be no lack of scholars. Our free school, No. one, under the care of O. A. Chambers, averages 45, and the subject of education, has perhaps never excited so deep an interest on old or young, as at present. The same teacher is also at the head of a very flourishing Sunday school, and adults from every section of the colony, can be seen early on Sabbath mornings plodding many a weary mile to school. The other school in town, under the care of the Methodist mission, is at present kept by Mr. Burns, the stationed minister,—it averages eighteen.

I have chosen a fine site, between the native town and Mr. Wilson's, for the ladies school-house. I have also considerable rocks hauled ready for the masons. The lime is also ready, but I am completely nonplussed for want of suitable lumber for the door and window frames. In the interval, I have two houses close by nearly completed; one intended as a dwelling, and the other as a school-house for Mr. Alleyne.

After considering the subject maturely, I have concluded to put up the ladies' school-house of rock, after the plan of that erected at Monrovia, by the ladies of Richmond and Manchester. My instructions were, that something creditable should be put up, which could answer also as a church on the Sabbath. Now wood is so perishable in this climate, that a house erected entirely of African materials would not last over eight or ten years at most; so that I hope you will approve of rock, the difference of expense is very trifling; at present Mr. Alleyne is comfortably situated in one of Mr. Wilson's houses.

New Code of Laws, and Currency.—We are all much pleased with the new code of laws. We consider ourselves peculiarly fortunate in being the first colony for whose welfare and good order, so much labour has been undertaken and accomplished. Thus far, we have a standard to appeal to, instead of being bewildered in doubts and perplexities, and though some things are novel, we trust that a little experience will make them familiar to all. The powers

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47