# APPENDIX.

## DESPATCHES FROM CAPE PALMAS.

*Extract from* Gov. Russwurm's *letter to the President of the Maryland State Colonization Society.*

Harper, *January* 17, 1839.

*Dear Sir,*—I have only time to acquaint you of the safe arrival of the Oberon and passengers. The despatches have come safely to hand, and it shall be my earnest endeavour to carry out all the views and wishes of the Board. I am glad to receive the lumber, and I hope no expedition vessel will leave without bringing as much. We are pleased also, to see so much attention paid to our wants by the present shipment.

Doctors MacDowall and McGill have arrived in good health.

Signed, John B. Russwurm.

*Extracts from the despatches of* Governor Russwurm.

*Dear Sir,*—I had the honour of addressing you on August 20th ult. via Monrovia; and as there has been no opportunity of forwarding from thence, you will probably receive these lines as early, though the vessel does not proceed directly home. Then affairs appeared rather gloomy, for the reasons therein set forth; and I felt it as much my duty to inform you of the dark, as I now do to give you a detail of better times and prospects.

*Columbia's emigrants.*—The emigrants by this vessel have been highly favoured by the fever. Not an individual has been sick enough to be considered really dangerous; consequently, we have had only two deaths, of children, since their arrival. They have had so little sickness that I have hired a nurse only about four weeks. It is pleasant to visit them, as I was received with smiles. I have not to listen to petty grievances which I am unable to remedy. By request of Rev. J. L. Wilson, they are located on 'Bayard's Island,' in Hoffman's river. Bayard's Island contains, perhaps, forty acres of good land; I am not much in favour of the location, but my instructions were imperative.

*Farms.*—The farms are now looking finely, and I speak within bounds when I assert, that there is more than twice the quantity of land under cultivation this season, than the last. A little pinching, scolding and petting, and driving operations on the public farm, have convinced those who had the least spark of industry, that they need not starve unless they chose. A new species of potatoes has been introduced from the public farm. The seed came from Monrovia, and all are delighted with its size and productiveness. The introduction of night guards has prevented the farms from being plundered by the natives.

The want of working cattle cramps all farming to any extent; and I feel it my duty to place this subject constantly before the Board. I have purchased one yoke for the Tubmans, and should have supplied them with five more, but they are not to be easily procured. A native counts his cattle as his money, to purchase wives, and nothing but dire necessity ever drives him to part with them. They know also, that they can get better prices from vessels.

*The Public Farm*—Has been prosecuted with considerable energy during the past season, but owing to its being a very unfavourable one, not much has



been raised, except cassadas and potatoes. Pains were taken to have on the ground a quantity of manure, and the spot where the cotton seed was put in was well covered over. It was ploughed thrice, as it was my determination to give the seed a fair trial, but this second experiment has proved no better than the first: and if cotton is to be raised for exports, it must be from the African seed, which thrives finely. The plant grows well, but when it begins to bear, there is a small insect which plays havoc among its pods, before they are fairly ready to be picked. I calculate that two hundred pounds have been raised this season. The experiment, so far as it has been tried by the colonists, proves that land should be well broken up and manured, as there was a striking difference in the several patches, and where most labour was expended in preparing the ground, there the plant was most thriving. Our cotton on the public farm was planted May 5, 1838.

Though in the rainy season, we suffered much for want of rains; as there were ten or twelve weeks in which we had none. Even the cattle suffered for want of grass, and those at work had to be fed on corn or cassadas. Notwithstanding, our corn had quite a tolerable look, but when it was harvested the injury which it had sustained from the drought was evident, from the small quantity gathered. I planted about one acre, to shew the colonists who are daily complaining, that they could raise corn if they would only put forth the requisite quantum of sinews. All cavilling on this head is nearly silenced, as corn has been harvested two seasons. Our leeward natives raise it so extensively as to load vessels.

Our oxen have done exceedingly well; and without them I could not get along. Besides doing all the necessary farm work, they have hauled country boards, &c. for various individuals. The pair which were first broken are still at work, and have increased in size and value.

*Assistant-Agent's house.*—Agreeably to instructions, a comfortable house has been erected on Mount Tubman, for the permanent residence of the assistant-agent, who is now stationed there. The Tubmans and others in the vicinity are well pleased with the place; and fancy already they feel a security which they did not before. Thirty acres near will be placed under his superintendence, to test the difference between it, and land exposed as the agency farm is to the deleterious influence of the salt air. The present missionaries at Mount Vaughan are pleased with having so good a neighbour.

The mount is being converted into a fortification by throwing up a stockade, and digging a trench, six feet wide, around it. In it will be kept the cannon and ammunition, and it will always serve as a place of refuge for women and children in case of war or invasion. True, we fear no war or regular invasion, but we cannot tell how soon another colonist may be foolish enough to act as Parker did, or the party assaulted to take the law into his own hands. On the reserve land I have erected a comfortable dwelling for a family of respectable emigrants, during their six months' seasoning.

*Free School, No.* 1.—This school still continues in successful operation. The sickness and death of the teacher, O. U. Chambers, has been somewhat of a pull back to it, but I can perceive no sensible diminution in its numbers. On my late visit, forty-nine were present—average forty-two. Not much can be said in favour of their progress, as we want a more competent teacher. As our population extends out in the bush, we shall soon be under the necessity of having another school, somewhere in the vicinity of Mount Tubman. The people there, in a praiseworthy manner, have subscribed liberally in labour, towards putting up a school-house. One has given a site. It is but reasonable that they should look to the society for a teacher after it is finished. We want a fresh supply of Webster's Spelling Books, and cards of A B C. Would it not be well to give some name to Free School, No. 1?

The materials for the Ladies' School House are all ready, and I am only waiting the movements of our *only* mason, who has been engaged for the last three months at Mount Vaughan. We suffer but little inconvenience, as the house now occupied by Mr. Alleyne for his school, belongs to the Society. I am really pleased to have another school in operation, as the Methodist mission have discontinued theirs; and the desire to acquire knowledge is pretty

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47