general, its loss being felt sensibly by nearly all who aspire to public office. We have to raise up a class of young men for officers, as we cannot expect to find any among the emigrants duly qualified. In my opinion, the Ladies' Society, by furnishing us with a competent teacher, is conferring a blessing on this colony, which will extend to our remotest posterity.

Summary.—The contents of the late despatches via Boston, are perfectly satisfactory to those in your employ—they are peculiarly so to me, as nothing can be more consoling to a man who is labouring amidst difficulties and discouragements, than to know that his conduct is approved of by his employers.

Considerable addition and repairs have been made to the agency wharf, which has been extended more into the river, and rocks of a large size placed in it. In truth it is almost a new wharf, so great have been the labour and alterations. King Freeman assisted me personally throughout the whole of it. A quantity of dirt has been removed from around the store to render it more secure. As it stands, a person of common dexterity can mount the roof very readily from the back side were it not for the watchman. I have lost *nothing* out of the store for the last year, and I want the natives to know that I keep it constantly in view, and perhaps in time, they will give up the idea of watching it for the purpose of pilfering.

I have been compelled to draw a small bill on you for $229 in favour of R. T. Sims for trade goods. The store was almost bare, and I sold palm oil for 33, when Liverpool papers quoted it at 45 a 48 per ton. An offer has been made by the West African Company to purchase all the rice I can procure. I could enter into nothing definite without advices from you; I could only talk about it without a good supply of trade goods, and a forty or forty-five tons schooner at command. Their chairman is John Blunt, Esq., Levant House, St. Helen's Place, London. Should you see proper to correspond, a profitable trade might be driven, if you could supply them with tobacco, deliverable here, in exchange for such trade goods as cannot be easily bought in the United States. The new rice shipped from Gassaway alone by slavers, up to November 1, 1838, is upwards of 5,000 croos. Quantities of it have come down the Cavally since the settlement of the river palaver, and been shipped on board slavers in the offing from Half-Cavally and Baphro. Our natives give the Cavally bush a great name for rice and oil. The slavers manage to collect large quantities of rice, and with suitable goods and a vessel, &c. our chance would be equally as good. They are, however, no sticklers about price; if rice they want, rice they will have, even if they pay double or treble for it. Upwards of fifty frame houses have been erected in the colony within two years —besides ten frames and one church by the missionaries. At Rocktown and the Cavallys are four more, not included above. Nearly three-fourths of them are inhabited.

January 17, 1839.—Much disappointed at not receiving the promised small vessel; all-important that this colony should have *one* at least. Dr. Johnson, of Bassa Cove, has bought almost the last Monrovia vessel at two or three times its value, since the late attack there, and despatched her to Sierra Leone. We stand in more need of a load of horses and jacks, than we do of emigrants, depend upon it; much progress cannot be made in agriculture without their aid. Let the next expedition vessel land her cargo here first, and with a suitable agent, be sent after a full supply, with provisions or specie as funds. Very respectfully, dear sir, your humble servant,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM,
Agent Maryland State Colonization Society.

Extract of despatches from GOV. RUSSWURM, *to* JOHN H. B. LATROBE, *Esq. Prest. Md. State Col. Society.*

CAPE PALMAS, *June* 24, 1839.

Dear Sir,—With pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of addressing you by Capt. Lawlin, who is on the eve of leaving this place for the United States, via England. I have nothing very important to write. The state of

colonial affairs remains the same as at the date of my last communications; yet, it may not be amiss to observe, that our crops of potatoes and cassadas are more extensive and abundant at this season than they have been at any period during my residence in this colony. There has been nothing of that scarcity of provisions so much complained of last year about this time, and I may say the year before. Rice at this time is always scarce. Upon the whole I think our farming operations are manifestly in an improving condition. The general health of the colony, too, is tolerably good. Great quantities of rain have fallen within the last five or six weeks, upwards of thirteen inches the last month.

I regret to mention the loss of the ship Emperor, Captain Lawlin, on the morning of the 12th inst. about six o'clock, between Tabou and Jack Massas town, only about forty miles to the leeward; she went ashore in a calm. This circumstance makes us feel very much in want of a small craft, as we might have been able to save a great deal of valuable property from the wreck, as well as have purchased from the natives her sails, and part of her rigging and cargo, all which in the end might have been profitable to the society. We have now in the colony no less than ten seamen in distress, one captain, two mates, and a clerk. Capt. Lawlin has protested before me against the underwriters, and the document has been drawn up as he requested. I have a copy of Montefiore's Precedents.

The shipwreck of the Emperor, I understand, has been the means of adjusting the war palaver at Tabou; for in order mutually to enjoy the prize fate threw into their way, both parties have agreed to come on terms of peace. I have been told, too, that Captain Spence (an old English trader on the coast) has been trying hard to get a foothold there. I shall, if nothing happens to prevent, go down in my canoe as soon as the weather moderates, if possible, to anticipate his movements.

We are all highly pleased with the building of the Cape Palmas packet, and hope the investment will not prove unprofitable to the Society. We shall look with much anxiety for her arrival at the time appointed, with a select company of emigrants and a good assortment of merchandise. I hope a supply of horses and jacks will not be overlooked by the Board, and that the plan I proposed, of landing the emigrants first and then going for a load, will meet their approbation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM, A. M. S. C. S.

P. S.—Since penning the preceding lines, I have succeeded in getting two English vessels to carry the Emperor's crew as far as Monrovia, by provisioning them. I have still two sick American sailors on my hands.

LETTERS FROM CAPE PALMAS.

Letter from JOHN B. RUSSWURM *to* J. H. B. LATROBE, *Esq.*

HARPER, *Cape Palmas, April* 7, 1839.

Dear Sir:—My last to you was January 29th, via Monrovia, enclosing duplicates of despatches per Oberon, which sailed hence, January 18th. Since then, nothing of interest has occurred, though I have not been idle in the interim.

There must be an armed steamboat on the river, if the Society desire to engross the trade, which would be much increased, particularly in camwood and oil, if a little encouragement was held out to the interior people of a ready sale for their articles, without being obliged to take them to the beach, where they are generally cheated out of one-half or a third.

Our Barrica palaver remains in 'statuo quo.' King Freeman and his people are so jealous, that every movement I make is construed by them as hostile to their interests. The Barricas have hinted indirectly, that they wished present differences adjusted, but they have never taken the regular steps to have the palaver talked; in the meantime, our colonists are stretching out towards a branch of the Hoffman river, which crosses the Maryland avenue.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47