I hope the Board will send some instructions upon the propriety of settling in small villages like Mount Tubman, about one and a half or two miles apart. Upon the old plan, those who are furthest back are too much exposed.

We are much pleased to hear the Society are about to have a vessel of their own. Such a plan, we think, is more likely to work efficiently, at this time, than Judge Wilkeson's. We hope we are not to be disappointed about the jacks and mules in the spring expedition—they are much wanted. I am sorry to inform you, that I see no prospect of purchasing a small vessel on the coast, as the Monrovians have only two or three old ones of no account. I shall address you more fully by Dr. Hall on this subject.

The Oberon's emigrants are beginning to stir themselves a little about their lots. They have been rather unfortunate, having lost three grown persons and one child, from fever; I should think the proportion of aged persons rather too great in this expedition. Particular regard will be paid to putting Mrs. Rosses comfortably on her lot in a few weeks. I am preparing, as fast as I can, frames for several others. Mr. Oliver's man, Barnes, has his house nearly shut in; his health has been quite feeble. The other man is doing well. The general health of the colonists is good.

You will be pleased to learn, that the farming improvements around Mount Tubman are progressing rapidly—besides sugar cane, a strenuous effort will be made to introduce the culture of yams into the colony. The past dry season has been so uncommonly fine, that we have planted potatoes or cassadas every month, and the supply in all quarters, has been quite abundant. The yam potatoe has done finely, and astonished every body by its productiveness and size; and if any old settler suffer for potatoes or cassadas, it must be from sheer idleness.

The hundred *good* muskets promised, have arrived, but I assure you, sir, that they are inferior to the trade muskets, brought on this coast by the British and sold to the natives. Several have already bursted. The cartridge boxes, bayonet scabbards and heart-plates have not come to hand.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM, *Agent Md. S. C. S.*

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

DEAR SIR: HARPER, *Cape Palmas, April* 23, 1839.

As the Saluda leaves this evening for Monrovia, I acknowledge the receipt of yours and Mr. Easter's favours of February 18, with two swivels, and two boxes of military equipments: the third box has been landed, by mistake, at Monrovia. It is hardly a fortnight since I last addressed you by the Rev. L. B. Minor, who left here for the United States, via Cape Coast Castle, in the barque Active, of Salem, Mass. In this, I shall only make a few passing remarks confirmatory of former statements.

The Saluda brings, as passengers, Rev. Messrs. Seys and Clark, and Mrs. Clark, missionaries; Mr. H. Teage, editor of Liberia Herald, Mrs. E. Teage, Mrs. C. Johnson, (wife and sister,) and Mrs. Mary Johnson, all of Monrovia. Our visiters are quite delighted with the colony, and say that your people are far ahead of the other settlements. I shall only note one instance. The spot now called Mount Tubman, and the smiling village in its rear, was selected, hardly two years ago, by Mr. McGill, Mr. Seys, (here on a visit,) and myself. Now, on his present visit, he can hardly credit his eyes that the mount, on which is erected a comfortable dwelling, is the spot to which we clambered to have a view of the surrounding country.

Capt. W. is equally delighted with Cape Palmas; and when it was known that he wanted potatoes, a cart load was sent in from Mount Tubman, of the finest quality; even our Monrovians had to confess that our potatoes were finer than theirs, and in greater abundance. Mr. McGill calculates that the Tubmans could furnish 500 croos in a few hours. I have given away a good many bushels, from the agency farm, to different vessels, to keep them from rotting in the ground.

You will be distressed to learn of the death of Mrs. Dr. Savage, about the 18th inst. of African fever. The other missionaries are all doing well. Rev. Mr. Wilson and lady have been to Jacques and Cape Coast Castle, in the Emperor. Mrs. W. received quite a fright, as part of the crew were seized, on the eve of a mutiny, and put on shore at Cape Coast Castle. Our great opponent, Dr. Bacon, has been here, and proceeded down the coast, in the Active, with Mr. Minor: he is making up a book of travels. Among the *on-dits* of the day, is the report that Mr. Wilson talks of removing his head quarters to Fish Town, by invitation from Capt. Spence, whose vessels have been fluttering around us quite frequently of late. I have *no faith* in the report. Dr. Hall is at present, at Grand Sesters, where he has an oil factory: he will be here in a few days.

We have had quite a number of vessels stopping here lately—several from Salem, Mass. belonging to Robert Brookhouse, Esq. He is quite friendly to me, and would forward any letters sent on to him: he has seven vessels in the West Africa trade. I can only reiterate to you that we follow here, in Africa, our great examplar, the Board of Managers, in economy, in all our expenditures. We are all pleased to hear you are building a Cape Palmas' packet: she is much needed, and your colonists *can look ahead to be supplied with beasts of burden.* Do remember, sir, that we are suffering from want of beasts of burden. I have concluded to take two new six-pounders from Capt. Waters, as he offers them at cost, $80. They will be put on Mount Tubman.

In great haste, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM.

P. S.—Capt. Waters has been kind enough to offer me a quantity of fixed ammunition, which was put on board by the United States government, he says, about 4,000 cartridges—quite a present. He has promised to write you.

Letter from JOHN BORDLEY (*coloured emigrant*) *to Rev.* IRA A. EASTER.

DEAR SIR: HARPER, *Cape Palmas, April* 22, 1839.

An opportunity offers to write you by the ship Saluda.—Since my residence in the colony, I have been perfectly satisfied. I have already informed you of the surprise and gratification experienced on my landing, to find one of my own race presiding chief officer of the colony. My opinion of him, I may say in brief, has remained unaltered. I have invariably found him an amiable, candid, and sociable man, striving to promote the comfort of all. I now consider myself as fairly over the acclimating fever; an occasional chill, however, reminds me that I have not yet received a receipt in full. My wife had it but slightly, and, during her sickness, was dissatisfied. Since then, however, she has become entirely reconciled to her residence. My daughter and son are well; so you see I, at least have lost none of my family, although I expected it. I have already received my land: it is thickly wooded. I could not have obtained a better situation, nor more fertile land, had I arrived five years earlier. I met with a cordial reception from my christian brethren, and have often received refreshing seasons from the Lord. My physicians, however, strive and urge that I shall stay at home and pray, instead of exposing myself to the excitement of public meetings. I am anxious that the remainder of my children should share the blessings enjoyed in this place of refuge to the oppressed sons and daughters of Africa. I would urge their coming; but fears of failure keep me silent. They have my prayers that God may instil into them a feeling that will never allow them to rest satisfied until they have left the United States, and sought peace and quiet in our 'father land.' With the warmest feelings of respect,

I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BORDLEY.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47