Extract of a letter from JOHN RANDOLPH DAVENPORT, *citizen of Maryland in Liberia, to* MRS. ELIZABETH BALCH, *of Frederick County, Maryland.*

'How happy am I to hear from you. So unexpected did your letter arrive, and how great a treasure do I esteem it to be. Shall I, or can I ever forget my best of friends? Can there be a better friend than one who freely gives liberty to the slave? My heart expanded with joy when I read your affectionate letter, in which you express a desire to release more of my relations from bondage that they may participate with us in the blessings of liberty in a land of freemen. You state that you not only urge this privilege on them, but wish us to unite with you in urging them to join us. O, could they but appreciate the opportunity now offered them—could my coloured brethren in the United States only witness as we do, the future prospects of the rising generation, what would they not do to obtain a home in Africa? Surely they would come naked and be content with one meal a day. But alas! they cannot see, they will not be convinced.

My parents are well. The children are all going to school and improve very fast. As to my poor self, I have not yet tasted the pardoning love of God. If I never felt the need of it before, I assure you I felt it when Mr. Snetter read your letter. He has often spoken to me on this subject, and I humbly trust when you hear from me again, I shall be able to tell you what the Lord has done for my soul. Will you pray for me, my dear Mrs. Balch, and ask Mr. Lewis Balch to remember one who feels that he is yet out of the ark of safety. The two oldest girls are quite serious. My mother and wife are both christians, one a member of the Baptist, and the other of the Methodist church. I see the Scripture verified which says the righteous are not forsaken, nor their children begging bread. May the Lord continue to be merciful to you—give my love to all the family.

I have understood that master intends to send for me to visit the United States, and I should be glad to come and visit you, when I could say much more about our prospects here than it is convenient to write—but sincerely desire that all my friends may do as I have done, come and judge for themselves. Should they not be satisfied, they will then have no one to blame.

My dear Mrs. Balch, remember me to all my dear friends, and believe me your humble and obedient servant.'

Letter from the REV. FRANCIS BURNS, *Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Cape Palmas, to* MR. CASSELL.

DEAR SIR: MOUNT EMORY, *January* 18, 1839.

At the instance of Mrs. Burns, I sit down to return our thanks for your present by the hands of brother Stewart, as well as to apprise you that our health is as good as could be expected under circumstances like ours. In addition to the little boy of whom Stewart informed you, we had when we arrived home a little girl of six days old. Amelia and the babe are both doing very well indeed.

Times here the past year have been something stormy in political and civil affairs, but they are gradually obtaining now more stability and consistency than I have hitherto observed in this colony. I hope they will soon acquire that regular and systematic appearance, so certainly predictive of future safety and comfort. There is much more quiet and independence now than when I arrived at this place, in 1836. More industry and economy, and a more careful husbandry of time, would most unquestionably add still more to the facilities of living a happy life. I understand by Stewart that you intend at no very distant period to return to some part of the coast. You may do so, I think, without the least apprehension of suffering, as I learn you did while here before. You have been here, you know what is necessary to render one comfortable in his circumstances, and can provide against most any thing you may think peculiar to the country and climate. The expedition came safe. It is a time of general health. Stewart's family are all well. Amelia joins me in love to you and her acquaintances.

Affectionately yours, FRANCIS BURNS.

Extract of a letter from DR. MACDOWALL, *Colonial Physician at Cape Palmas.*

CAPE PALMAS, *April* 9, 1839.

SIR:—The soil around Cape Palmas, so far as I have examined, is light and rather sandy, as might be expected from its proximity to the sea. It is, therefore, less adapted for extensive and varied agriculture than that of the other colonies, but more favourable to health. The climate is more pleasant, less subject to the extremes of heat or rain. The sea breeze is always fresh, and pretty regular. The gardens and farms of the colonists show abundance of all that is necessary for their own domestic use. The growth of articles suitable for exportation, and which alone will give reality and stability to their prosperity, such as coffee, cotton, sugar, &c. have not yet been commenced in real earnest, although there are a sufficient number of each of these growing well, to warrant success to the undertaking. Every encouragement, by example and otherwise, is given by Mr. Russwurm, to forward such a desirable result, so far as his means will allow him. Mr. McGill is busy planting sugar-cane at Mount Tubman. The two acres already planted, promise well. It is a peculiar feature in the character of the colonists *generally*, viz. a dislike to commence and continue any labour for which the return does not follow pretty soon after. Some means are desirable, which could overcome this aversion, such as premiums, or the more tardy, though perhaps as sure method, of holding up before their eyes the successful example of another. Of this, I believe, Mr. Russwurm is aware, and tries to remedy through the agency of the public farm, as far as he is able. His suggestions on all points of importance may be safely acted on by the Board.

The situation of this settlement in its local and moral relations, to the surrounding natives, is peculiar. Four native towns are placed in the midst of the settlement, containing nearly three thousand people, meeting and mingling every day with the colonists, yet distinct in feeling and interest. Deriving insensibly their notions of civilization and christianity from the examples of the colonists, as yet dubious friends, and in any event, a powerful foe, requiring from your agent a kind, prudent, yet not a timid policy, and certainly much credit is due to Mr. R. that hostilities have been avoided, and a good understanding apparently exists between the two parties. I hope to be able to finish a set of sketches which will shew you the relative position of the native towns and houses of the colonists. The missionaries are doing much good. They have often by their influence soothed the turbulence of the natives, when excited by any occasional or accidental misunderstanding between them and the colonists. Doctor McGill has been active and industrious in the acquisition of professional knowledge, and I have no doubt will make an efficient and trust-worthy medical officer in the colony. I presume ere this reaches you, another expedition will have sailed for this place. I trust it will arrive safe, and you may rest assured, sir, that every attention in my power will be given to the people, and to the colony generally.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. MACDOWALL.

J. H. B. LATROBE, Esq.
President Maryland State Colonization Society, Baltimore.

MISSIONS AT CAPE PALMAS.

Extract from the Journal of REV. DR. SAVAGE.

March 5, 1838.

Death of 'Seah.'—Last night about 2 o'clock, all were awakened by the repeated discharge of numerous guns at the Cape Town. This proved to be on account of the death of Seah, one of the principal head-men. He was spoken of as the successor to Freemen, the present king. This firing has continued throughout the day. This is customary on the death of a 'great

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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