colony made punishable, and which the courts were open to examine, and the power of the colony sufficient to redress. It would have been supposed that, on the robbery being discovered, application would have been forthwith made to the constituted authorities, and that this idea was presented to the missionaries of your Board, if it did not occur to them, is proved by the accompanying testimony. Instead of such an application, however, the declaration was made by Mr. Griswold to the effect, that he would not apply to our laws for redress if he never got the goods stolen. The precise words used at various times you will see stated by the different witnesses. On the arrival of the Vandalia, however, application is made to her officers, and in consequence, our territory is violated, a drum-head court-martial or palaver, is held upon the king of the tribe containing the offenders, and a sentence is pronounced by a lieutenant of the U. S. Navy in the very presence of our people and our courts.

Now, my dear sir, had application been made by your missionaries to our laws, and had they there failed to procure redress, the exception to the general rule might possibly have arisen, and we being too feeble *to enforce our laws*, the missionaries would have had a semblance of right on their side in asking the armed interposition of their country's vessels of war. But this was not the case. Not even the *form of asking protection* from the government under which they lived was gone through; but avowing a determination *not* to ask such protection, the aid of strangers to our government in Africa was invoked, and the consequences are as stated in the testimony.

That Capt. Ramsay did wrong in yielding to the request without first inquiring whether our laws had been appealed to, I have no doubt. Though I can make all allowance for his doing so, ignorant of the feeling of the missionaries which induced them to bear the theft without attempt to detect the offenders, rather than apply to the laws of the colony for redress. But I confess, my dear sir, I cannot find any palliation for conduct which so ill becomes the sacred character of your messengers of God's mercy to the heathen.

You must be perfectly aware, my dear sir, it would be impossible for us to permit this state of things to recur and to maintain our dignity or respectability in the eyes of our own people, the natives, or visiters to the coast; and that it will be painfully and absolutely necessary for us to rescind the conveyance which the Presbyterian missionaries have for the land they occupy at Cape Palmas, and request their immediate removal from our territory, unless the A. B. C. F. M. give such absolute and peremptory instructions to their agents as shall make them conform to the laws of the civilized territory on which they now reside, and prevent such occurrences as the painful one now referred to.

In conclusion, I must earnestly entreat you, my dear sir, not to misunderstand me in this matter. I have no feeling to gratify, no pride of opinion to support. Long and humbly relying on protection from on High, for the cause of African colonization, I have laboured to support it. It is to me no matter of gain, God knows, and in writing to you as I do, it is with the earnest hope that you will not let what I say be weakened by an idea that I am opposed to missionary labour, opposed to its prosecution by your Board, or by any good men. I declare now, as I have done again and again, that unless we can have a religious people at Cape Palmas our cause must fail. That if we proceed upon the principle of extirpating the natives as has been wrongfully charged, we *ought* to fail—that we will deserve to succeed only in proportion as by elevating the natives to the rank of civilized and christian men, we make colonization a blessing to Africa as well as a benefit to America. And yet, entertaining these feelings, it will become an imperative duty, notwithstanding, to deprive ourselves of the benefit of missionary services from your agents, if only to be obtained on such terms as shewn by the accompanying statements.

I beg to renew the assurances of my sincere respect,

And remain, very truly,

Yr. ob't. serv't,

JNO. H. B. LATROBE,

Prest. Md. St. Col. Soc.

MISSIONARY HOUSE, *Boston, Dec. 28, 1842.*

J. H. B. Latrobe, Esq. President of Maryland State Colonization Society.

My Dear Sir,—Yours of Dec. 8th, and postmarked Dec. 23d, was received on the 26th, and read to our Prudential Committee yesterday.

By recurring to my letter to you under date of July 11, 1838, you will see, that without any reserve we recognize the agents of your society at Cape Palmas, as *the government* of the territory ceded to you by the native owners and occupants; and our missionaries and assistant missionaries, residing in that territory, as owing the same sort of deference to the government thus instituted, as would be expected of foreigners in our own country. Our present views on this subject are the same as they were then; and the question we found it necessary to propose at the late Annual Meeting of our Board, was based on the assumption. But, if we remained at Cape Palmas, and within your territorial limits, we should of course be subject to your laws. Our correspondence with the mission, too, since my letter to you above alluded to, has been on the same assumption.

The Committee are therefore of the opinion that, after the robbery of the mission store by the natives residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the colony, application for redress should have been made, in the first instance, to the colonial authorities; and they deeply regret, that this appears not to have been done. An apology is due to your society, and to the governor of the colony. Had Mr. Wilson been there, the error would not, we presume, have been committed. Whatever views he might have entertained as to the policy of your government in relation to the missions, he too well understood his own relations to the government. Mr. Griswold had but recently arrived, and his ardent temperament needed the restraints of more experience.

I am instructed to write Mr. Griswold and the mission in such a manner, as will be likely hereafter to secure all proper deference to your colonial agents in the matter of jurisdiction. I have also been instructed to express to you, as President of the Society, the views and feelings of the Committee as above. I am happy also to acknowledge the friendly and respectful terms of your letter, and to renew my assurances of the respect with which I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

R. ANDERSON,

Secretary of A. B. C. F. M.

(From the Colonization Journal of June, 1842.)

The following is a verbatim copy of a letter from Dr. McGill, without the substitution or omission of a single word. Here then is the production of one who was twelve years since a little 'nigger boy,' knocking about the streets of Baltimore, and a fair candidate for the barber shop or hostlery. He is now acknowledged as the most successful physician that ever practiced on the coast of Africa, and it will be seen that he has most successfully grappled with that bug-bear, the African coast fever. Let nothing more be said of the unhealthiness of Cape Palmas, when in the most unhealthy season that ever was known there, from the prevalence of an epidemic dysentery, the mortality is not so great as that of the free coloured population in Baltimore in ordinary times. This letter alone, taking into consideration the change in the character of the writer, ought to silence forever the malignant aspersions of the open enemies of colonization and the whining Jeremaids of its professed friends.

HARPER, *January* 1, 1842.

JOHN H. B. LATROBE, ESQ. *Prest. Md. State Col. Soc.*

Honoured Sir.—The expected arrival of a vessel from the United States at an early period, induces me to prepare the report of the health of our colony during the year 1841.

Up to the month of June, there were not many fatal cases of disease; from that period and until the termination of the year I regret to say that the number on the sick list have been large, and an unusual number have died. On a reference to the following list you will discover that the ages, and complaints of several, fully account for their decease, and to this I may add yet another cause, in my being so much reduced in my stock of medicines, that suitable articles could not be had to treat them with. Of this I have heretofore written, and as I hope at an early period to receive a fresh supply, the present year will likely produce more favourable results.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47