APPENDIX.

Dr. Hall's Letters to Mr. Howard.

SHIP M. C. STEVENS, *Mesurado Roads, Feb. 3d*, 1857.

To CHARLES HOWARD, Esq., *President of the Md. State Col. Society.*

MY DEAR SIR:—I little expected to have troubled you with a communication until I should have visited Cape Palmas, and I felt that I should then have little of interest to transmit, but intelligence of affairs there of a most painful character met me on my arrival here, viz. war between the Colonists and the natives. There are many rumors afloat but I obtain the most reliable intelligence from Mrs. Russwurm, who was there on a visit when *war existed*, as was the case between our country and Mexico, for hostilities were not declared on either side. It seems that the war which raged some year or two since between the Rock Town and Half Cavally people on the one side and the Cape Palmas and Grahway people on the other, was rather forced to a close, smothered up, not extinguished. The palaver was not properly set. I believe our Governor, Drayton, tried to have the matter properly arranged and a firm peace established—for which purpose he endeavored to call the kings together—causes of delay existed on one party and the other, and the palaver was from time to time deferred. In the meantime the Rock Town people managed to make our Governor believe, that the Cape Palmas people were meditating an attack upon the Americans, at the same time threatened the Cape Palmas people with an attack from the latter. Drayton was caught in the snare, and made common cause with the Rock Town people. He induced them to plant an ambush on the beach between their towns, and also to send all their large war canoes by sea, to lie off Cape Palmas. He then ordered the king and headmen to come to the Cape and talk the palaver. This they refused to do while the war canoes were threatening them from sea; said they would come when those canoes returned to Rock Town. Drayton informed them that unless they came at a certain hour to talk the palaver he would fire upon their town. At the expiration of the time fixed he opened fire, and the town was soon in a blaze. An old headman came out with a white flag, but was forced to fly from the shot. In their retreat they burned up all the colonists houses not protected by the stations or big guns. Afterwards they came nightly and burned other houses. The Americans and Rock Town people soon joined, marched down the beach, and burned all the Grahway towns to Half Cavally. At the last advices the natives were sueing for peace, but the Governor insists that the Grahway people shall remove to Bereby, out of the limits of the State; and that the Cape Palmas people should cross the Cavally River. This was objected to, and so the matter rested when Mrs. R. left. Mrs. R. says that very few of the colonists knew of the proposed attack—her brother, R. S. McGill, was first apprised of it by the guns. The officer in command of the guns could hardly believe he was to fire when directed to do so, and required the orders repeated. Mrs. R. estimates that at least one-

third of the colonists are houseless, and have lost their all. The mission premises at Mt. Vaughan are destroyed, the occupants barely escaping with their lives. Such is a brief outline of the affair derived from the most reliable sources. All agree in their censure of Drayton, he seems to have assumed all but arbitrary power. On receipt of the intelligence here, Dr. McGill at once went down in the schr. Geo. R. McGill, ordering the Moses Sheppard to follow. Mrs. R. came up in the George R. and the Dr. remains in the Moses Sheppard. It is a great satisfaction to me that he is on the ground, but his prolonged stay excites apprehensions, he promised to be back here by the 28th ult. I have been anxiously looking for him, as his report will govern my actions in a great degree. That very great assistance is needed cannot be doubted, in fact, the existence of the colony depends upon it, as many are anxious to leave for this place. I sail from this, day after to-morrow, and if Dr. McGill does not arrive before that time, I shall buy what provisions are in market here, with a view of landing them there, and shall also land what surplus stores the ship may have belonging to the American Colonization Society. Rice is very scarce along the entire coast line, and there is no flour in market; nothing in way of provisions except a few barrels of salt meat, bacon, &c. As most have lost all their clothing, I shall get a few cases of domestics and prints. It is strange that Mr. Drayton should have commenced offensive operations without even powder in store. Had the natives made a stout resistance, the colony must certainly have been destroyed, for there were not twenty rounds of ammunition after the first day's fire—luckily McGill had some in store.

I need not say how painful all this is to me. I am truly sick at heart, and had rather die than visit Cape Palmas. But I will not comment. Possibly the above may not be confirmed in the worst features, pray heaven not. I will close for the present. Very truly and respectfully, yours,

JAMES HALL.

February 5th. I intended to have sailed for Cape Palmas this morning, but Dr. McGill came up yesterday in the Moses Sheppard, bringing the most painful intelligence from that place. All that I have before written was confirmed, the shade of Drayton's folly and madness only being deepened; but the worst remains to be told. The natives in vain sued for peace on honorable terms, or on being permitted to remain in their country; but no—they must go to Bereby, cross the Cavally, or be *exterminated.* An attack was resolved upon. The natives were encamped along Sheppard's Lake, on the main land side. Drayton fitted out some large canoes, two or three, in which were two guns, the brass howitzer and another. These were to attack their post on the Lake, while the Rock Town people were to assail them in the rear. The attack was boldly commenced; the canoes running into a creek or inlet, on each side of which was an ambush of natives,—who did not discover themselves until the canoes were well in. They then poured into the canoes a fire of musketry so severe as to throw them into confusion, and cause them to retreat. They backed out firing, but the recoil of one gun split the canoe, and I believe the other or others were upset. At any rate, twenty-two choice young men were killed and drowned, and both pieces of cannon and all the stores, ammunition, &c. fell into the hands of the natives—a complete defeat of the Americans. The natives are now triumphant, hemming the colony in all around, picking off all stragglers, who are out in search of food. The Rock Town and Half Cavally allies are withdrawing. The settlement is under martial law, the provisions served out pro-rata. They have not enough to stand them but a few weeks. Dr. McGill left some 300 kroos of rice there. What makes it worse, there is little or no rice on the coast—and not a bushel of that or any kind of bread-stuff to be obtained here. Were it possible to detain the ship, I would at once proceed to Sierra Leone for rice; then I might be too late to

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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