beef and bacon I was able to obtain on shore, will afford some aid. How all these drafts, made and to made, are to be met, unless the State appropriation is used, is more than I can tell. But could I do less? I shall take the liberty at once, on arriving at Cape Palmas, to suspend all salaries, other than for Physician and Agent; stating the cause, the *necessitous* cause—leaving it with the Board to confirm or annul my action; the latter will not offend me, I assure you. I leave this long communication, and the bundle of documents, to go by Steamer, expected here on the 14th. I would re-write my own pages, but I cannot; writing hurts me so much, and I have no clerk. I will, therefore, close with the assurance, that I will do all I can for the colony, or what I shall think best—certainly avoiding more fighting, if possible.

Very truly and respectfully yours, JAMES HALL.

SHIP M. C. STEVENS, *April 4th*, 1857.

To CHARLES HOWARD, ESQ. *Pres. Md. State Col. Soc.*

DEAR SIR:—I embrace the leisure time I have on board to continue my record of operations as your Agent during my visit to Africa. I trust I shall soon meet you and be able to give you more satisfaction orally, than I can by writing—still it may be as well to put on record what I have done, referring to many documents herewith enclosed, also to be registered in the office. My last to you was under date of February 10th, we were then expecting to get the troops on board that day, and sail directly for Palmas, but this was not effected till the next morning, when we sailed with the land breeze. Light winds and tornadoes blowing up the Coast protracted the passage down to five days, arriving there on the 16th, at about two o'clock in the afternoon; I believe, just twenty-three years, to an hour, from the time of my anchoring in the same spot with the old Brig Ann, to found a settlement.

The troops of the Republic were under charge of Ex-President Roberts, who alone was empowered to act as Commissioner for his Government, to arrange the terms on which they were to serve.

During our passage down he drew up a document expressive of his views in regard to the matter, to be submitted to Gov. Drayton. I regret that I did not solicit a copy of this, as I believe it formed the basis, if not all the provisions of the terms of co-operation between the two Governments. Some of the more important positions I recollect, and will endeavor to state, although not definitely or in regular sequence. The State of Maryland in Liberia should be responsible for the cost and expenses incurred by the Republic in furnishing the desired aid. No offensive operations against the native tribes should be commenced unless resolved upon by a commission of —— persons, to be appointed by Gov. Drayton and Gen. Roberts, in equal numbers, and to that commission should be submitted the general conduct of the war, or the taking of measures to bring about a peace. That in case of taking the field, the senior officer, in the absence of the Gov. Drayton, should have the command, &c. &c. Gen. Roberts' impression was that further hostilities would be unnecessary, but that Gov. Drayton was determined to renew them: the object of the second proposition, above stated, was to take this power out of his hands. I did not object to any of the propositions, in fact I felt that I had no right to. Gov. Drayton had appealed unto Cæsar.

Immediately on our arrival at Cape Palmas, I addressed Gov. Drayton a note tendering my services in any way in which he might consider them useful. His answer was very polite, expressing his thanks, holding my tender of services "in abeyance." Communications also passed between him and Gen. Roberts. The troops were landed at daylight the next morning, together with their provisions and munitions of war, &c. After breakfast I paid my respects to His Excellency. I found him very civil, but quite reserved. I then walked through the settlement as far as the public farm, but

found nothing to relieve the distress of mind which the first news of the war had occasioned. I will not attempt to describe the scenes which met my eye, still less their effect upon my feelings; 'tis enough to say that war—that martial law existed, and every thing bore the marks of their influence.

I soon found that nothing could be done in way of examining the condition of the settlement, the emigrants receptacle, the public store, books of the Agent, or any thing of the kind. I therefore set myself about discharging the vessel, and making arrangements in regard to the goods and provisions I had procured at Monrovia, together with those shipped from Baltimore. On the third day after my arrival I received a more formal note from Gov. Drayton, written, as I was informed, at the instance of Gen. Roberts, requesting an interview, giving me an invitation to dinner, &c. I waited upon him at the hour appointed, when he gave me a history of the origin and progress of the war, corresponding in the main points with his communications handed me at a later date, enclosed herewith, but the conference closed without any solicitation or request for my counsel or advice in any one point, or giving me any intimation of his future course.

In the mean time Gen. Roberts complained that he was able to make little or no progress in arranging the terms on which he was to co-operate with the Government. He said Gov. Drayton would neither object or consent to his propositions, before adverted to. He had gone so far, however, as to name commissioners, seven in number, of whom I was one, to decide upon the continuation of the war. I perceived that my presence would be of little use, none except to induce the natives to meet and talk the palaver, they having refused to treat with Gov. D. any more, as he had detained their people against all rules of war, and the bearer of a flag of truce, or of capitulation, had been killed by the Americans. I therefore took measures to leave as soon as the cargo destined for that port should be discharged. I felt that I had no right, unless in case of absolute necessity, to detain the Ship. I was also assured that General Roberts, and a majority of the Commissioners appointed, were in favor of talking the palaver, and bringing about a peace, for it was well known the natives desired it. I accordingly addressed a letter to Gov. Drayton, stating my determination, also informing him of the provisions and merchandise I had placed in the hands of our Agent, Mr. Gibson, and the disposition I had requested him to make of them. I also informed him, in detail, of the measures I had taken to afford him the assistance he desired, the responsibilities I had, as Agent of the Society, incurred to render him or the State that assistance, and begged to know if any thing more remained to be done. His answer is enclosed, it professes to see no way in which I could be further useful. I then informed Gen. Roberts of my intention of leaving, and addressed him a letter expressive of my views of the proper course to be pursued. I also advised Mr. Gibson, our Agent, at length of the disposition I wished him to make of the goods and provisions landed. These letters are on file in my letter book, and at your service. What I wished most to do in addition, was, to convey to the native chiefs some evidence of our interest in their welfare, and to give them assurance, that they could, without personal danger, meet in palaver with Gov. Drayton and President Roberts.

I therefore addressed a note to Gov. Drayton, soliciting his permission, if not inconsistent with the interests and safety of the settlement, to let me free two old chiefs of the Grebo tribe, which he then held in custody, and also a boy of Yellow Wills, king, to attend them, and to bear a message from me to King Will. To this petition he assented, and I gave the boy, who well understood English, a message to the following effect, viz: That I had come out to the coast to make them and the American people a visit; that I was distressed to hear of the war and greatly disappointed that I could not see him and his people. That I was forced to leave before any palaver could be held, but had fully expressed my views to General

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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