to the stories, until that mischief-making, malicious fellow Henry Harmon (a boy whose character you cannot have forgotten,) who was then employed in the Mission, was called to account by Savage for having made attempts to seduce a female who was living in my family. He tried to clear himself by making it appear that he had bad examples set before him by me; and in confirmation of it, related the stories above alluded to. Consequently, Savage, as he had had an inkling of it before, deeming it his duty to let me know of these reports, though, as I before observed, he pretended not to believe them, called me aside, and told me which of the children Henry had received his intelligence from, and requested me to find out from them the source of such reports, threatening at the same time, to dismiss them from the school, if what Henry had informed of them should prove true. I accordingly took each one seperately, and questioned them in regard to the tale, but the answers of each were given in the negative - that they did not tell Henry so and so - that He was a story-teller &c. And it was not until about six weeks after receiving these disagreeable, heart-rending tidings, that I traced out their founder; namely, Martha, that girl who together with her Grandmother, imposed themselves on my hospitality.

As I was not able to trace the right source, and conscious that I was guilty of one charge that was preferred against me, which happened before your arrival in the Colony, I was powerfully impressed by conscience to make a candid acknowledgement of what was really a fact - connection with that mulatto girl who lived with me when you first came to the Colony - the one I had a law-suit about. This I did, lunatic-like (the discovery having unstrung every nerve) in writing, in the form of a long confession, which I deemed to be the duty of a member to his pastor; but, alas! it was a woful confession - such an one as I shall never again make to any mortal man, while I have my senses about me; not, indeed, would I then have made the acknowledgment to Dr. S. had I been in full possession of my reason, and had I not thought that, in him I had a friend and a pastoral counsellor, who would reprove me in a charitable, Christian-like manner. But, woe to me! it was far the reverse - very unbecoming the character of a meek, Christian spirited Minister. - - -

But, to return to the continuation of my calamity - cursed folly - unguarded conscience.

Not satisfied with what I had already acknowledged to him, although I resigned my station in the same confession & proposed leaving the Colony, in a room whither I had retired from shame and embarrasment to give vent to my feeling, Dr. S. wrote me a note, a copy of which I enclose, marked No. 1.

After such urgent entreaties and solemn promises of secrecy, I thought I would confess the whole to him & not keep back any thing. I accordingly confessed the other, and only just charge against me, in words something to this purport, the original of which together with that before mentioned, he sent to the Epis. Board by the Niobe; and how much exaggerated it was I cannot say.

In reply to the above note I expressed my surprise at what the Colonists had reported, which should so much endanger my life that, I could not conceive what had led them to make such statements, unless they were erroneously impressed with the idea that, what had happened to me when I went to Robookah, which I thought they might have heard of, was an act so criminal as to deserve hanging.

As I have already, with much shame, mentioned the circumstance of the first misdeed, in order that you may know the whole facts, I must painfully undergo the disagreeable necessity of mentioning the second.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XI. Liberian Colonization
B. Miscellaneous Affairs

1. Trial of James Thomson, 1837