

From Gov. Russwurm

Harper, C. Palmas, Dec^r. 27. 1837.
John N. P. Satriole Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have deemed it best to put in a separate sheet all the circumstances attending the late trial of J. M. Thompson, before the Court of Monthly Sessions, on a charge of illicit intercourse with a native woman of Roboatak, on the opposite side of Casally river and the residence of King Tom during Dr. Hall's visit to that region. All I can learn of the case is simply this.

From some conversation which Dr. Savage overheard among the children of his family (one of whom was a lad about sixteen years of age) he was led to suspect that all things had not been as straight and correct as they ought to have been in reference to J. M. Thompson's moral conduct. One enquiry led to another and finally a correspondence ensued between him and Thompson, though both residing under the same roof and after several letters had passed, Thompson sent in a written confession that he had committed adultery with a native woman.

A dismissal of course followed, and he was advised by Dr. Savage to leave his family and seek a living in the West Indies, or some other parts where he was unknown. Upon his refusal to do so Dr. Savage took it upon himself to publish Thompson's guilt, and actually sent home the original confession. Mrs. Thompson during all this time was employed in the mission as usual. Thus matters stood upon my return from Monrovia, when I learned that the case had been before the magistrates and for want of evidence been dismissed.

The case was again taken up and brought before the Court of Monthly sessions - it fixed no date when the crime was committed, nor stated any particulars. Witness for the State Dr. Savage - Thompson plead not guilty. Dr. Savage on oath was desired to state particulars - knew none - only Thompson had confessed himself in writing guilty adultery. Was

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XI. Liberian Colonization
B. Miscellaneous Affairs

1. Trial of James Thomson, 1837