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more from a dread of the results than from a sense of sin committed against heaven, and in the sight of God.

I was therefore embarrassed in regard to a proper course of action, and wrote him requesting more definite information before I could decide positively what to do - in answer to my letter Mr. Thomson gave me his second confession viz: of an illicit carnal intercourse with a native woman of Robostah. This was committed since his connection with our mission. The letter which brought forth this confession is the one which was said to contain a "sacred promise" to conceal crime! Remember the ground of his acquittal: which was that the confession of his guilt was drawn forth by me through a sacred promise ~~by me~~ of concealment! by which his confession was drawn forth. It had been reported to both the Board of Colonization and our Board of Missions that a great prejudice existed among the colonists against Mr. T. and that it arose from a strictly honest and faithful discharge of his duties while engaged in the colonial service. I arrived here with the same impression upon my mind. Mr. Thomson in his letters beg of me not to expose him until he had got out of the reach of his enemies. In the 3<sup>d</sup> paragraph of my letter, you will read as follows "Nothing can be gained by the Church of Christ by blazing forth to a wicked world the crimes of those who profess to be members of the true body of the Son of God." My meaning in that paragraph was that I should not unnecessarily expose him that his enemies and his persecutors would have no unjust ground for triumph. I feel myself in duty bound to say, now, that I am fully satisfied, that the unfavorable standing of Mr. Thomson in the Colony did not arise from an unjust prejudice and jealousy in the minds of the colonists. I would here ask, is the above paragraph a sacred promise - is it a promise at all to conceal his crimes and screen him from the just demands of your laws? The only promise to be found in that letter, was, that I would so conduct the affair as far as it lay in my power, that it should turn out best

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XI. Liberian Colonization  
B. Miscellaneous Affairs

1. Trial of James Thomson, 1837