world; and I had occasion to witness much to admire, and gain at once my confidence and respect. He appeared at one glance fully to understand and appreciate the nature and importance of the business of my mission, and cordially and judicially co-operated with me in all expedient measures proposed for its successful accomplishment.

I found on my arrival that king Tom had not as yet despatched a *real official* to his liege kings, but only a notice of my approach. A messenger was now despatched, demanding their attendance. Of course one day would be lost, ere an answer could be received. However, in the meantime, the palaver was talked with king Tom, and he was found favourably disposed. I at once gave him to understand that I should not make a purchase; that I was now *this countryman*, like himself, and should he see fit to join his country to mine, and enjoy the whole in common with my people, very well: he would receive other advantages, therefor, than pecuniary remuneration. This palaver closed with the day, without any thing definite being effected, as the other kings were absent.

ASCENT OF THE CAVALLY.

Oct. 17.—We waited; without intelligence from the bush kings, until three o'clock in the afternoon, when the messenger returned, stating, that in consequence of their late opposition to king Tom, in election for grand devil priest, they were afraid to visit his town, but would talk the palaver as he should dictate. We now speedily set about it, and agreed upon the most important points, insomuch that I determined ascending the river, and forthwith despatched my head kroomen for goods, pistols, ammunition, and all necessary apparatus for the voyage.

This evening (Saturday) the enclosed deed was executed, and signed by king Tom and head-men, and an escort promised, of Gov. War, and others, to visit the other kings, and assist in setting the palaver with them. I spent Sunday, the 18th, at Robookah. The men did not return with their luggage until late in the evening. Arrangements were made, early on Monday morning, to meet king Tom at Bluroh, to dash him and head-men after I had overhauled our baggage.

The business of preparation for ascending the Cavally river was now speedily commenced. All our baggage had been exposed to the rain, from the time of leaving Cape Palmas, on Sunday morning, until its arrival at Cavally, and remained in boxes until my arrival on Monday noon; consequently, many important articles were rendered useless, and almost every thing required brushing up. I spent the whole afternoon in mounting a large swivel in Baphro's big canoe, which I succeeded in doing, so that it worked admirably. Most of the night was spent in making cartridges, repairing arms and loading. If attacked again, as in our first attempt to ascend the river, I was determined to be in readiness. I had with me three colonists, (Messrs. Lee, Howard and Minor, all good men and true,) and about twenty natives—Two large canoes were requisite for our men, baggage, arms, and trade goods. All things were arranged, and we had a few hours of confused sleep before day. With me, it was *confused* sleep in verity. The near prospect of accomplishing an enterprise, which for the past year had engaged my attention, and in all endeavours to effect which, I had been uniformly foiled—the romantic mystery which enveloped this Grand Devil region, inspired me with the greatest enthusiasm.

I had also received notice that the Half Cavally people were busily engaged in inciting the bush people to acts of hostility, and that they intended to dispute our passage at their river town. I had abundant room for speculation. At day-break all hands were mustered, and our baggage put on board the canoes. The rain poured in torrents, and from the density of

the opaque mass over head, we had but little hope of respite during the morning. But so many, and more powerful obstacles had heretofore baulked our efforts, that rain seemed of little consequence. Never did African voyager embark on the majestic Quorra with more enthusiastic delight than I experienced in stemming the mighty current of my favourite Cavally. From the repeated rains experienced the last few weeks, the river was much swollen, and came down with great power, which obliged us to wind closely under the banks for eddies and counter currents. From the basin as I proceeded up, the river gradually contracted its breadth to half a mile, and sometimes less. Notwithstanding the torrents of rain in which we were drenched, the scenery failed not to excite admiration. We passed three beautiful islands, within a few miles of the river's mouth, two of which had just yielded their crops of rice, and were now thickly covered with a heavy second growth of cassada. The banks were elevated from eight to fifteen feet above the surface of the water, and the frequent ruptures in them, occasioned by the rapidity of the current, indicated a great depth of the richest soil. The western bank was covered to the water's edge with bamboo, and other aquatics, bound into one dense impenetrable mass by the innumerable vines which the rich African soil always sends forth in the greatest profusion. On the east side the prospect was far more interesting, if not more beautiful. Most of the land had been cleared, to the distance of from one-half to two miles from the river bank, and crops of rice and cassada had been successively raised thereon. Some crops were still in the ground; most of the way, however, a heavy growth of spear grass covered the earth, which led one almost to fancy he could hear the whetting of the scythe, and see the hay-cocks in the distance. The back ground of this beautiful landscape presented to the eye the straight, closely studded trunks of immense forest trees. United only by branches at their capitals, they appeared like the stupendous columns of ancient architecture supporting the wide extended evergreen terrace formed by their foliage. Considering the great velocity of the current, we passed up rapidly—the almost incessant rain proved a great stimulus to exertion. The course of the river was, for the first three miles, north-west and north-north-west, gradually rounding for the next five miles to the north-north-east, and even to east at Ploroh, the first town at which we landed.

ARRIVAL AT PLOROH.

The first indications which we perceived of a settlement was a canoe landing: by close watching, we soon perceived, through the bush, a few huts, clustered on the top of a high peak. The hill itself seemed suspended from the branches of the immense trees which rose from its base. So romantic was the spot, that one could hardly feel it to be a human habitation. However, of this we soon had convincing proof, from a shower of musketry poured down upon us, in honour of our arrival. Passing this town, (Denah,) we immediately came abreast of Neatoh, another town, subject to king Toureh of Ploroh, situated like the first mentioned. In a moment after leaving Neatoh, we rounded to under the beautiful located town of Ploroh. Nothing was perceived of it, owing to the immense trees close on the margin of the river, until we were near enough to jump on shore, among the plantain trees, between the houses and water. The main part of the town (that immediately overhanging the river) is elevated about thirty feet from the water level. It is quite small, in comparison with our beach towns, and the houses are miserably constructed. I should judge it did not contain three hundred souls. But all hands were up, and screaming as usual. We gave them a crack from our swivel, which for a time cleared the landing. It was now about half past nine o'clock. We had

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)—May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

1842