history of colonization and of the world. But let it not be supposed that this state of things has been maintained without the greatest efforts and the greatest sacrifices. The forbearance exercised by these colonists towards the natives, when suffering from their almost continual thefts, depredations, annoying palavers, intrigues with the Bush people, trespasses on property and embargoes on trade, has been such as to excite the astonishment of all acquainted with the facts, and justly entitles them to a very high moral rank among the nations of the earth. And although it appears from the letters of Gov. Russwurm and Dr. McGill, that actual hostilities were at one time considered inevitable, yet we have a confidence that the hitherto friendly relations between the parties will continue to be preserved.

If the system heretofore pursued, of dealing honestly and justly with these people, of making reparations for all injuries by them sustained, of reasoning and moral suason in all cases where they can be supposed to act from ignorance of the laws and customs of civilized nations, and of forbearance in cases of obvious trespass and wrong, cease to preserve the heretofore peaceful relations, we confidently believe the presence of the African squadron on that coast will have that effect. It will convince them that resistance or opposition to the government of the colony will be useless. They will be assured that so far as the acts of that government are right and just they will be supported and upheld in their execution.

We may justly consider the opportune arrival of the squadron at Cape Palmas as providential; not, however, as preserving the colony from destruction—but from war and bloodshed.

DESPATCHES FROM GOV. RUSSWURM TO THE AGENT.

CAPE PALMAS, WEST AFRICA,
January 10, 1844.

DR. JAMES HALL, *Gen. Agent, Md. St. Col. Soc.*

Dear Sir,—I had the honor of addressing you by Capt. Goldsmith, who left this coast in October. You were then informed of my wish to proceed into the interior, and if possible, to reach *Bouroboh*, the Camwood region, and even farther to the Pah-country. The attempt has been made, accompanied by King Freeman and Yellow Will; and after passing through the *Saureekai* (King Cavah's) Boloboh and Toboe tribes, we were compelled to return, from jealousy on the part of the last mentioned, and an unwillingness to furnish us with guides or escort, accompanied with a threat, that we would surely be robbed on the route by *Strangers*, unless accompanied by some of their people. We were well treated throughout the whole of our jaunt, with the above exception; but every where we went, a palaver had to be held, to explain the unheard of project of a civilized man, undertaking so much trouble for the mere purpose of opening the path, and enriching the country. It was a new idea forced into minds as dark as *Egypt* and fenced in by *selfishness*—and was not to be credited, until we returned empty-handed, after having refused all efforts to decoy us into bartering.

I commenced the route with the notion, that I might use a hammock whenever fatigued, but I soon had to discard it, and measure Mother Earth, on foot, the whole distance, and let no man think he can use one in his travels in the interior, for he will be sadly disappointed. I was wonderfully upheld throughout, and, for once in my life, the desire of exploring our interior

seized me: but you know, from experience, the difficulties which accompany *a great man* when he moves in Africa, are a thousand fold what they would be in a civilized country. It is expected he will hardly do any thing like common people! We were absent about two weeks, and perhaps I never spent my time so much to the advantage of the colony. The Toboes almost exacted a promise from me to return next year, when all difficulties about further progress into the interior, would be removed, as you will perceive by the accompanying *scraps* which were made on the spot. But to proceed.

We had not been home a month when king F. was advised to convene all the kings and headmen from Fish Town to Cavally river, *ostensibly* to settle all old palavers, &c., and regulate their trade with the Bush people. It was early hinted to me from the Bush people, that the convention intended to interfere with the American trade also, but when the matter was laid before Freeman and Yellow Will of Half-Cavally, both denied it so promptly, that I could not disbelieve them. This reference to them was not once or twice, but several times, as reports reached me; and their denials were the same to the last. On the day of their breaking up (Sunday) I was then convinced that no faith was to be put in the professions of an African chief, no more than in the *Punica fides* of the ancients, as they had against all my *protests*, raised the prices of rice, oil, and every other article of produce, and to compel me into their measures, previously to separating, laid an *embargo* on all supplies, or any labor being performed by their people. But this time, they were mistaken, as I had upwards of 1000 kroos of rice on hand, and was in daily expectation of Commodore Perry with the squadron. The idea of conceding to their rates was never thought of, and they were told in palaver, after having prepared for the worst, that the measures adopted were of a hostile nature and must be removed—but their reply was, "that the steps taken were only trade palaver, and they had no idea of war whatever. The embargo was laid by the Convention, and could only be removed by them—that Freeman had been elected king (head) over all, &c. &c."

Things were in a state of almost actual hostility when the squadron arrived, and Commodore Perry was advised thereof. He promptly sent Lieut. Poor of the Macedonian, on shore, with a notification to Freeman to call all his kings and headmen to a palaver with him within 48 hours—as soon as they could be assembled. Before doing this, however, he had despatched the U. S. ship Decatur, Capt. Abbott, to Half-Cavally, at the request of Rev. Mr. Hazelhurst, to bring off the Rev. Mr. Payne and lady, whose situation was considered rather critical from continued acts of oppression on the part of the headmen for the last three or four months.—When the palaver was held by Com. Perry, and Freeman and his kings, &c., were told by him that the embargo must be removed, and trade be suffered to come in as usual, they readily agreed to it and pledged themselves not to interfere with it again. I embraced the opportunity then to suggest to Freeman the propriety—nay, even necessity—of selling his town sites to the society. He promised to consider on it, but he is so full of duplicity, that I sometimes think nothing but force will drive them off the Cape. Perhaps, you may think, that it ought to have been done, when the palaver was hottest—the easiest thing possible, were all your colonists settled in East and West Harper, and not in the Bush. Perhaps a letter from Mr. Latrobe on this point, directed to Freeman and his headmen, might have a good effect.

But our troubles were not all over yet. On the Commodore's landing, a salute of 13 guns was fired, which induced (we suppose) the Peribohs, our nearest Bush neighbors, to come into Mt. Tubman village, 40 or 50, armed to

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)

1844