Cragh called on me, and desired that I would write down, and deliver a message to Gov. Russwurm. "Ever since the arrival of Americans," said Cragh, "I have taken Gov. R. for my friend, but R. declares he has no friends among us. There are many rash and inconsiderate men among the Americans, who possessing neither authority nor influence, are loud in there denunciation against us Africans, but Gov. Russwurm and other influential persons, actuated by feelings of justice, condemn such proceedings as improper.—So likewise with my people, some of them are violent and outrageous, I am, and ever have been opposed to them and their indiscretions and pronounce them wrong. Placed as we are, in contact with American Colonists, being to a certain degree dependent on them, and looking up to them for support and protection, we think, or rather expect of them, that when our ignorant people improperly interfere with them or their affairs, or use measures to interrupt the regular communication of more remote tribes with the colony, that we should be made sensible of its injustice, and required to amend our ways, instead of being avoided as a people unworthy of trust or confidence. On the other hand, if we are in any way subjected to wrong or injury from other tribes, we expect the governor, as our friend and ally, will take our part, enquire into, and have our wrongs redressed. I do not entertain hard feelings against Gov. R. nor any of the colonists, from whom I have ever received tokens of respect and consideration. I am averse to disturbing the Americans in any way. I am often led to reflect on the great inconveniences we laboured under previous to the establishment of the colony for the want of tobacco to smoke, of iron for our axes, and of clothes for ourselves and women, all of which are now procured with ease and in abundance. I have never in my life been engaged in any altercation with Americans; I am younger than my brother the king, and of course possessed of less influence, still I am opposed to the lawless confusion, and the irregularities which my brother suffers to go unpunished, even without using some vigorous measures for their effectual suppression. Disgusted with his inefficiency or disinclination to suppress them, and seeing that their continuance must eventually tend to strife between us and the Americans, I have determined on removing to a greater distance from you, so that in the event of a war I may remain a neutral spectator. My people say that it is because I am the favourite of Governor Russwurm, that he is constantly granting me favours which are denied others; whilst in reality I have fallen so low in his estimation in consequence of some imagined injury, that I am now hardly noticed. Tell the Governor not to be angry with me, I was not engaged with those who interrupted the Saurika people, nor was it encouraged by me. I am not king, cannot with my single voice control every man,—and as I see no other way of averting the calamities which must follow our persistence in wrong, must use every effort to induce all to remove; but softly! when I remove, of which you will soon be informed, no one will remain behind. Tell this to Gov. Russwurm. I have done."

In order to explain the motives which induced Cragh to deliver this message, it is necessary to state that the Saurika people had been repeatedly robbed and beaten by the Cape Palmas people, on the road to our colony. The Governor often complained of it, without producing any change of conduct. The Saurikas thereupon threatened them with war, and the Governor refused to exert his influence to set the palaver; so far from it, he expressed much indignation that they should have interrupted our trade, and declared their removal from among us was desirable; he would neither consent to advise nor assist them in their perplexity, and kept all the head-men at a distance. Under the apprehension of danger on all sides, Cragh (who is

our bitter enemy, but a noble fellow, who is by me admired for his intelligence and frankness) thought it safest to have the river and an half mile of sea-beach between himself and our "peace-makers," so that he might have the choice of fighting or running away.

I was induced to copy the entire message, in order that you may form some opinion of the "unsophisticated African." It strikes me that Cragh would prove no insignificant minister to a foreign court—he so carefully conceals his real intentions, and attempts to deceive with regard to them.

(From the Liberia Herald of September 30th.)

DIED AT NEW GEORGIA, on the 29th ult. Alexander Bartlett, of that incurable and dreaded malady called the *Sleepy disease*.

Alexander Bartlett was a native African—of the Congo tribes—a *recaptive* restored to liberty by the United States Government. While in America under the temporary servitude to which he and his companions were subjected he became a subject of divine grace—was baptized and joined a Baptist Church in Savanna, in the State of Georgia. In 1826 he was sent to the Colony. Immediately on his arrival he attached himself to the Baptist Church in this place then under the pastorate of Rev. Lott Cary

When the *recaptives* were removed to New Georgia, and settled by themselves, Bro. Bartlett removed with them, and was among those who following the advice of the brethren here were erected into a separate and independent church in 1836, with which he maintained undisturbed fellowship up to the period of his decease.

Bro. Bartlett unquestionably had no equal in intellectual ability among his compatriots. His mind until shaken by disease was of the firmest texture, and his acuteness and penetration and ability to comprehend a subject was frequently a subject of remark with those who conversed with him. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge—a desire so strong as to render him inquisitive to a degree at times really annoying, and which steeled him against shame to ask the humblest question of the humblest individual; whilst the gratitude with which he received information seemed entitled to be held equivalent to all the annoyance involved in communicating it.

Bro. Bartlett made some proficiency in book learning. His first lesson in letters was received under the auspices of the Rev. Lott Cary—he was farther improved in the school of the Ladies of Philadelphia, taught by the Rev. Mr. Eden, at New Georgia, and when that school was discontinued he entered the school of the M. E. Church, conducted at the same place by Mr. Gripon. Bro. B. could read English with correctness—much more correctly (in the sense of understanding what he read) than those not acquainted with him would, from his imperfect orthoepy, suppose: and he also wrote a fair legible hand. Recently Bro. B. was almost the only scholar in New Georgia, and consequently he filled of necessity most of the civil and municipal offices there whose duties required writing. Such was the estimation in which he was held by his fellow citizens that he was last year elected to the Colonial Legislature—unfortunately for him however; for it was precisely at that period that his mind yielded to the pressure of disease.

But while we yeild a ready and hearty commendation to the eager ardor which the deceased sought improvement, and indulge in gratification at his success, it is his consistent christian character that attracts esteem. His efforts to serve the church of which he was a member, and lately a deacon—though humble were unceasing. His conduct seemed to say I have received much, therefore let me evince my gratitude by doing what I can in return. I have a talent committed to me which cannot lie idly and I be guiltless—

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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