against in having every man—myself not exempt—well provided with the means of self-defence, and make "a show of them openly" to deter others from molesting us. But in case of an attack, the authorities at Monrovia always have the men, ammunition, and courage to go to the help of the oppressed.

In juxtaposition to this I would say of the Bassa, or Djoe, mountain—

1. Though high, finely timbered, and of good soil, it is hardly far enough from the sea-board, nor sufficiently screened by high lands intervened, to shut it out from the malaria of the coast. Rev. Mr. Rambo and myself both concluded from unmistakable evidence that miasmatic influence would be felt there. The Fawblee mountain in Queah is shut out by spur after spur, some higher, from the sea-coast.

2. It is accessible at the end of two day's journey from Bassa, but emigrants must walk three miles on a tiresome beach, first to take the river route, then risk their lives in the fearful rapids, unless a road be cut from Mr. Van Brun's to a point above them, and a landing, and re-embarking of themselves and effects be effected, to the no small loss of time. Then, as a half-way house to spend the night in, the Bassas afford miserable dilapidated huts with no one single inducement or comfort.

3. Neither carriers, boats, nor hands to row, can be had; all these must be imported by the Society from Monrovia, or we could not possibly get the people to the mountain for several days.

4. The Bassas are treacherous, warlike, have broken treaties with the Americans and joined their foes the Fishmen, again and again. Their own men have said, and said to me, "Don't trust them; give them a chance and they will break their word and make war.

5 The Bassas are starving; nothing can be bought among them, and a ship-load of breadstuffs would have to be landed and carried to the mountain to feed the newcomers until we could plant and raise a crop of something to eat. This very state of famine proving no small inducement to them to steal, fight and slay those who bring in food among them.

6. Access to Monrovia, the seat of government and great depot of supplies, would be an event of rare occurrence. No dependence could be placed on Edina or the Buchanans for a barrel of provisions at any time. If our supplies fail us on the mountain, and we send to any part of Bassa county, they must first send to " the Cape," and can only send when an opportunity occurs. These are very few and very far between.

7. In case of danger from the hostilities with the natives, the above mentioned places cannot help us. When attacked, as history, which cannot lie, informs us, they themselves have had to get help from Monrovia.

I cannot help thinking, in conclusion, that my course of reasoning and my final determination will meet the views of the Board. Should it be otherwise, it will only confirm me in the opinion that an unwise choice was made when they honored me with the appointment of agent in this special and laborious enterprise. Should I meet their approval, carry out the object, build my little town, receive the pioneers, and they live and do well, and the mountain country prove the heathful region, how easy, by allowing more previous time to another than has fallen to the lot of your present hurried, driven, and overtasked agent, to effect another interior settlement on the Djoe mountain, within the bounds of the New Jersey territory. I am sanguine in my opinion that the success of the first will lead to the establishment of the second, and of many more.

While I am writing, my agent, Mr. Campion, announces that though we had axe-helves to make, cutlasses to grind, bill hooks to sharpen, and hoes to make handles for, yet the men have commenced to cut the new road intersecting the path to Robertsville. We shall now go ahead without interruption, hoping that the John Stevens will not get quite ready to sail for Africa until about the 10th instant.

I have the honor to be, my dear sir, yours most respectfully,

JOHN SEYS.

From the Commission.

CAPE PALMAS.

Letter from Rev. B. J. Drayton.

Brother Drayton has been elected Governor of the Colony of Maryland, but it will be seen that he still continues the supervision of Cape Palmas Mission.

HARPER, MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

Rev. James B. Taylor,

DEAR BRO.—I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your favor, of May 23rd, which afforded me no small amount of pleasure. I regret that you have not received letters from me as often as you have reason to expect them, for I am sure the Board have the first place among my correspondents; and if you have not received letters, it is not because I have not written.

I feel truly grateful for your kind expressions respecting my prosperity and usefulness. These repeated manifestations of the favor of the Almighty God, in singling me out as an instrument in His hands to assist in the establishment and spread of His lovely Gospel in this dark and benighted country, have a strong tendency to humble me in the dust before His Omnipotence.

The Church, as you are aware must evidently go forward in this, as well as in other lands, with triumphant glory and success; and to secure this happy and desirable result, the Head of the Church has various means and ways. Through a prudent, pious, and wise Government, many of the angry feuds arising among the natives may be arrested—highways thrown up—paths thrown wide open, through which the Gospel may pass and reach the countless numbers who must perish, if they are deprived of its blessedness.

You alluded to my "elevation in official influence." It is as you have learned. The Government came into my hands in December last, as Lieut. Governor, to serve out the unexpired term of the former Executive, which expired the first of June last; and at the regular election, which occurred in the same month, I was elected, almost unanimously, for two years from August last. It appeared to me, after due consultation and prayer, that I would be pursuing the path of duty, under existing circumstances of the State, to accept the office; and I feel that an All-Wise Creator intends me for special reasons, and for the accomplishment of certain ends, to move for a season in a two fold relation among my heathen brethren. The will of the people also, and my best friends, would not take any denial; hence I submitted with a sense of my weakness and inability, and place myself under the care of the Lord. I admit that I have yet much to learn to enable me to discharge the duties of the post as it should be; but my country, my degraded and less favored brethren, have compelled the measure.

"We shall be sorry," you say, "to lose your influence and labors on our behalf." I could not feel justifiable, under existing circumstances, to withdraw myself from your service at this point; and nothing that I know of could induce me to suffer such a check to our interest here, as I am aware any kind of withdrawal of mine would occasion; yet I believe the work can go on without me, and as it was not me in the past, neither will it be me

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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