"February 8th. A bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature, authorizing the President to effect a loan of $10,000, if practicable, and to enlist a force of two hundred and twenty-five men to proceed at once to Cape Palmas. The bill passed on the 6th, and a general parade was ordered for the 7th, when about one hundred volunteers were obtained, more may yet be added from this County, but it is expected to obtain some from Bassa County. I have consented to detain the Ship a few days, until the expedition can be got ready, and then take what can be obtained here on board and sail directly for Cape Palmas. The Government here deserve all credit for promptness in action. We shall take on board to-morrow, to-day being Sunday, provisions and munitions of war, and may reasonably hope to get off on Wednesday morning. Such are the main facts of the case up to this date, and so stands the matter now. I shall probably be able to enclose you, herewith, a copy of Gov. Drayton's letter to President Benson, a copy of President Benson's Message to the Legislature and of their action thereon; neither of which documents have I yet seen. I send you a copy of my letter to Mr. Benson, tendering a loan on terms previously agreed upon by us. Dr. McGill has promised me a detailed statement of transactions at Cape Palmas, coming under his own observation I have already executed one draft on R. Mickle, Treasurer, for $2,000, in favor of "S. A. Benson, President," at sixty days sight; and previous to leaving shall have to draw for as much more in smaller sums, at four months sight. I shall defer any further drafts until it shall appear what services will actually be rendered. I shall also have to execute drafts to the amount of $1000, at least, for supplies for the suffering children and widows at Cape Palmas. As I can get no breadstuff here, I must take a few barrels of salt provisions and bacon, and add a couple of hogsheads of tobacco to the two I already have on board for our Agent, Mr. Gibson. I shall also take down a case or two of domestics, as many of our people escaped almost in a state of nudity; and what is not actually needed for clothing, will be required with the tobacco to purchase rice, cassada or other vegetable food from friendly natives.

"I have thus stated what I have done and am doing, without giving my reasons or arguing the matter, or suggesting other courses that might be considered more judicious; but be assured I have not acted without much reflection, and an oppressive sense of the responsibility resting on me. And I doubt not as you read these lines, it will occur to you and the gentlemen of the Board, why did I *not* thus and so, or why *did* I thus and so. But I trust that, in case my acts do not meet your approval, you will make all allowance for the difference of our position, the different stand points from which we view the field. My first impulse was to proceed immediately to Cape Palmas, and try to set the palaver through my influence with the natives—but remember, the natives were suing for peace on almost any terms short of expatriation—and from all I could learn of Gov. Drayton's character and proceedings, I could not hope to influence him. I also wished to see Dr. McGill before I left, hoping all the while that he had been able to set the palaver. His arrival, however, entirely changed the aspect of affairs. The condition of the colony, as represented by Dr. McGill and Mr. Hoffman, was critical if not desperate. Drayton applies for aid to the last source to which he would apply, with an expressed determination still to exterminate the Grebo tribe or drive them out of their old territory. He knew I was here, or shortly to be here, and yet made me no communication. Neither of the consuls could render any assistance. Had I then gone down alone, and

failed to effect a reconciliation or a suspension of hostilities, which was most likely, much delay would have been incurred, the use of the Ship could not have been obtained to transport troops, even if troops could have been obtained, and I could not have remained to go down with them. I thought some of going to Sierra Leone, the English Consuls promising his co-operation in endeavoring to get a man-of-war from that place, if any one happened to be in port; but this would have consumed near a month of precious time, and an even chance that we should find no vessel of war there.

"I could see but one course that promised speedy relief, and that was the furnishing the aid required of this Government by Mr. Drayton. This I could not hope to obtain without affording them the *material aid.* In fact I knew the Government was crippled exceedingly in consequence of the great expense attendant on settling Cape Mount last year, to which was superadded the Sinou war, which latter cost the Republic over $20,000. On this point I took counsel with Mr. Benson, Dr. McGill, Ex-President Roberts, and other intelligent men. The result was the tender of a loan of $8000, if so much should be required, to this Government, for ten years, with quarterly interest in coupons—at the rate of six per cent. An important point, gained in this negotiation was, the stipulation that the aid should be unconditional, and not in any way contingent on annexation. I say *important*, and I mean so in more respects than one. I knew this would accord with your wish and the uniform action of the Board. It would also have a good effect upon the Marylanders, as there is little good feeling at present between them and these people. It would tend to harmonize and conciliate, to tender assistance freely, rather than to haggle for pay, in demanding their birthright. I may here remark, that I have ever differed from yourself, Mr. Latrobe and the official action of the Board, as to this matter of State independence and County annexation; but in this, as in all matters not specially committed to my discretion, I have endeavored to act simply as your *Agent*, to execute your wishes and dictates. It may possibly occur to you that, instead of furnishing aid through this Government, I might have furnished it directly to Mr. Drayton; but he wants men, which I could not have enlisted here, and I would not have willingly placed more power in his hands, to have enabled him further to forfeit every pledge I have made the Grebo tribe in your name, of possessing the land in common and dwelling together as brethren.

"February 10th. We expect to receive the Liberia volunteers on board this evening, and hope to get under way with the early land breeze to-morrow. I have little to add to the foregoing, and am not able to write much, being unwell from extra exertions in getting on board provisions and munitions of war yesterday. I found delay would ensue if I did not work hard myself on the wharf. All now is ready to receive the troops. I yesterday executed drafts to the amount of $2000 more on the Treasurer, at four months sight, making $4000 in all. I yesterday was able to get twenty barrels of flour from a vessel in this harbor, which, with the beef and bacon I was able to obtain on shore, will afford some aid. How all these drafts, made and to make, are to be met unless the State appropriation is used, is more than I can tell. But could I do less? I shall take the liberty at once, on arriving at Cape Palmas, to suspend all salaries, other than for Physician and Agent; stating the cause, the *necessitous* cause—leaving it with the Board to confirm or annul my action; the latter will not offend me, I assure you. I leave this long communication, and the bundle of documents, to go by Steamer, expected here on the 14th.

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)

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