Society's appropriation, I don't know how the expense of them will be borne. We propose getting timber ready and going down with it in about four days from this, with the hope, you will allow a judicious expenditure of as much of the remainder of the $2000 00 as may be necessary; and that you will advocate a still further appropriation, if it be necessary.

It is true, we have not more men than enough to protect our settlements, but we must, notwithstanding, do all we can in the way of rebuilding and destroying all further attempts at treachery.

Of all the base treacherous acts I have heard or read of, I think Grando's exceed all. Up to the very time of his depredation, he pretended the greatest humility and friendship—his people visited our settlements daily—two of them were working in Mr. Lawrence's boat the very morning of the massacre. Only six days ago, he sent me a calf to pay on his palaver, which I returned to him with a very civil message, that the remainder of the cattle must be large ones—to which he agreed.

But sir, in my opinion, Boyer, of Trade Town, encouraged him to the attack, promising him assistance, and that there are others, NOT PROFESSELLY HEATHENS NOR LIBERIANS, who, also, have "a finger in the pie."

I have lost, in this affair, exclusive of lumber, in oil and goods, $1500 00—but I am somewhat inured to losses, and though I am but illy prepared to sustain them, yet, it appears I must, as I frequently have had to do before.

Our people after viewing the mangled state of the dead, came home very desperate: and that night, a campany sallied out and burned two Fish-towns, and in the mele perhaps killed one or two fishmen and returned home before day. Prudence requires, that we keep up these night excursions 'till we hear from you; and the tribe of Fishmen must be driven out of the country before they will learn how to behave themselves. They are well panic stricken now, and if we had more help, an ample atonement could be had for the murder and robbery at the garrison. There are plenty of friendly native tribes, who are anxious to accompany us in our nocturnal excursions for the sake of plunder, but we think it best not to take them with us.

Tho' Grando's people are seen occasionally about the point, the impression is, which is well founded, that if a determined effort is made by our [illegible] for his arrest or punishment, he will make his escape to leeward, and not let it be known where he may go, and which the villians will keep secret—but if no strong effort is made, he intends to hover about the country and annoy us until we yield and consent to his occupying the Cove—these are his plans:—and sir, tho' we reprobate the customs of the heathens, and would deeply lament a condition of affairs, that would compell us in self-preservation, to adopt them—we must not remain blind to the fact, that hitherto, all the plans we have had recourse to, to obtain culprits and redress from the Piccanany Cess Fishmen, have proved failures; and that they were not in the least calculated to give them a correct idea of the power and resources of the government. Matters now, have reached that height, as to warrant, we think, the adoption of a different course. As it has again and again been proven, that there is no confidence to be placed in this tribe of Fishmen; and that it is certain that they boast of their character as deceivers, will it not be best to deal with them in this wise —Arrest any of that tribe wherever they may be found—prevent their being employed by vessels; and place them in custody; and let them know, they will be held as hostages, until they deliver up Grando and his confederates, for the murder and robbery at the garrison. If this course be adopted, you may rest assured sir, that the relatives and friends of those arrested, will invent measures to catch Grando and deliver him up. We do not advise this course without knowing, that it would have a good effect—as several of the tribe have said, that if Grando continued his depredations, and in consequence, their relations and friends were caught and held responsible for his good conduct or delivery—they would not hesitate to seek for him; and deliver him up. This is the only course that will prove effectual and prevent an expensive military expedition. As matters now are, they will inveigh against Grando to your face; but will never aid you in arresting him. Grando and his brother Wea should be unconditionally demanded—adopt the course, and I firmly believe you will get them in thirty days' time.

I think by prudent mangement, those Bassa Chiefs concerned with Grando in the murderous attack can be procured. I have a plan now in operation, which I hope may prove successful.

I hope Sir, you see the necessity of having every factory removed between this and Grand Colah, as I feel confident that Boyer had a hand in this affair; and if not in this, other ill conduct of his, justifies such a course; and it will teach malignant and medling foreigners also, a lesson.

It is likely Mr. Lawrence may complain to H. B. M's Consul, that our people fired into his boat. I was not present, nor did I know any thing about it, till several hours after it occured: —but I gathered from good authorities—That Mr. Weaver's son Napoleon was in Mr. Lawrence's boat coming on shore with the crewmen from the ship—(he understands the fish language;) that when the boat approached the bar, he heard them say, that two of Grando's men were in the boat, (this was the same day of the massacre) and that one of them would be recognized by us, if he came on shore; but the other would not; so they called a fish canoe and put him in it—the other continued in the boat. When the boat landed, the "youngster" reported what had passed in the boat; and three or four of our men started towards the boat on the beach opposite my store: —and tho' they were one hundred yards from the boat, the men had made but few steps, before this man plunged in the river and swam off for the bar. Mr. Lawrence's boat then went to his relief; and when he got into the boat, our men told them to bring him on shore, but they pulled away, determined to carry him off—(all in the boat were ascertained to be fishmen) our men then fired one or two muskets—not at the boat, but to induce them to bring the man on shore:—and even, if they had fired at them, or the boat, under the circumstances, they would have been justified. I communicate this occurrence, in case a formal complaint is made.

I am your Excellency's.

Obt: Servant,

STEPHEN. A, BENSON.

Letter No. 2.

Bassa, Cove, Nov: 7th, 1851.

To His Excellency.
President Roberts.

Dear Sir.

Mr. Lawrence arrived in our port last Sabbath with his two vessels, and by times Monday morning he was over to see me; professing unusual friendship and manifesting unwonted kindness.

He informed me that the difficulty between Boyer and James Flaw was settled—that he had settled it on his arrival at Trade Town; and shewed me the instrument he said, they had signed, witnessed by Capt: Pannel.

We do hope, beg, and pray; that his deceitfully, malignant medling may not be recognized by our Government. Now I am perfectly satisfied that he was the cause of Boyer's obstinacy—and he Lawrence has a two fold object in view. First to lessen our influence with the natives—Second, that his and Murray's owners may have it to report, that their servants on the coast have more influence with the natives than our government—that they have to settle palavers for the security of their property and have to make large expenditures for that purpose, consequently they should pay no duties &c to our Government. I would stake every thing I am worth that these were the primary objects of Lawrence and Murray in influencing Boyer to treat the Commissioners with the contempt he has.

Boyer really thinks that the power of the English traders is superior to ours—because he say, they have British men of war at their back.

We are strongly of the "opinion sir," that the most advisable course for us to adopt, in view of the present condition of things, is to have every factory removed between this place and Grand Colah. Make foreignors and all abandon Trade Town for a season: and to demand of Boyer remuneration for the expense, Government went to, in sending the "Lark" and Commissioners down, at his own request, to settle the difficulties existing between him and Flaw. This would be punishment on Boyer and those who improperly interfered with matters which do not concern them, and would seem to show them we are capable of understanding and maintaining the authority of the government.

Situated as you are at Monrovia, you can have no adequate knowledge of the malignant, deceitful and subversive exertions making by foreignors on the African tribes; and their goods have great effect with them; and every thing they can gather along the coast injurious to us, false or true, they send to their owners Pannel told us in the cabin of the "Lark" that he was particularly instructed to find out and communicate to England every thing he possibly could, injurious to us, that it may be used to our disadvantage with the British Government; and that he was doing so. He then commenced a slander on you, but when he saw with what indignation and somewhat danger sternness we were about to resent it, for I got blind and could not keep my seat, and was about to take the liberty of asking him out of the cabin—he retracted and said he meant nothing out of the way about you—he had a high opinion of you; and shifted the falsehood which he charged you with, on an Hon: gentleman at Monrovia; and said this Hon: gentleman made that impression on his mind, and that what he said in the cabin was only a repetition of what that Hon: Gent: told him

I will try to manage every matter down here connected with this late difficulty, so as to restore peace and order as soon as will be practicable, as I know our Government have not a cent to spare, nor a life to lose. If I have taken liberties in thus freely communicating to you; and taken more upon myself, than belongs to me. I hope you will pardon me. I am looked up to here as an advisor, in some respects; and besides all my property &c. &c. is here; and if I remained indifferent, to what is being done to our injury, it is possible, that by the time others might act, we would be more seriously injured. You may be assured *sir*, that I will do nothing that will lay me liable to censure.

I am Respectfully,

Yours, &c, &c.

STEPHEN, A, BENSON.

Letter No. 3.

Bassa, Cove, Nov: 8th, 1851.

To His Excellency.
President Roberts.

Dear Sir.

In an hour after closing my letters to you I learned most confidently that Boyer sent a large number of his people to Grando's barricaded town yesterday; and that he is to be there himself to day, with a reinforcement—*this is so. and you may depend upon it.*

Wee' of New Cessters has not come out openly, but has expressed himself as Grando's friend, and has promised him assistance. I heard the guns firing at Grando's town this morning expressive of joy at the arrival of the Trade-Town people.

Respectfully Yours,

STEPHEN, A, BENSON

Letter, No 4.

Bassa Cove Nov. 15th 1851.

To His Excellency,
President Roberts.

Dear Sir:—

Just after the close of a bloody engagement at this place this morning, with the Fishmen, I was handed your letter. I exceedingly regret that my communication to you per "Ariel" did not reach you, as I then wrote a detailed account of the state of affairs here.

We had determined to re-occupy the garrison immediately, but, on ascertaining that almost, the entire "Bassa Country and Trade Town had joined Grando with the determination to lay waste our settlements and massacre the inhabitants"—the idea was abandoned and we commenced to prepare for a vigorous defence until the arrival of re-inforcements. Excepting Peter Harris's tribe Young Bob's and some few other tribes up the St: John's river—the entire Bassa County lying east of the St: John's are our enemies, and are now fighting us or our allies every day and night. We had not ascertained their true position when I last wrote to you.

Some of the New Cessters Chiefs are the only one's who had not consented to join the combination, when we last heard from there, which was last Tuesday, by some congoes and Hudson—the former having made their escape and traveled by night until they reached here, and Hudson was brought home secretly by Croo Peter's people of New Cessters.

Boyer of Trade Town, came up to New Cessters in William Lawrence's vessel for the express purpose of enlisting troops to join Grando against us; and Lawrence conducted or accompanied him on shore at Cessters—prepared a dinner at his factory for him and the New Cessters Chiefs, and were siting with them at table in his factory, when Boyer broached the object of his mission to the Chiefs. All this took place three days after the massacre at the garrison; Lawrence was here at the time of the massacre and left the morning after. We had heard that there were suspicions of Lawrence's agency in the whole matter, but were not certain of the fact. I send your the statements of Jeremiah Martin, and one of the congoes who were present when Boyer and Lawrence landed, and who over heard much of the conversation.

Joe West and Jabbah abruptly refused to join Grando: and tho' I have heard nothing to the contrary, I cannot vouch for their continued friendship in the present state of things. The Fishmen demanded the Liberians, residing in the New Cesster's Country, to kill them, but Joe West refused to deliver them up; and said he would lose his life first—he carried them to his town, where we hope they are safe—Thomas R. Barbour and Edward Carrol, are among the number now under the protection of this Chief.

King Jabbah in the same country had taken Jeremiah Martin's son to his town for safety—it is about fifteen miles from the beach—but Martin having beged Lawrence when he was here to take him off, which he faithfully promised to do, wrote Jabbah to give him up to Lawrence—Jabbah brought the boy to the beach, and tho' he cied and beged Lawrence to take him off, he would not, but left the boy in his factory to be taken care of:—and it is more than probable he has been murdered.

I have no personal misunderstanding with Lawrence—he manifested the greatest friendship to me when he was here last, and made me a present of nearly fifteen dollars worth of delicacies; and was more then ever accommodating. So you can see, I do not give the information of him from spite or malice—but because I as firmly believe that Lawrence instigated this war upon us, and is now encouraging it, as I believe in my own existence: and his object is either, that the natives may exterminate, or so subdue us, as to cause us to relax in the enforcement of the Revenue and Navigation laws. This was the argument Boyer used to enlist the New Cessster's Chiefs (Lawrence was present at the time), and Lawrence's white clerk who were also present actually advised them to join and help to cut our throats.

For the Lord's sake, Sir, have every foreign factory removed within certain defined distances from this place.

The information of Hudson's was obtained by him from Croo Peter's town at New Cessters. At the present moment, the entire country to fifteen miles up the St: John's river and to the borders of the New Cesster's country is in commotion; and an attack is made upon some town every day and night—there has been as many as three attacks in one night.

Last Monday a small attack was made on Bassa Cove by the Bassa people, I think, but they soon fled. Tuesday night a general attack of the Bassa people was made on Bassa Cove—they commenced at A. P. Davis's and my farm—the attack was made at midnight. Several, were killed, and as they fled, the wilderness resounded with "*nabo*" (a cry of pain) our cannon having been well charged with slugs and grape shot. On examination the next morning we found the bushes covered with blood, and picked up, several guns and "gregrees" the fellows had droped. Doar Gar's own brother, and who was his chief warrior was shot; he died three days ago and was buried yesterday amid much grief. This Doar Gar, who sent the war, is the same fellow in whose town our troops quartered when on their way to Wee's town—it was but four days previously, that he sent one of our Liberians home, to keep him from being killed he said; and sent to us at the same time strong professions of friendship. I sent him a small present in acknowledgment of his kindness for sending Mabry home. On Tuesday night the Bexians sallied out to one of the enemies towns, and broke it up. They wounded two of our men, Blane and Hill, the latter a missionary)—not mortally however. From Bassa Covewe have burned up three towns, in the Bassa Country. Yesterday, the Bexians finished the last enemies town on the left hand side of the St: John's—last night they crossed over and made an attack upon another town aided by native allies, and destroyed the town

The Fishmen having showed themselves between this and the Cove daily since Wednesday, in large numbers, made, the most desperate attack this morning at 7. o'clock upon Bassa Cove, that I ever knew the natives to make. There seemed to be no end to their numbers; and they were as fearless of cannon as if they were pop-guns. After they fired the first volley, they made a rush, some passing between fortstation & my farm, and actually got in town—others came up within forty yards of the two cannons & loaded & fired bravely, nor would they give an inch, for thirty minutes until Tarplan, Grando's principal warrior, and in whom he placed more dependence than in any one hundred men, was shot down dead within thirty yards of the cannon's mouth. When he fell and his war-horn ceased, there was a general panic, and a few more rounds put them to flight. I have the fellow's head at my farm and intend to preserve his skull for examination *only*; for there must have been something extraordinary about the man. I never saw such quantities of blood, as was seen, on examining the battle ground:—from thirty yards from the cannon's mouth on the fort below the first pawn on the beach, the bushes and path-way are died with blood—in some places it stand in puddles. Both

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