our ears were greeted with the crash of falling limbs on our right & left. But onward was our course, which brought us in about 45. Minutes to the extensive woods, between us and Banakah territory – Here we had to await the arrival of our Jack, which came in a worse plight than our Rosinante returned home after his wanderings. He was so exhausted, that it required our utmost efforts to get him along – which caused a delay of at least one hour.

These big woods belong to Cape Palmas and Banakah and serve as neutral ground. From the size of the trees neither party seem inclined to make their farms there, though the soil is fertile & well watered. Gloomy & without the animation appeared our way through, as the rain kept pouring down on our devoted heads, though the thunder had ceased.

About 4. P. M we arrived at the Methodist Mission house completely done up – here things were soon arranged so that we had a warm bath & dry clothes to put on – the cloths in our valise being all wet. Here though distant from Harper 12 or 14 miles, in the Bush country, our troubles & vexations were soon forgotten: and even poor Jack the Chief source of all, was petted & cared for by our whole party.

This Station had not been occupied many month before our arrival, yet we found the school consisting of 10 children well organized and the teacher Mr J. Banks possessed of great influence with the leading men of the country. This influence & his knowledge of the native language were at our service out of pure love of country; and we failed not to avail ourselves of them in smoothing difficulties which were instilled into the minds of a few of the Headmen that we had some secret object in our visit to Denet.

Here then we concluded to stop till the 11th to talk palavers & get more acquainted – Here was the key to the Bush interior, and a few days spent in palavering & removing prejudices could not be considered as waste of time. We left Harper with the intention of going to Denet

and to return without, was not even dreamed.

As soon as our arrival was known in the big town, the King & Headmen called upon us and expressed their pleasure at seeing me once more at Banakah. During the evening also, the King called after I had retired to rest and seeing me much afflicted with violent cramp from making through so much water while warm, prescribed & procured a country medicine which drove away the cramp, but hardly suffered me to close my eyes late near morning.

About 3 P M on 13th we walked down to the big town & called upon the King, begging him to have the big drum beat, as we wished for a palaver of the headmen having something to state. After waiting sometime, the headmen upon hearing the drum, dropped into the square, each having in his hand, a small country stool. A majority being present, the King notified us that they were ready. With Mr Banks as interpreter, I stated the pleasure it afforded me in visiting them now they had a Mission school and American teacher in their country; I hoped they would prize them. I was on my way to the river Cavally, to Denet, and it was convenient to spend a few days in the country – to get more acquainted with the headmen & people – The Americans were the friends of all country people who come to do them good – and they must judge hereafter by our conduct, & not by what they were told by our enemies – now, they had been told by some Bread tribe, that our visit to Denet was to make a big house there & fill it with money – very likely indeed that I was to fill a big house with money &c when I wanted their King Neh to accompany me through out my route to hear every word that was said – In walking about the country every day season, I had no other object than to see it, so I could describe it to our headmen on the U.S. who had a burning desire to learn every thing about Africa, its people, manners & customs – its trees, monkies, and