Cape Palmas August 6th 1838

J. H. B. Latrobe Esq.
Pres. Md. S. C. &c.

Dear Sir,

The late melancholy events of which our country has been the theatre, compel me to embrace the earliest opportunity of advising you of the present state of affairs.

On the evening of the 25th July, between the hours of 7 and 8, the large native town of Cape Palmas caught fire through the neglect of a woman and was all consumed, except 50 houses which were on the south side of the new road lately cut through it. At the request of King Freeman our troops were ordered out to protect him from his neighbors on every side who according to the customs of this country generally embrace that time to strip the unfortunate of what the devouring element may have spared them, and of their cattle.

Accordingly a gun was fired, and our colonists had guards posted in different sections. At early dawn a body of armed Bush Natives from the towns of Barraway and its vicinity were hailed by the guard at Chesnut Tubman, and when asked by one of them that their object was to see the town at C. Palmas (which had been burned down the preceding evening) were suffered to pass; but they had hardly advanced a quarter of a mile, when they commenced a murderous attack on the house of Ebin Packer who had been so rash as to shoot one, wounding him in the shoulder, two or three days previously. Before any resistance could be rendered

Rev. J. H. Gurley
Washington City
D.C.
Cape Palmas
1 August 1838

Recd 39/16/66

Ans'd by
Dr. W. Lovell

Cop for A. Ewell

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838