they had succeeded in killing Parker and three of his children. They once discovered by Parker and his wife time enough to have escaped, but his obstinacy was so great that he would not suffer even his wife to take the children and flee. She had barely time to save herself and one child who when the natives supposed they had killed, is saved. Parker's house is nearly opposite to Mount Vaughan, and Revd Mr Payne who were up that early hour could discern most of their movements. They afterwards robbed the house & returned by another route to their country.

But this is not the end of our misfortunes. As soon as the news reached the Army Farm, distant about a mile and a quarter the Officer in command there headed a small company and hastened to the scene of action. On his way out he met ten or twelve armed mutineers who represented themselves as Cape Palmas people - they were ordered to turn about and proceed ahead of the troops, which they did a short distance, but at the first cross road they arrived, they made the attempt to run off, when they were fired upon by our troops, and unfortunately three were wounded. One has since died, and another lies in a precarious state. Should he die the balance will still be wise.

King Freeman professes great friendship towards us, but I put but little faith in him, or his people, as I am well convinced that they knew the intentions of the Bush people to be revenged on Parker and kept them concealed. I am told the Bush people slept at their farms on their way in. The truth is we are surrounded by enemies on every side; and we should feel more encouraged were we not destitute of all kinds of trade & provisions. The rice crop is short.

I trust therefore, that the full expedition will be despatched earlier than common; and that unusual care will be taken not to send out many women and children. We want able bodied men. We want two very light field pieces for immediate action - So light that 8 or 10 men may take them apart and carry them with ease. Without a small vessel, we are too dependent on the Cape Palmas people.

The natives continue their stealing, and the colonists their carelessness, and I see no way to correct the evil otherwise than by an chastisement. King Freeman's policy is to conceal every thing; and they are generally enlightened enough to know that we must first catch the thief before we can hang him.

The present mode of settling colonists on 5 acres leaves those on the frontiers too much exposed. Small villages of thirty or forty houses might be laid off, and small farms in the vicinity given out so that every man might return every night to it, with the feeling that his wife & children would be out of the reach of immediate danger. I shall await instructions on this head. Would it not be advisable to pass resolutions preventing guns, powder, and flints being landed, only for the exclusive trade and use of the Society? Within nine months upwards of forty barrels of Powder have been landed to the Missionaries. This ought not to be. My last advices to you were by the Columbia Capt Franklin.

With much respect,
Your Obt Servt
Jno. B. Russwurm
A.Mo.St.C.S.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

5. 1838