

COLONIAL SETTLEMENTS--WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

Correspondence from Commodore M. C. Perry, relative to colonial settlements on the western coast of Africa.

MAY 4, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 30, 1844.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution passed by the House of Representatives on the 13th instant, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies of all the letters or communications which have been received at this department from Commodore M. C. Perry, commanding the United States naval forces on the western coast of Africa, touching the condition of the colonial settlements on that coast, or in reference to any intercourse or negotiations which he may have held with the native tribes.

A schedule accompanies the papers.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,
J. Y. MASON.

Hon. JOHN W. JONES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Schedule of papers transmitted in answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of April 13, 1844.

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UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Mesurado Roads, Monrovia, August 3, 1843.

SIR: I have already, since leaving the United States, addressed several letters to the department, transmitting every information in reference to the movements of this vessel; and I now have the honor to report my arrival at this place on the 1st instant, where I found, according to appointment, the Porpoise, Lieutenant Stellwagen.

Everything is quiet at the American settlements, and, so far as I can learn by diligent inquiry, the American flag has not been used, within two years, on this part of the coast, by any vessel engaged in the slave trade. But on this, and other points connected with the duties of my command, I shall be better prepared to communicate with the department after having been longer on the coast.

Arrangements are in progress for chastising the natives of Berriby and Sinoe, for the murder of the master of the schooner Mary Carver, and the mate of the schooner Edward Burley; but I learn from the authorities of Monrovia and Cape Palmas, that, to secure the surviving ringleader, (two of the culprits engaged in the murder at Berriby having since died,) it will be necessary to proceed by stratagem, and with great caution.

I found at Monrovia a chief man of the people of Sinoe, sent here expressly to meet me, and to request me to appoint a palaver (conference) with all the chiefs, in order to arrange the affair of the murder of the mate of the Edward Burley. Accordingly, after consulting with Governor Roberts, I have appointed the early part of November for the palaver, a season more favorable for communication with the shore. During the present, (the rainy season,) owing to the constantly prevailing strong on-shore winds and heavy surf, there is much uncertainty in communicating; and to make any attempt effectual, it must be certain, as a failure would render the matter worse.

Though the smallest description of armed vessel would be of sufficient force to chastise these people, Governor Roberts is of opinion that an imposing force before the towns, and along the neighboring coast, would have a salutary influence in impressing upon the natives greater awe of the American flag. Hence another advantage in deferring the palaver until the arrival of the Macedonian, when it is my purpose to communicate with all the various tribes along the coast, and to admonish them of the necessity of receiving and treating the American trading vessels in a friendly manner.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,
*Commanding United States naval forces,
 Coast of Africa.*

HON. A. P. UPDEHUR,
*Secretary of the Navy,
 Washington, D. C.*

No. 10.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Mesurado Roads, Monrovia, August 4, 1843.

SIR: That I may proceed advisedly in my intercourse with the authorities of the American settlements on this coast, may I request of the department information and instructions as to the relative duties (as connected with the General Government) of the governors of the respective settlements of Monrovia and Cape Palmas, and of the relative duties also of Dr. J. L. Day, who describes himself as United States agent.

I learn that some difficulties have arisen with foreign merchant vessels in the collection of duties imposed by the authorities at the American settlements, and would therefore also ask to know whether it will be my duty to interfere in these matters. It would certainly add very much to the stability and prosperity of the settlements, if the citizens were recognised as being under the unequivocal protection of the American laws.

Until I shall receive specific instructions, I shall, for salutary purposes, hold out merely the appearance of a recognition of these settlements as belonging to the United States; though I shall be careful not to take any step which may be construed into a deviation from the settled policy of the nation, not to hold colonies abroad.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Com. U. S. naval forces, coast of Africa.

Hon. A. P. UPSHUR,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 24.

UNITED STATES SHIP MACEDONIAN,
Mesurado Roads, November 22, 1843.

SIR: This ship, with the Saratoga and Decatur, have been on the coast for some time; but light winds and contrary currents have detained us to windward. Having replenished our wood and water, we shall sail to-night, in company with the Decatur, for Sinoe, to demand reparation for the alleged murder of the mate of the American schooner Edward Burley. The Saratoga has already preceded us.

From Sinoe, we shall proceed to Settra Kroo; the people of which place are charged with having beaten the master of an American merchant vessel.

From Settra Kroo we go to Berriby, stopping at Cape Palmas. At Berriby the natives are to be punished for the cruel murder of Captain Farewell. In these delicate and responsible duties I shall endeavor to do that which may be for the best. Governor Roberts will accompany me to Sinoe and Settra Kroo.

From Berriby I propose to proceed as far south as the provisions will allow, touching at all the slave and trading places, with a double view of intimidating the natives, and conciliating those who are inclined to be friendly. For this reason, I have thought it advisable to keep the three ships together for a short time. The Porpoise is to windward.

I can hear of no recent difficulties with American vessels, nor of an American vessel or citizen being engaged in the slave trade. American trade, in its limited extent on this coast, is prosperous; it is, I think, susceptible of much increase.

I enclose the fleet surgeon's report of the state of health of the squadron.

The ships are already running out of certain parts of the ration; and as nothing of any importance can be procured nearer than the Canary Islands, we must depend altogether upon regular supplies from the United States.

I have suggested to the Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, in a letter of this date, the importance of having a small supply of provisions in depot at this place, in order that vessels running short may replenish. I think it doubtful whether dry provisions will keep long in this climate; but the experiment can be made in a small way.

Enclosed is a return of the provisions on hand in each vessel on the 17th instant; since when, the *Saratoga* has procured from an American vessel, beef and bread sufficient to make her supply of those articles equal to seven weeks.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Com. U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

HON. DAVID HENSHAW,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—Lieutenant Commanding *Stellwagen*, recently in command of the *Porpoise*, succeeded, while executing my orders, in seizing, by stratagem, six of the natives of *Berriby*. The possession of these people will essentially facilitate the business which takes the ships to *Berriby*.

No. 26.

UNITED STATES SHIP *MACEDONIAN*,
Cape Palmas, West Africa. December 21, 1843.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith various papers, (numbered from 1 to 5, inclusive,) giving detailed accounts of the proceedings of the squadron under my command, in relation to the arrangement of the difficulties which have so long existed with many of the native tribes inhabiting that part of the coast lying between *Cape Mesurado* and *Cape Tahou*.

From the delay in punishing the people of *Little Berriby* for the murder of Captain *Farewell* and his crew, and the entire destruction of his vessel, they had been led to believe that the occurrence would be passed over without further notice, and this had emboldened them to greater insolence; hence, justice came when least expected.

In regard to the amount of punishment inflicted upon these people, there is but one opinion on board ship and on shore—that it was far short of what they deserved; but my instructions enjoined measures of reasonable lenity, and I was myself disposed to such course. The shedding of blood in the affair was unpremeditated and accidental; the natives commenced the fire, and it is fortunate that no more of them fell.

In the *melée*, King *Ben Cracow* and his interpreter were killed; and this would seem a providential result, as both these persons unquestionably took an active part in the massacre of Captain *Farewell* and his crew.

The known fierceness and treachery of most of the African tribes, made

it a measure of necessary prudence to land with a considerable armed force; and the result has shown the propriety of such precaution, as at almost every place we were received by strong bodies of well-armed natives, while we noticed great numbers lurking in the skirts of the neighboring woods.

My orders were, in all cases, to avoid the effusion of blood, and to fire only in self-defence.

This act of retributive justice upon the Little Berriby tribe, will furnish an impressive lesson to the people of other towns suspected of piratical acts; while the friendly demonstrations made by me to those tribes not implicated, will go far to show that the American Government greatly prefers a pacific intercourse with all nations, however insignificant, to one of strife.

I am happy in believing that the measures detailed in the accompanying papers will have the effect of establishing, upon a firm and durable basis, a good understanding with all the tribes along the whole coast from Cape Verd to the equator; and that confidence between the lawful trader and the people at one time suspected of participation in the piracies at Little Berriby, will be restored; and trade, which has been almost entirely suspended, again fall into its former train of profitable result.

It is proper to repeat here, what has been more fully mentioned in the documents, that in all my intercourse with the kings and chiefs, I have endeavored to convince them that the American Government will be as ready to notice any wrongs committed upon the natives by persons sailing under the American flag, as in demanding redress for the aggressions of the natives upon such Americans.

The ships employed in this service (the Macedonian, Saratoga, and Decatur) compose a force rarely, if ever, concentrated upon this part of the coast; and when its avowed object in visiting the various towns was to punish those who committed outrages upon the American citizen, and to cultivate a good understanding with those who were disposed to be friendly, the natural conviction of the natives has been, that the American Government has gone to unexampled trouble and expense in carrying out its determination to protect the rights of its citizens in this quarter of the world.

In all these measures, of no little responsibility and solicitude, I have received the most prompt and efficient aid from Captain Mayo, and Commanders Tattnall and Abbot, commanding the ships at present in company; and to Governors Roberts and Russwurm I am also much indebted for advice and counsel: particularly am I obliged to Governor Roberts, who accompanied me in this ship during our late cruise, and took part in all the deliberations.

The absolute necessity of the sailing of the Saratoga to-night for Port Praya, to replenish her provisions, has obliged me to prepare this communication and the accompanying documents in a very hasty manner, in order that they may be sent by her; but I shall take the earliest occasion to transmit duplicates, with some additional information, including a chart of that part of the coast recently visited by the squadron.

Enclosed is a report of the fleet surgeon, on the health of the officers and crews of the squadron.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

Hon. DAVID HENSHAW,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington City.

No. 27.

UNITED STATES FRIGATE MACEDONIAN,
Sinoe, west coast of Africa, December 26, 1843.

SIR: In my communication of the 21st instant, and in the papers accompanying it, I had the honor of acquainting the department of all the proceedings of the African squadron from the time of its leaving Monrovia, on the 22d ultimo, to its return to Cape Palmas.

Since the arrangement of the difficulties with the natives, I had despatched the *Saratoga* to Port Praya and the Canaries, for provisions and money, and to recruit her officers and crew.

Commander Abbot, in the *Decatur*, has proceeded down the coast, with orders to touch at all the slave and trade marts from Cape Palmas, along the Gold Coast, and through the Bights of Benin and Beaffria to the river Gaboon, if his supply of provisions will sanction his proceeding so far.

The *Porpoise*, Lieutenant Commandant Craven, is expected at Monrovia on the 13th proximo. Lieutenant Craven had orders to proceed as far north as the Canaries, stopping at Port Praya on his way for provisions. From the Canaries he was to return to Port Praya to fill up his provisions and water, whence he was to sail for Goree, thence to the Gambia, Bissao, and the river Nunez; at all which places there is considerable American trade, to the protection and advancement of which he was directed to give his particular attention.

This ship will proceed hence to Monrovia for water; thence to Cape Mount, Gallhenas, and Sierra Leone; from the last named place she will go direct to Port Praya for provisions; thence to Goree and the Gambia; thence along the coast beyond Cape Verd to the Canaries and Madeiras, for such supplies as cannot be had at Port Praya; as also to recruit the officers and men, who have become much enfeebled by the debilitating effects of this climate, and the want of many of the comforts so necessary to the preservation of health, and especially on ship board on this station.

Thus, during a period of four months, almost every known trade or slave mart, from Cape Verd to the equator, will have been visited at least once by an American vessel of war, and many of them several times. Indeed, I have never known vessels of war kept in more constant motion. This ship, from the time of her last leaving Port Praya, (a period of seventy-three days,) has been brought to anchor fifty times; and to this activity of cruising, and the consequent occupation of the minds of the officers and men, may be imputed our extraordinary exemption from the fever of the country.

For the information of the department, I enclose a copy of the instructions given to Commander Abbot.

Independent of these particular orders, the several commanders have general directions from me to seize upon all occasions to cultivate a good understanding with the native tribes, and endeavor to prevent, by timely interference, those acts of violence which not unfrequently have their origin in some aggression of the white trader.

With all my observation and inquiry, I have not seen or heard of a single instance of an American citizen being engaged in the slave trade. In common with the English, French, and other traders, the Americans certainly bring to this country goods which fall into the hands of slave dealers, who better them for slaves; but the same description of goods are required in exchange for camwood, palm oil, and other products of the country; and

I can see no mode by which this indirect connivance in the hated traffic can be prevented, without the entire annihilation of the lawful trade.

In regard to the general health of the officers and crews of the squadron, I beg leave to refer the department to the accompanying triplicate of a report of Surgeon Du Barry. There seems to be but one opinion—that the constitution of the white man cannot withstand, for any length of time, the wasting effects of this climate.

Before leaving the United States, I understood it to have been the intention of your predecessor at the head of the department, to relieve the vessels of the African squadron at periods not exceeding two years from the commencement of their equipment. A stay of this squadron upon the coast beyond the winter of 1844-'45 would, it is generally thought, result in great sacrifice of life.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces western coast of Africa.

HON. DAVID HENSHAW,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington City.

No. 30.

UNITED STATES FRIGATE MACEDONIAN,
Sierra Leone, west coast of Africa, January 15, 1844.

SIR: I now have the honor of transmitting a duplicate of the minutes of the palavers held with several of the native tribes upon this coast; and I embrace the occasion to give you some particulars in regard to the one whose villages were destroyed by the squadron.

It is considered by all those tribes living within one or two hundred miles of the seacoast, a great advantage to have possession of the immediate coast, or "beach," as they term it;* and to gain this advantage, wars are frequent among them, and the coveted territory invariably falls to the most warlike and powerful.

In this manner the Cracow tribe, originally occupying a territory about two days' journey in the interior, fought their way to the seaside, and seized from the Bassa and Berriby people about ten miles of coast, upon which they erected the five towns referred to above.

These people, from their predatory habits and warlike character, soon became the terror of their neighbors; and commencing with the plunder and murder of natives passing in canoes along their shore, at last extended their piratical acts to the seizing of trading-vessels, and the murder of their crews. The destruction of the *Mary Carver*, and the atrocious torturing and massacre of Captain Farewell and his crew, is a melancholy example of their perfidious cruelty.

* The natives occupying the "beach," besides having the advantage of fishing, monopolize all the traffic with trading vessels, requiring the bushmen (or those from the interior) to sell to them, at their own prices, their articles of barter, and receive, in exchange, goods purchased from the trader—such as muskets, gunpowder, tobacco, rum, cloth, &c. In like manner, the tribe next to the "beach" people make the same exaction of those living still farther back; so that articles which come from places far in the interior, yield to the original holders very small prices.

The part of the coast upon which this tribe thus forcibly settled themselves, possesses considerable advantages of trade; but, from their known villanous character, traders, in apprehension of some treachery, generally avoid it, or visit it under many precautions.

The mere destruction of the towns of any of the natives, when they are situated upon the "beach," inflicts very little injury upon them if they are permitted to *rebuild* them. They are constructed of slight materials, and their erection costs very little time or labor.

They all have their rice and cassada plantations a few miles back from the shore, to which they remove their women and children, and most valuable effects, when threatened with danger from seaward.

The punishment that is really felt by them, is their exclusion from a residence on the "beach." Hence I would strongly recommend, in case the Cracow people should attempt to re-establish the villages recently destroyed, that they again be driven from them.

The measure will be perfectly justifiable, and the consequences highly salutary and tending to humanity, as the original owners of the territory will return to it, and traders may again resort to that part of the coast without fear of molestation.

As, however, it will be some time before this ship returns to that neighborhood, being now on her way to windward, there will be an interval of sufficient length to allow of hearing from the department on the subject. I therefore respectfully request to be put in possession of your views in reference to the expediency of carrying out the proposition suggested above.

I have appended to the minutes now forwarded, two additional papers: one, marked Y, contains minutes of the proceedings of the squadron after leaving Berriby; the other, marked Z, describes an incident which, as it is illustrative of one of the many advantages resulting from the presence of vessels of war on the coast, may be interesting to the department.

I have also added a chart, showing that part of the coast referred to in the minutes, and exhibiting some useful memoranda.

I should have had marked on the chart the boundaries of the several American settlements on the coast, had I been in possession of data to be depended upon.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

Hon. D. HENSHAW,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Notes of the proceedings of a council held on board the United States frigate Macedonian, in the harbor of Sinoe, west coast of Africa, November 29, 1843.

PRESENT—Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa;

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian;

Commander J. Tattnall, commanding United States ship Saratoga;

Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur;

J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ;
 Dr. J. Laurence Day, late United States agent ;
 Wm. P. Rodgers, secretary.

The instructions of the honorable Secretary of the Navy, addressed to Commodore M. C. Perry, in reference to the demanding of redress from the Berriby people, and all other tribes, for outrages committed upon the persons and property of American citizens, being read,—the case of the murder of the mate and cook of the American schooner Edward Burley by the Fish people of Sinoe was taken up

After reading the deposition of Charles Freeman, who was one of the party engaged in the affair, and referring to the evidence taken yesterday at the palaver, the question was put, respectively, to the members of the council, " Whether they considered the putting to death of the mate and cook of said schooner to be wilful murder ?"

The question being first put to Commander Abbot, as the junior naval officer present, he answered that he thought the event proceeded more from a spirit of self-defence, than from a disposition to commit wilful murder. He should therefore acquit them of wilful murder ; and he considered Captain Burke to have been the aggressor in the case.

Commander J. Tattall confirmed the opinion expressed by Commander Abbot.

Captain Mayo was of opinion that the seizure of the boat of Captain Burke was the first assault by the natives. Captain Burke appeared to have seized upon the canoes, by way of reprisal ; in which act two of his men were wilfully killed by the natives, which Captain Mayo considered murder, as the number of men surrounding the boat was quite sufficient to have captured them without bloodshed.

Commodore Perry confirmed the opinion expressed by Commander Abbot.

Governor Roberts and Dr. Day being present at the council, and being familiar with all the circumstances, were asked if they would express their opinions in reference to the question under consideration.

Governor Roberts was of opinion that it was murder in the second degree, or manslaughter. He considered Captain Burke to have been the aggressor.

The opinion of Dr. Day was, that Captain Burke was the aggressor ; but that there was no actual necessity for the putting to death of the mate and cook, and he considered the crime to have been manslaughter.

Upon a subsequent call of Commodore Perry upon the individuals composing the council for their written opinions upon the case of putting to death of the mate and cook of the Edward Burley, the gentlemen respectively handed in the papers hereto appended.

WM. P. RODGERS, *Secretary.*

M. C. PERRY.

J. MAYO, *Captain.*

JOSIAH TATTNALL, *Commander.*

JOEL ABBO'I', *Commander.*

J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original.

WM. P. RODGERS,
Commodore's Secretary.

Written opinion of Commander Abbot.

The question being first put to Commander Abbot, as junior member of the council, he answered, that he thought the event proceeded more from a spirit of self-defence, than from a disposition to commit wilful murder. He should therefore acquit them of wilful murder; and he considered Captain Burke to have been the aggressor in the case. Commander Abbot further says, the foregoing opinion is predicated upon the following facts and circumstances elicited by the testimony in the case:

It appears that Captain Burke, of the schooner Edward Burley, employed a man by the name of Jack Dandy, a native, who violated his engagements by deserting the vessel while in debt to Captain B. for advance pay to the amount of \$4. For this, threats were made by the captain to have it out of the natives in some way or other. In consequence of which, some of the natives having money due them, fearing the captain would sail without paying their dues, seized the schooner's boat on shore, and detained it overnight; but, in the morning, being relieved of their fears as to the payment of their dues, they released the boat and crew, which returned to the vessel. Subsequently to all this, it appears that Captain Burke sent out and captured two of their fishing canoes, and had them brought to his vessel, and the fishermen belonging to them made prisoners, or detained on board; after which, an attempt was made to capture a third canoe, but which escaped, and gave information to the fishermen on shore, who immediately rallied their forces, and seized and bound the person who had attempted to capture the canoe chased on shore. It further appears that the mate on board, perceiving what had taken place, armed himself with pistols, and, assisted by the cook of the vessel, pulled for the shore, which the natives perceiving, launched their war-canoe, and, with a large force, engaged the boat; the result of which was the massacre of both mate and cook.

Considering all these circumstances, I am of opinion that the killing of the mate and cook of the Edward Burley by the natives of Sinoe cannot in justice be considered an act of wilful murder on their part; but I am of opinion that their sanguinary defence, considering their large force, was unnecessary, and may be deserving of chastisement. But, from the circumstances of the case, it should be tempered with much consideration and mercy.

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander.*

Written opinion of Commander Tattnall.

The opinion of Commander Tattnall was, that Captain Burke of the Edward Burley was the aggressor; and that it could not be considered a case of murder, but of retaliation—not justifiable, but still not requiring retaliatory measures on our part.

Commander Tattnall founded his opinion on the following view of the case:

Captain Burke had hired one of the tribe to trade for him, and had advanced him goods to a trifling amount, with which he had absconded. He (Burke) demanded restitution from the tribe, and, on their refusing to make

it, threatened to "take it out of them in some way." This was a threat of aggression, as the tribe had no agency in his employment of the man, and could not, therefore, be accountable for his honesty.

Subsequently, Captain Burke hired another of the tribe, and sent him on shore in the schooner's boat, without payment for his services—much against the man's will, who suspected Captain Burke of intending to sail the next day without paying him. The schooner's boat was detained by the natives in consequence, but returned on the following day.

So far, nothing serious had transpired; when Captain Burke, who was about to sail, and intended, it seems, to carry out his threat to "take it out of them in some way," seized two of their fishing canoes with several men, and despatched his mate and cook, armed, to seize a third. The alarm in the interval reached the natives, that Captain Burke was seizing their people, intending to carry them away; a war canoe was despatched to their aid, which encountered the schooner's boat, and the mate and cook were slain.

The killing of these men was certainly unjustifiable, because unnecessary, as the natives had overpowered, and could have held the men alive as hostages; but when uncivilized men are maddened by aggression, they are apt to take extreme revenge; and should those who have the advantage of more cultivated morals judge of them too harshly?

JOSIAH TATTNALL,
Commanding Saratoga.

Written opinion of Captain Mayo.

Captain Mayo is of opinion that the seizure of the boat of Captain Burke was the first assault by the natives. Captain Burke appears to have seized upon the canoes by way of reprisal, in which act two of his men were fully killed by the natives; which Captain Mayo considers murder, as the number of men surrounding the boat was quite sufficient to have captured them without putting them to death.

The above is my opinion, being made up from the testimony read to me in the case.

I. MAYO, *Captain.*

Written opinion of Commodore Perry.

Commodore Perry stated, in writing, that, as the details of the case had been so fully stated by Commanders Tattnall and Abbot, he should confine his remarks to a simple statement of his opinion as to the degree of guilt which might justly be fastened upon the persons who put the mate and cook of the Edward Burley to death.

In his opinion, the first breach of faith was committed by Jack Dandy, in not complying with his contract with Captain Burke; and the second, in seizing the boat of the Edward Burley. But Captain Burke acted wrongly, and without authority, in seizing and detaining the fish canoes, with those conducting them—especially as the schooner's boat had been returned to

them; and he was still more to blame in sending his man Freeman a second time to seize a third canoe; that the natives could not be blamed for defending themselves against the unauthorized attack of Freeman, and in securing him.

The struggle of Freeman with the natives was noticed from the shore, as well as from the vessel, and caused assistance to be sent to either party; and when these last came in conflict, the mate and cook were killed.

Drawing his deductions from these facts, Commodore Perry is of opinion that the natives cannot be charged with premeditated murder, though the putting to death of the Americans was an act cruel and altogether unjustifiable, as the natives might easily have overcome and secured them without serious injury to their persons.

Written opinion of Governor Roberts.

Governor Roberts is of opinion that the putting to death of the mate and cook of the American schooner Edward Burley, by the Fish-men resident at Sinoe and Blue Barra, was, notwithstanding the unauthorized attack of Captain Burke, unjustifiable; inasmuch as they had sufficient force to repel the assault, without the necessity of resorting to such extreme measures; and therefore held by him to be manslaughter, and deserving of punishment. In the mean time, considering all the circumstances connected with the affair, as have been stated by Commanders Tattall and Abbot, he hopes that a degree of mercy will be extended—only punishing them in such manner as will most likely prevent future acts of the same kind.

J. J. ROBERTS.

Notes of a palaver held at Sinoe, on Wednesday, the 29th of November, 1843, between Commodore M. C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa; assisted by—

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian;
 Commander J. Tattall, commanding United States ship Saratoga;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur;
 J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia;
 Dr. J. Laurence Day, late United States agent, of the one part; and—

King George, of Sinoe tribe;
 King Davis, do.;
 Governor King, (soldier,) of Sinoe tribe;
 Governor William, do.;
 Kemah, (chief,) do.;
 Peter, (chief,) do.;
 A chief man, do.;
 King John Smith, of Fish tribe;
 Prince John Smith, do.;
 King Freeman, of Middle Bouta;
 King Frazier, of Grand Bouta; all of the second part.

It is necessary to premise, that, on the appearance in the offing of the American squadron, most of the Fish men, occupying several villages on both sides of the river Sinoe—being, doubtless, conscious of their participation or connivance in the murder of the mate and cook of the *Edward Burley*—had abandoned their houses, and fled to the neighboring woods.

After some preliminary remarks, Commodore Perry, through the interpretation of Governor Roberts, stated that he had been ordered by his Government to proceed to the coast of Africa to demand and take redress for all outrages committed by the natives upon American vessels or their crews, and especially for the putting to death of the mate and cook of the *Edward Burley* by the Fish people of Sinoe; that the President of the United States, the great father of the American nation, had expressed his determination to punish, in the most signal manner, all who might maltreat American citizens, however far removed the scene of outrage might be from America; that he had plenty of ships to send for that purpose; and, while he was determined not to overlook the slightest wrong done to an American vessel, or any of her crew, he was disposed to foster a friendly feeling with all nations and all tribes; and that the President of the United States had directed him, (Commodore Perry,) through the Secretary of the Navy, to say, that those who might show friendship and kindness to Americans would be considered friends of the United States; while those who acted otherwise, would be looked upon as enemies.

The commodore then asked the king and representatives assembled if they had anything to say in palliation of the killing of the mate and cook of the *Edward Burley*; or if they had come to any arrangement by which retribution should be visited upon those concerned in the murder, and indemnification (inadequate as it must be) be made to the heirs of the deceased.

The answer of King George was, that the Fish-men were unwelcome intruders upon his territory, and that his people had not even the power to protect themselves from their thefts and outrages; that they did not in any manner aid or assist the Fish-men in their attack upon the boat of the *Edward Burley*; and they would be very willing to join with the American settlers and Blue Barra people in driving them away; that, when once removed, they should not, so far as they could prevent it, be permitted to return. The replies of the kings of Grand and Middle Bouta were to the same purport.

Governor Roberts then addressed the kings and chiefs in special reference to the interests of the commonwealth of Liberia. He remarked that, a long while since, they had sold a large tract of land to the Colonization Society; that certain portions of this land, on each side of the river, were now occupied by marauders, called Fish men, to the great inconvenience of the settlers; that these Fish-men prowled about the settlement pilfering from the inhabitants, often maltreating, and sometimes killing them; that the produce of the interior, which rightly should pass through the hands of the proprietors of the adjacent seacoast, was monopolized by the Fish-men, who equally wronged the settlers and natives by this diversion of trade; that the scandal of outrages inflicted on trading vessels by Fish-men fell upon the native towns, and deterred others from resorting there; that the occupation of the colonial territory by these Fish-men in every way greatly retarded the growth of the settlement, and injured the interests of the native tribes. The Governor observed that the connivance of the native tribes,

at this intrusion of the Fish-men was an infringement of the original contract of sale on the part of the native tribes; that every day they countenanced this intrusion, they deepened the injury, and added to the difficulties of repairing it. He concluded by demanding an explanation of this conduct. The reply of the kings and chiefs was the same as that made to Commodore Perry.

John Smith, prince of Sinoe Fish-towns, came forward and desired to speak, but was told that the presence of his father, the king, would be necessary; he accordingly brought in his father, a very aged man, and proceeded to speak for him.

John Smith, after some hesitation, acknowledged that some of his father's people had killed the mate and cook aforesaid, but declared he did not know who they were, and that the poverty of his tribe was such as to render it impossible to make any indemnification. The name of the head-man of war was then mentioned, and he was asked if he did not know that the man thus mentioned had taken an active part in the murder. Smith, after some evasion, acknowledged that he did know such to be the fact, but that Jem Nippio, the head man of war spoken of, had gone into the country, and it would be impossible to find him. He was then told that he and his father became accessories in guilt by harboring the murderers, and, until they were produced, he and his father would be detained prisoners. He then pretended to send a message to Nippio, who, of course, did not appear. After waiting some time, Smith said, if he might be permitted to go to his town, he thought he could prevail on Nippio to come in; whereupon he was allowed to go, attended by an escort of two officers and two marines, to prevent his escape, and aid, if necessary, in the capture of the criminal. When he reached the centre of his village, he cried out for help, and he and his escort were immediately surrounded by large numbers of his tribe, armed and bent on his rescue. The officer of the escort gave the alarm, and the marines went down in force to disperse the natives; this their appearance effected. Smith was brought back, and, on the re-opening of the palaver, it was found that old Smith had taken advantage of the confusion to make his escape. John Smith, the son, was then made prisoner. At the same time, Juma, another of the Fish-men engaged in the murder, was also made prisoner.

The palaver adjourned until next day, to await the assemblage of the chiefs of the Blue Barra people, living on the opposite side of the river, and to give time to the kings and chiefs to consult among themselves on the subject of atonement for the outrages on American citizens.

Second day—Thursday, November 30, 1843.

Of the first part: Present, as yesterday.

King George, of Sinoe tribe;
 King Davis, ditto;
 King Freeman, of Blue Barra;
 King Jack West, ditto;
 King Grand ditto;
 King Black Will, ditto;

Ben Hughes, (chief,) of Blue Barra ;
 Shocco, (chief,) ditto ;
 War-man Walker, ditto.

It appeared that, during the night, the few Fish-men who remained had, probably from fear of punishment by the squadron, entirely deserted their villages, and none of the chiefs of that tribe were present the second day of the palaver.

On this occasion, the kings and chiefs of the Blue Barra tribe declared that they would cheerfully enter into compact with the Sinoe tribe and American settlers to keep away, even by force, if necessary, the Fish-men from their territory ; which was the more easy now, that the Fish-men had, of their own accord, evacuated their towns on both sides of the river. The Commodore had been informed by the settlers that there was serving on board the United States ship Saratoga a Fish-man, named Matto, *alias* Drawbucket, who was generally suspected of having been in the war canoe at the time the murder was committed ; this man was brought to the palaver-house, and confronted by Charles Freeman, one of the seamen of the Edward Burley, and a brother of the murdered cook of that vessel. Freeman at once recognised Matto, made oath to his identity, and Matto was made prisoner.

Third day—Friday, December 1, 1843.

Commodore Perry, with most of the officers of the squadron, accompanied by Governor Roberts and Dr. J. L. Day, after having first assembled at Sinoe, crossed the river by special invitation, and had a short palaver at the principal towns of the Blue Barra people. On this occasion the compact was finally agreed to, that the Sinoe and Blue Barra people should aid and assist the American settlers in protecting themselves against the Fish-men and all other marauders ; and that all American vessels, or American citizens, visiting this part of the coast, should be received with friendship and kindness.

WM. P. RODGERS,

Commodore's Secretary, U. S. ship Macedonian.

December 5, 1843.

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

J. MAYO, *Captain.*

JOSIAH TATTNALL,

Commander.

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander.*

J. J. ROBERTS,

Governor of Liberia.

I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original.

WM. P. RODGERS,

Commodore's Secretary.

Notes of a palaver held at Settra Kroo, on Monday, the 4th day of December, 1843, between Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces western coast of Africa, assisted by

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian ;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur ;
 J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ;
 Dr. J. L. Day, late United States agent, of the one part ;* and
 King John, King Peter,
 Governor Bob, John Brown,
 Ben Coffee, Half-king Tom,
 Soldier King, of the Settra Kroo tribe ; of the second part.

Commodore Perry stated to the assembled kings and chiefs that he had come to their country to demand an apology and suitable reparation for the outrage committed upon the person of Captain J. R. Brown, of the American brigantine Atalanta, who had been unprovokedly beaten by one of the Settra Kroo people while he was engaged in his lawful business. Commodore Perry observed, that the President of the United States, the great father of the American nation, had directed him, through the Secretary of the Navy, to call to account all who should, on this coast, maltreat or in anywise injure an American citizen ; and while the President was desirous of keeping up a friendly understanding with all nations and all tribes, he was determined to have redress for every insult offered to the American flag, and for every encroachment on the rights of American citizens.

Commodore Perry, therefore, demanded what the kings and chiefs had to say in palliation of their attack upon Captain Brown.

They replied that the guilty person had left the country, and was no longer within their reach ; that they sincerely regretted the unfortunate circumstance, and were willing to make any atonement in their power. They concluded by asking of the Commodore what reparation would be considered satisfactory.

The Commodore observed, that, as this was the first instance of their having maltreated an American citizen, and as they had been generally friendly to the American mission established among them, he was inclined to be very lenient with them. He therefore demanded that they should sign a written apology for their bad conduct, and at the same time pledge themselves to send a deputation to apologise to Captain Brown when he should next visit their towns ; to continue their friendship to the American mission ; and as a small indemnification to Captain Brown, they should supply, for the use of the squadron, (the value to be paid over to Captain B.) ten bullocks, four sheep, and five goats.†

WM. P. RODGERS, *Secretary.*

Approved:

M. C. PERRY.

J. MAYO, *Captain.*

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander.*

J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original.

WM. P. RODGERS, *Commodore's Secretary.*

* Commander Tatnall absent from indisposition.

† The agreement to furnish the bullocks, sheep, and goats, was verbal, and not embraced in the written compact.

The undersigned, kings and chiefs of the Kroo country, assembled in palaver with Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces on the western coast of Africa, hereby express our extreme sorrow that an insult should have been offered by any of our people to Captain Joseph R. Brown, of the American brigantine Atalanta; and we take this occasion to apologise, in the most ample manner, to the President of the United States, and to the nation over which he presides, for the outrage committed upon the person of an American citizen, and we sincerely hope that the President will overlook this first aggression.

In consideration of the wrong done to Captain Brown, we hereby pledge ourselves to send a deputation of some of our leading men on board his vessel when he shall again arrive at our town, to apologise to him in person; and we further promise and agree, by these presents, to allow said Captain Brown to trade at all times hereafter at our towns free of all tax or charge; and that it will be our study to receive him, his officers, passengers, and crew, with kindness and hospitality.

We also enter into obligations with Commodore Perry to receive and treat all other Americans with respect and friendship, and especially to foster a friendly intercourse with the missionaries established in our country.

his
KING x JOHN.
mark.

his
KING x PETER.
mark.

his
GOVERNOR x BOB.
mark.

his
JOHN x BROWN.
mark.

his
BEN x COFFEE.
mark.

his
HALF-KING x TOM.
mark.

his
SOLDIER x KING.
mark.

Witnesses:

M. C. PERRY, *commanding U. S. naval forces western coast of Africa.*

I. MAYO, *Captain.*

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander U. S. navy.*

J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

J. LAURENCE DAY.

SETTRA KROO, *December 4, 1843.*

Notes of events which transpired at Cape Palmas, in reference to the difficulties between the American settlers and the surrounding native tribes, in December, 1843.

On anchoring at Cape Palmas with the American squadron, on the evening of the 6th of December, 1843, Commodore Perry received by the

Rev. Mr. Hazlehurst (Episcopal missionary) a letter from Governor Russwurm, of Cape Palmas, of which the following is a copy. At the same time Mr. Hazlehurst informed Commodore Perry that, in consequence of the hostile bearing of the natives, he was apprehensive that the lives of the Rev. Mr. Payne and his family, who occupied a mission station at Half Cavally, about 12 miles from the cape, were in great danger; that the natives had cut off all his supplies, forcibly broken up his school, and unless Mr. P. and his family were rescued, he knew not what might be the consequence.

The Decatur had not yet anchored, and the Commodore immediately sent for Commander Abbot of that vessel, and directed him to proceed with all despatch down the coast, and to act in the emergency at his best discretion.

Letter of Governor Russwurm.

AGENCY HOUSE,
Cape Palmas, December 6, 1843.

DEAR SIR: I am happy to hear of the arrival of your squadron. You will find us, on landing, in the midst of a palaver with King Freeman, which arose from the following event:

Freeman lately called a convention of all the beach kings and headmen, from Fish-town to Cavally river, under the ostensible purpose of settling all differences in the country; but, before separating, they laid an embargo on all trade from Bush or elsewhere; prohibited all natives from working for us, or even carrying a note on board a vessel, under a fine of ten bullocks; raised the price of rice, palm oil, and fowls, to such high rates as are paid nowhere else; in fact, they wish to extort from us the most extravagant rates for everything, whenever they like.

As matters now stand, we have the Greybo tribe united against us. Heretofore, there have been two parties, independent and jealous of each other. Our most reasonable men have concluded that we can no longer live in amity so near together; and as, according to our treaty of purchase, they own their town-sites, the next important query is, What assistance can be rendered us by your squadron, consistent with your instructions, in case they refuse to move for a reasonable compensation, and we be compelled to use violent measures?

From Rev. Mr. Hazlehurst, who will visit you before you can land, you will be able to learn more particulars of this palaver, which seems to reach almost our whole extent of seacoast.

I have a bag of despatches for the squadron, but hardly deem it prudent to send them off in a canoe.

Your message has been communicated to Freeman, and he has promised to send the news along the beach and into the interior.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. B. RUSSWURM.

Early the following morning, (the 7th inst.,) Lieutenant Poor was despatched with a message from Commodore Perry to King Freeman, which, to prevent mistake, was written out the night previous. The following is a copy:

Memorandum for Lieutenant Poor.

U. S. SHIP MACEDONIAN,
Cape Palmas, December 6, 1843.

Lieutenant Poor will, on landing, first call on Governor Russwurm, and say to him that I have directed him (Lieutenant Poor) to call on King Freeman with a message from me, expressing my regret that anything should have occurred, since my last visit to Cape Palmas, to disturb the friendly intercourse between King Freeman and the American settlers.

That I propose, in company with some of the officers of the squadron, and Governors Russwurm and Roberts, to meet King Freeman and his associate kings and chiefs in palaver, on shore, to morrow at 10 o'clock, in the hope of adjusting all matters in dispute on amicable terms—a result the more desired by me, as it will render unnecessary any resort to the exercise of force, with which I am amply provided.

After relating this message to Governor Russwurm, Lieutenant Poor will, unless the Governor make objections, proceed to deliver it to King Freeman at his residence. If objections are made by Governor Russwurm, Lieutenant Poor will return on board for further orders.

M. C. PERRY,
Commanding African squadron.

Report of Lieutenant Poor

U. S. FRIGATE MACEDONIAN,
Off Cape Palmas, December 6, 1843.

SIR: In obedience to your orders of the 6th inst., I called upon Governor Russwurm, and submitted the proposal therein contained; the Governor not objecting, I proceeded to deliver to King Freeman (through the interpreter, Yellow Will,) the expressions of your regret at the difficulties which had occurred since your last visit to the cape, between the natives, settlers, and missionaries; and, further, that it was your intention to meet him and all the neighboring kings in palaver, at 10 o'clock this day, (it being then about 8 a. m.,) in the hope of adjusting all matters amicably, rather than resort to the force with which you were amply provided.

King Freeman said, in answer, that he was ready and willing to meet the Commodore; but that, owing to the distance at which some of the kings interested lived, it would be impossible to summons them before the next day, (the 8th inst.,) at 10, a. m.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. POOR, *Lieutenant.*

Commodore M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. squadron, west coast of Africa.

In an interview with Governor Russwurm, on the morning of the 7th, the Commodore was told by him that the native tribes around the cape had combined against the settlers to force them to pay higher prices for rice and

palm oil than could be exacted by the terms of compact made at the time of settlement; that this object, together with pique at a message sent in reply to their exorbitant demands, had induced the natives to close up all the paths, and cut off supplies both by sea and land; that the settlers were in constant fear of some sudden attack, and consequently were under arms.

Commodore Perry replied that the colony received its corporate existence from the State of Maryland: and that he, as an officer of the General Government, was not authorized to interfere, except where the lives and property of American citizens were endangered; that the private bargains and contracts between the settlers and natives were beyond his cognizance. He would cheerfully render any assistance to the settlers in their *defence* against the natives, but could not take any *offensive* measures. The Commodore also observed, that he was quite certain that all matters might be amicably arranged at the palaver appointed for the following day; though, to show the natives what might be the consequence of their persisting in warlike demonstrations, he had ordered several armed boats ashore, with a considerable detachment of marines.

Commodore Perry then sent for King Freeman, of Cape Palmas, and told him that he, (Commodore Perry,) when last at Cape Palmas, received from King Freeman the strongest assurances of friendship for the Americans, and now he found him at open rupture with them. The King replied that he had been coerced into the measure; that he disapproved it, and would use his influence to have the embargo removed.

About 3 o'clock, a messenger from one of the outposts of the settlement came up to the cape, with a note from the commandant of the post, reporting that a large body of armed natives had attempted to pass the guard; that the guard fired, and killed three of them, upon which the others precipitately retreated. The commandant also reported that he expected every moment an attack, and asked for reinforcement; whereupon all the armed colonists that could be spared were sent to the post, and, at the request of the Governor, the Commodore directed a detachment of marines to march towards the spot, and accompanied them himself, together with Capt. Mayo and others.

On the way out, the wives of the colonists were seen proceeding with their children and most valuable effects, either to the cape or to the stockade, for safety.

Learning, after having arrived within a short distance of the outpost, that the natives had retired into the bush, the Commodore ordered the marines back to the boats.

During the night the Decatur returned from Half Cavalry, having Mr. Payne, his family, and effects, on board.

The following is the report of Commander Abbot, delivered to Commodore Perry, in the evening, by an officer despatched from the Decatur previously to her anchoring:

UNITED STATES SHIP DECATUR,
Off Cavalry, December 7, 1843—at noon.

SIR: In pursuance to your orders, I repaired to this place, and anchored between 8 and 9 last evening, in ten fathoms water. I immediately wrote, and despatched by my head Krooman, piloted by one of the shore canoes, a communication to Rev. Mr. Payne, (a copy of which is enclosed;) and at

1 o'clock this morning I received a letter from Mr. Payne, which is also enclosed. In accordance with his views, despatched an armed force, consisting of all the marines, in the launch, first and second cutters, and gig, in which I went myself. We left the ship at a little past 6h. 30m., after taking breakfast on board, and were at the mission-house a little past 8, although the surf was high, and the landing difficult and bad. Before 10 o'clock the king and chief men of the place were assembled, and we had a grand palaver talk, which, I am sorry to say, broke up with an unfriendly aspect. They admitted they had gone contrary to their agreement with the missionary, but what they had done was by King Freeman's instructions. They said they did not wish war, but must be governed by King Freeman. Their whole bearing seemed to show that they are instigated by King Freeman, at Cape Palmas, to produce a rupture; and that there is an extensive effort making for a general and combined resistance and warfare against the Americans.

Mr. Payne thought the aspect of things such as to make it advisable and prudent, if not absolutely necessary, for his immediate embarkation on board the United States ship Decatur, with his family, and the most valuable of his effects, and leave the rest to chance locked up in his house; in which I and my officers coincided, and the boats are now effecting it. As soon as it is accomplished, I shall hasten to join you at the cape—only heaving to about three miles on the way, to take off the family of one of the teachers.

This communication will be despatched from the shore in a canoe, as soon as the use of the canoe can be dispensed with. My statement and talk at the palaver conference was such as I believe will meet your approbation; but I have no time to state it in this communication, for I am in great haste, but most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander.*

P. S.—In consequence of your canoe leaving us improperly, without coming alongside from the shore, I despatched one of my boats in haste from the shore. Mrs. Payne is on board, but the embarkation is not yet complete. It is possible I may not get up until to-morrow some time.

J. A.

Commodore M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

Notes of a palaver held at Cape Palmas, on the 8th day of December, 1843, between Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa, assisted by—

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian;
 Commander J. Tattnall, commanding United States ship Saratoga;
 Governor J. B. Russwurm, Governor of the colony at Cape Palmas;
 Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the commonwealth of Liberia, of the one part; and

King Freeman, Cape Palmas;

William Davis, (king's brother,) Cape Palmas;

Ex-king Yellow Will, Half Cavally;
 Headman Jack Hughes, Rock-town;
 Headman Old Tom, Fish-town;
 Headman Nèh, Grahway;
 Headman Karrah, river Cavally;
 Paeh, river Cavally mouth;
 Boawah, Middle-town, between Fish and Rock-town;
 Weah, Half Grahway; of the second part.

William P. Rodgers, secretary.

The Commodore stated that he came to hear the matters in dispute between the settlers and natives, and with a view of reconciling them.

Governor Russwurm interpreted the remarks of the Commodore, and proceeded to mention what would be essential to a reconciliation on his part. He required—

1st. That the embargo laid on trade should be taken off; and he justified this demand, on the ground that the embargo was a direct violation of the treaty made at the time of settlement, and was in itself essentially injurious and unjust.

2d. That King Freeman should promise not to enter again into any combination against the settlers, and no longer hinder natives who wished to hire themselves to the settlers from doing so.

Governor Russwurm stated that time had shown it to be impossible for the settlers and natives to dwell in such proximity; their habits and objects were too dissimilar for them to live harmoniously together; and as the only means of securing a lasting peace, he proposed—

3d. That King Freeman should sell the land on which his town stood, and he and his people remove to a neighboring site, equally good, on the opposite side of the river; and in addition to assigning this land for his residence, he (Governor R.) in behalf of the Colonization Society, would pay King Freeman such sums of money, in five annual instalments, as might be mutually agreed upon.

Governor Russwurm declared that, unless the natives left the cape, the settlers must; King Freeman had broken his word three times, and he could no longer trust to his promises of friendship and peace.

King Freeman acknowledged having assented to the law complained of, but denied having broken his promises, and said the settlers must answer for the first breach of faith. King Freeman said there was an article in the deed of sale of the cape, which made it obligatory on each party to punish with death any of its members who might murder a member of the other; that Mr. Parker, a trader, having shot two of the Bush-men, was not punished with death, according to the compact; and, in consequence, his (Freeman's) town was set on fire in the night by a party of Bush-men, who at the same time proceeded to the house of Mr. Parker, and, in revenge, murdered him and his family.

The embargo was caused partly by the Governor himself, who had expressed his determination not to pay more than a stipulated price for the productions of the country, and at the same time declared that he would sooner "eat grass" than comply with their demands; this expression had irritated the natives, and caused the interdiction of trade. Freeman said that Governor Russwurm would, on very slight occasions, prepare for war,

and make hostile demonstrations, when the natives desired to keep the peace; he believed the Governor, individually, to be friendly, but that he was under bad influences; that the day previous three Bush-men had been killed by the settlers, and the friends of the slain looked to him for redress.

King Freeman concluded by acknowledging the embargo to be wrong, but pleaded in extenuation that his people had been incensed by the language of the Governor.

Commodore Perry told Freeman that he and his people had a right to do what they chose with their own goods; but that it was very improper to close up all the paths, and shut out the trade of other people.

King Freeman confessed he was wrong, and acquiesced in a proposition of the Commodore, to take off the restriction, and let the market hereafter remain open; the articles of trade to be considered worth what they would bring. He further promised that there should not again be any difficulty of a similar nature.

The kings and chiefs having each separately expressed their wishes to have the restriction on trade removed, and to be friends again with the settlers, the Commodore recommended them to forget all their old disputes, shake hands, and commence anew.

The Governor then proposed the purchase of the lands on which King Freeman's town stands: but as the Commodore expressed his determination not to interfere in any question of civil compact, unless as mediator, and King Freeman wanted time to consider, the subject was not further agitated.

Commodore Perry then said he wished to speak to the chiefs assembled, in regard to the American missionaries, as well as all Americans resorting to or living in Africa. He told them that the President and people of America were kindly disposed towards the tribes on the coast; that the Americans did not wish to take advantage of, or oppress the natives, but desired to trade on fair and equal terms; but while the President cherished this friendship for the African, he would not allow his own countrymen to be treated unjustly or cruelly; that there would always be an American squadron on the coast, to protect American citizens, and chastise any who should injure them. He had instructions to use the force under his command to that effect, and he should most certainly obey them.

The Commodore explained the object and duties of the missionaries; he told the assembled chiefs that the missionaries were good men, who were sent to Africa by private societies of religious persons, to benefit and enlighten the natives; that these missionaries incurred great labor and expense, braved hardships and death, and the only reward expected for this sacrifice was the gratitude of the natives; that the missionary society in America had expended very large sums of money, and for all their pains and expense had received, in many instances, nothing but ingratitude and insult; that the day previous he had been obliged to send a ship-of-war to Half Cavally to remove Mr. Payne, his family and effects, beyond the reach of the ungrateful natives; that the Cape Palmas people had also displayed a hostile disposition towards the missionaries residing near them.

The Commodore asked the kings if they had any excuse for this behavior?

King Freeman replied that he had amicably arranged all matters with the American settlers, and did not wish to have them re opened. He prom-

ised to be friendly to the missionaries, and to allow his boys and girls to return to them for instruction.*

Commodore Perry then called upon Yellow Will, king of Half Cavally, for explanation why he had treated Mr. Payne and his family so badly. Commodore Perry remarked to Yellow Will that he had heard, from good authority, that Mr. Payne had settled among them at their own request, and for their own advantage, under a solemn promise of protection and kind treatment; that they had delivered to his charge many children for education; and now had forcibly broken up his schools, and threatened the lives of Mr. Payne and family.

Yellow Will (evidently under much apprehension) acknowledged that he and his people had been wrong; that when Mr. P. was going away, he begged him to remain, but that gentleman said he was determined not to stay. He said he was willing to apologize to Mr. Payne; beg his pardon; assist him to re establish himself at Half Cavally, and promise not to molest him again. Upon demand of Commodore Perry, he agreed to be answerable for the safety of the mission-house and property during the absence of Mr. Payne.

Commodore Perry told him that it would be a just punishment if Mr. Payne should decline returning. He explained to the kings the nature of a missionary's appointment; that if one ever behaved improperly, on representation of his conduct to the society which employed him, he would be removed; that he (the Commodore) would forward any authentic report to the United States. He reminded them that the missionaries always established themselves among the natives with their free consent, and often by invitation, and by timely objections the missionaries would be prevented from settling.

Commodore Perry told the kings that the President and the Secretary of the Navy were good men, and that he, (Commodore P.) as well to please them, as to indulge his own feelings, was disposed to settle these matters with as much lenity as was consistent with his duty.

But that, hereafter, there would be ships-of-war always on the coast to punish all who in anywise might maltreat American citizens; that the captains of the ships of the squadron had the same instructions as he had.

The Commodore concluded by saying he was glad to hear, from good authority, that none of the kings or chiefs present were engaged in the slave-trade. If they had been, he should have felt bound to have declined all palaver with them, and to declare them enemies of the United States.

WM. P. RODGERS, *Secretary.*

M. C. PERRY.

ISAAC MAYO, *Captain.*

JOSIAH TATTNALL, *Commander.*

J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

Minutes of a council of officers held on board the United States ship Macedonian, at Cape Palmas, on the 9th of December, 1843.

PRESENT—Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa;

* At the commencement of the difficulties between the natives and settlers, the former had withdrawn their children from the missionaries, to whom they were apprenticed for instruction.

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian ;
 Commander J. Tattnall, commanding United States ship Saratoga ;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur ;
 Lieutenant H. S. Stellwagen, late commanding United States brig Porpoise ;

Governor John B. Russwurm, Governor of the colony at Cape Palmas ;
 Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ;
 William P. Rodgers, secretary.

Commodore Perry remarked, that he had assembled the officers present together, to have their views as to what steps it would be advisable to take for the punishment of the natives of Little Berriby, for the massacre of the captain and crew of the American schooner Mary Carver, and the seizure of the cargo of that vessel.

Commodore Perry then read a copy of the instructions given by the honorable Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ramsay, for the guidance of that officer in the matter under consideration, and stated that these instructions had been sent to him (Commodore Perry) for his government.

After due deliberation, it was determined to demand reparation of the four towns of Rockboukah, Grand Tabou, Bassa, and Grand Berriby ; the inhabitants of all which were supposed to have been concerned with the people of Little Berriby in the piracy on the Mary Carver, viz :

1st. That, for the ends of justice and the prevention of future crime, it be demanded that the surviving criminals, who were immediately concerned in the murder, be apprehended, tried, and executed, by the natives on shore, according to their own laws ; and that the execution take place in the presence of some persons appointed to testify to it.

2d. That, for the indemnification of the heirs of those who were murdered, a sum of money, equal to the value of the Mary Carver and her cargo, be demanded of these towns ; and, in default of these terms being complied with, (and the participation of the towns being proven,) to proceed to chastise them.

It was decided that, for the better effecting these objects, the four towns should be visited in succession, commencing to windward.

Segeh, *alias* George, (head trademan of the Mary Carver,) who had taken an active part in the outrage, was believed to reside between Rock Tabou and Rockboukah.

Jack Masser, also implicated, was understood to reside at Tabou river.

— 3 —
 UNITED STATES SHIP MACEDONIAN,
Off Rockboukah, December 10, 1843.

Council of officers—Second session.

PRESENT—Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa ;

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian ;
 Commander J. Tattnall, commanding United States ship Saratoga ;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur ;
 Lieutenant H. S. Stellwagen, late commanding United States brig Porpoise ;

Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ;
 William P. Rodgers, secretary.

The proceedings of the council of yesterday, the 9th instant, having been read and approved, all written evidence that could be produced in the case of the murder was read, consisting of documents sent to Commodore Perry, by the hon. Secretary of the Navy, and two letters from Governor Russwurm. (See copies, marked A and B.)

For the better effecting the end proposed in council of yesterday, it was decided—

1st. That four months should be allowed for compliance with the first demand, viz: the apprehension and trial of the surviving criminals; and if this demand be not complied with at the expiration of that time, the town or towns known to harbor them should, if accessible to the boats of the squadron, be destroyed.

2d. That a tax of \$3,000 be laid on each of the four towns, the aggregate amount of which sums would equal the supposed value of the *Mary Carver* and cargo.

Governor Roberts here stated that, in his opinion, it would be impossible for them to pay anything like that sum; whereupon it was decided—

That, in case the towns should be unable to raise the amount specified, that then the natives should give to the Colonization Society, in trust for the heirs of those murdered in the *Mary Carver*, and others concerned in her ownership, a mortgage on their territory, commencing at the beach, and extending three miles into the interior, along the whole extent of coast in their possession. And on failure of any of the four above-named towns to pay an annual instalment of \$500 for six successive years, the aforesaid mortgage to be foreclosed for the benefit of the parties interested. It was further agreed, that, for the convenience of the natives, provisions for the United States squadron on this station should be accepted in lieu of money, the value thereof to be placed to the credit of the parties interested as aforesaid.

Commander Tattnall was of opinion that severe measures should not be undertaken against the towns already named as being suspected of participation in the affair of the *Mary Carver*, without evidence stronger than that now in possession of the council. In this opinion Commodore Perry coincided, and remarked that, in his own mind, he was satisfied, from circumstantial evidence, that they were all implicated in the piracy. But the proof of guilt was not sufficient to justify reprisals; that the acts of the squadron in this matter would be considered those of the Government, to be justified before the world: and for these reasons, extreme measures should be resorted to only upon strong proof; that of the guilt of Little Berriby there could be no doubt, but that it would be more easy to decide what amount of chastisement should be inflicted upon them after visiting the scene of outrage and murder.

The opinions of Commander Tattnall and Commodore Perry were concurred in by all the members of the council.

To carry out the views determined on in council of yesterday and to day, and in the hope of gaining further information, the head Krooman of the *Macedonian* was despatched to Rockboukah to invite King Tom to meet Commodore Perry and officers in grand palaver on shore, tomorrow (the 11th) at 10 o'clock.

The king returned for answer, that he would be in readiness at the time appointed.

It was expected that at this palaver some additional proof of the guilt

of the town might be eduved; or, on protestation of innocence, King Tom and his chief men should be required to attend a palaver contemplated to be held at Little Berriby, on which occasion King Tom might be confronted by the Berriby people.

A.

CAPE PALMAS, AFRICA, *July 10, 1843.*

SIR: Your letter of April 17th, 1843, was duly delivered yesterday by Lieutenant Commandant Stellwagen. As a resident on this coast, I am pleased to learn that the United States Government have empowered you to chastise the perpetrators of the massacres committed on board the late schooner *Mary Carver*. As I have a knowledge of some of the circumstances attending them, I will detail them in as concise a manner as I can.

It was Captain Farewell's second visit to Berriby, where he had placed a factory for the purchase of camwood and ivory, under the charge of the younger Cracow. On his way down, he called here and made such trade as merchant vessels generally. Before leaving our port, he paid off two or three of his Kroo-boys who belonged to Grahway, in our immediate vicinity; so that at his departure there were but three Kroo-men or natives attached to the vessel—one head trademan and two boys—whom I shall proceed to designate. The head trademan and principal instigator, in connexion with the Cracows, is a native by the name of Segeh, *alias* George. He was head trademan of the vessel here. He was formerly of Rabookah, but now resides at Rock Tabou, between Rabookah and Tabou river. The next in importance was Jack Masser's son, named Erooplook, *alias* young Jack Masser. He was quite a lad—hardly 21 years of age; speaks good English, and resides at Grand Tabou. The other Kroo-boy was a person of no consequence; he resides near Tabou river; name forgotten. Old Cracow, the trademan, known all over the coast, and his brother who was keeping the factory above spoken of, and was deeply implicated in these murders, *are both dead*. But Ben Cracow, a trademan, who resides at the last town of Little Berriby, is still alive. He is supposed to have been concerned, as all the three towns which compose what we call Little or Half Berriby are known to have been participators in the spoils.

The three towns are close to each other; and old Cracow's town, the scene of action, is the middle one. It is my opinion that the whole affair of the capture, &c., was known to the head men of Rabookah, Tabou, and Bassa, as about to take place, as old Cracow was then sick at the first named town.

Vessels can anchor close in shore at Little Berriby, as the water is deep, and muddy bottom; but it will be difficult to take them by surprise, unless landing could be effected at night—an undertaking rather hazardous at this season of the year, whilst the wind blows from southwest. The landing will continue bad till September, when the present wind will probably cease.

Should you attempt to burn the towns and capture some of the natives, three small vessels like the *Porpoise* will be needed, and they are to be preferred. One should lie off Rabookah, a second off Tabou river, and the third off Little Berriby, *at the same time*. Their first object should be to

detain all canoes that come on board, to prevent the news going down the beach—in the hope, too, that some one implicated, or Berriby-man, might be in some of the canoes. After capturing five or six canoes, they might proceed to the rendezvous. It would be needful for the commander's vessel to have a trusty pilot, who was well acquainted with the anchorage and landing at Berriby. At all these towns the natives are very timid about boarding strange vessels, unless they anchor; though English vessels often fire a gun when they want Kroo-men, and lie off and on till the canoes come off. They are less afraid of the English flag. They are very suspicious of American vessels since the Vandalia's visit, and the capture of some of their principal trademen by Captain R. S. Sims, of the barque R. Dhu, of Providence, Rhode Island; unfortunately, the fellow succeeded in effecting his escape off Bassa.

We know of no instance of the slave trade being carried on under the United States flag, on this part of the coast, for the last three years.

You will pardon the desultory manner of my letter; some of the items which compose it may be of service.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JNO. B. RUSSWURM,
A. Md. S. C. S.

Commodore M. C. PERRY,
Com. U. S. naval forces on coast of Africa.

—
B.

AGENCY HOUSE,
Cape Palmas, August 11, 1843.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your favor of yesterday, I shall now proceed to answer in detail its several heads.

The plan proposed by you is a good one; and I would recommend that the number of men put on board the merchant vessel be as few as possible, as no great force is required to secure the canoe-men as soon as they come on board. Again: the natives, as before observed, are very shy, from Rabookah to Grand Berriby, about boarding American vessels. I suppose the Porpoise and her consort will anchor at two places at the same time. There are three places from which it would be desirable to capture canoes. The news along the beach would fly, I may say, so rapidly, that only one attempt could be made with success, for months, or perhaps years—two or three. The Porpoise should go in disguised, and anchor as a trading vessel, towards *night*; otherwise not a canoe will board her. Could you not, with propriety, use the English flag, or employ English merchant vessels as decoys. Several have expressed a willingness to aid in capturing any of the parties concerned. Should you be fortunate enough to secure any people from Little or Half Berriby, no ransom ought to redeem them but a halter. They were all concerned in the murder—men, women, and children; and though the feeling heart revolts at the idea of such a scene, still there can be no doubt about it. Further, they are now so poor, having wasted and destroyed all the property of the Mary Carver, and a small Portuguese schooner, which they captured the year before, that the idea of *restitution* or *remuneration* is out of the question. They are a bloodthirsty set, who have lived for the last few years by piratical acts, and some little trade in

camwood and ivory. Their custom has ever been to rob the poor way-faring man cast on their shores, foreign and native.

I will freely receive any who may be taken, to be kept in custody till your return; but as we have no stone jail, I should have to keep a guard over them day and night, at an expense of eight or ten dollars per diem.

Since my letter of 10th ultimo, I have gathered a few more particulars which can be depended on. Besides the persons named in that as residing at Rabookah, there are two others of whom I had notice at the time; but, uncertain about their guilt, I deemed it best to defer until fully assured. They are, 1st—Kato Dueh, alias Tom Nimber, a large black man, with sour countenance, belongs to one of the three families who own the Grand Devil palaver; is said to have helped to bind poor Captain Farewell previous to his murder, and is known to have brought up a large canoe load of his goods, clothing, money, &c., immediately after, to Rabookah. 2d. Choah, one of Tom Nimber's boys, who went in the canoe with him, supposed to be concerned in the murder—both now at Rabookah. Tom Nimber is a tradesman.

From Joe Horner, of Rabookah, a very intelligent tradesman, who visited me on the 7th, and informed me of your arrival on the coast, I learn that every individual who was in anywise concerned in the piracy, &c., on board the Mary Carver, is very doubtful about boarding vessels—some never go on board at all; that the Bush people (part of the population of Little Berriby) have mostly left the beach in the possession of the Cracow and a few other families, from fear of punishment being meted to them. Joe assures me that Segeh, alias George, is at Rock Tabou, and young Jack Maser at Grand Tabou. I dared not question him about Tom Nimber—too near home—perhaps a relative.

I omitted in my last, (10th ultimo,) to inform you that the Episcopal mission have a station at Rabookah, under the care of Mr. Appleby, one of our citizens, whose personal safety might be endangered should they not leave before any decisive measures were adopted in reference to Rabookah. I should therefore like some instructions in reference to them. I was told two days ago that Rev. Mr. Payne and lady, of Half Cavally, were on a visit to Tabou river mission station, on business. How long they may remain, I know not.

It is not amiss to inform you that all the intelligent natives say that you have come to this coast to settle the "Berriby palaver." A little delay, therefore, on your part, would do no harm.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM.

Com. M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

P. S.—All the natives on this coast are now engaged in harvesting their rice in the bush, two, three, and five miles from the beach.

Tom Nimber resides at a small town, on a hill, about southwest from Rabookah—big town, distance one-quarter of a mile. One of Farewell's tradesmen belongs to Grand Berriby—uncertain about his guilt—highly probable.

Some months after the massacre, the king and headmen of Grand Berriby came up to Grahway to see me and protest against the Half Berriby people. I refused to see them, giving them to understand that the palaver belonged to the United States consul.

December 11, 1843.

According to a decision of a council assembled yesterday on board the United States ship *Macedonian*, Commodore Perry, accompanied by all the commanding officers of the squadron, and Governor Roberts, and a considerable force of sailors and marines, landed at Rockboukah for the purpose of holding palaver with the king and headmen of that town on the subject of their participation in the massacre of the captain and crew of the *Mary Carver*, and the seizure of the cargo of that vessel. A large number of the natives, mustering not less than 500 men, drawn up in line, well armed with muskets, spears, and knives, received our boats at the beach, apparently determined to resist any offensive measures that might be taken by the Americans. Leaving a force outside, to check the natives assembled there, Commodore Perry, accompanied by the senior officers, entered the town to meet the king. The natives appeared very suspicious, and the king was unwilling to make his appearance without his guard; and being told that his guard might be present, he came in.

Notes of a palaver held at Rockboukah, on the 11th day of December, 1843, between Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa; assisted by—

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship *Macedonian*; Commander J. Tattnell, commanding United States ship *Saratoga*; Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship *Decatur*; and Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia; of the one part, and—

King Tom, of Rockboukah, of the second part.

Commodore Perry said he had come ashore for the purpose of hearing what the king had to say in regard to the participation of his people in the murder of the captain and crew of the *Mary Carver*, and the seizure of her cargo at Little Berriby.

King Tom declared that none of his people were at Berriby at the time; he acknowledged that some of the headmen of Little Berriby were at his town a short time previous to the murder, but denied that they had laid plans for the capture of the vessel, or had come with that view to his town, as was stated; and swore to that effect, in the fashion of his country, by kissing his sword. He said that Segeh (one of the surviving criminals) had gone away, and he could not tell where he was.

Commodore Perry then told the king that he must go to the palaver to be held at Little Berriby, and exculpate himself from all blame and suspicion.

The king replied that he would go with an armed force to assist in punishing the people of Little Berriby; but, being told that there was sufficient force in the squadron, seemed to hesitate on going for the purpose of clearing himself of the suspicion of guilt.

Commodore Perry then told him that he must attend at Little Berriby, or he should consider him guilty; and gave him his choice, to proceed by canoe, or take passage in the *Macedonian*; in the latter case, the Commodore and Captain Mayo pledged their words for his safety, but threatened

him that, if he did not attend, he would, on his return, resort to severer measures.

The king agreed to the proposal, and preferred taking passage in the Macedonian.

Accordingly, King Tom and several of his headmen came on board in the afternoon of the same day.

Notes of a council of officers held on board the United States frigate Macedonian, off Little Berriby, at half-past 8 o'clock on the morning of the 13th of December, 1843.

PRESENT—Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa ;

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian ;

Commander J. Tattall, commanding United States ship Saratoga ;

Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur ;

Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ;

Wm. P. Rodgers, secretary.

It was decided that sufficient proof had been obtained from kings Tom and George, of Rockboukah and Bassa, and from other sources, to fasten a direct participation of all the five villages of the Cracow family in the piracy upon the Mary Carver and the Brazilian schooner.

Whereupon it was unanimously determined by the council, that, unless some exculpatory evidence should be educed at the palaver about to take place, the five towns in question should be destroyed, after first ascertaining that the women and children had left them.

On the 13th of December, 1843, Commodore Perry, accompanied by the commanding officers of the United States ships Macedonian, Saratoga, and Decatur, Governor Roberts, and a considerable force of sailors and marines, landed at Ben Cracow's town of Little Berriby, to hold a palaver with the people of that place.

Notes of a palaver, and occurrences that took place, at Little Berriby, on the 13th day of December, 1843.

PRESENT—Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa ;

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian ;

Commander J. Tattall, commanding United States ship Saratoga ;

Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur ;

Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia ; of the one part, and—

King Ben, of Little Berriby ;

King George, of Bassa ;

King Tom, of Rockboukah, and

King Davis ; of the second part.

Commodore Perry announced to King Ben that he had landed at his town for the purpose of learning if the king had anything to say in extenuation of the cruel murder of Captain Farewell, of the American schooner *Mary Carver*, and crew, and the robbing and destroying that vessel.

King Ben replied that his towns were in no way concerned in the affair; that the massacre had been perpetrated by persons not belonging to his towns, and was done in revenge of an act of Captain Farewell, who had previously put to death two of the Kroo-men employed on board his vessel. King Ben further stated that the *Mary Carver* had dragged her anchors, grounded, and sunk; that her cargo sunk with her, and no part of it was taken by the natives.

Commodore Perry told the king that he was in full possession of the facts of the guilt of his people, not only in regard to the affair of the *Mary Carver*, but of their piracy upon a Brazilian schooner; that King Ben knew he was telling a deliberate falsehood; that such prevarication would not answer.

At this moment, a movement was made by King Davis outside the palaver house, at which a musket was fired from a group of armed natives in the direction of our men—probably intended for a signal, as King Ben and his interpreter, as well as King Davis, rushed out of the palaver house towards the town, which brought on a general firing from the natives and the Americans. In the *mêlée* King Ben was mortally wounded, and his interpreter and another native killed. King Davis escaped, and probably headed the natives, as they continued to fire from the bush upon our men.

Orders were now given, in conformity with the decision of the council, to fire the town. Having first ascertained that it was completely deserted, it was soon reduced to ashes; and the seamen and marines were re-embarked, under a skirmishing fire with the natives.

King Tom, of Rockboukah, and King George, of Bassa, who accompanied the Commodore to the palaver, kept aloof from the scene, and came on board the frigate after the affair was over.

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Notes of a palaver held on board the United States frigate Macedonian, at anchor off Little Berriby, on the 14th day of December, 1843, between Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces, western coast of Africa; assisted by—

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States frigate *Macedonian*;
 Commander J. Tattall, commanding United States ship *Saratoga*;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship *Decatur*;
 Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia; of the first part: and

King Tom, of Rockboukah;
 King George, of Bassa;
Absent.—King George McCauley, of Grand Tabou;
 King Ben, of Grand Berriby; of the second part.

Commodore Perry told the kings that he had desired to have them present at the palaver held yesterday on shore, because he suspected them of hav-

ing been concerned in the piracy committed on board the *Mary Carver*; and that he knew that old Cracow, the father of the man who murdered Captain Farewell, was at Rockboukah when it took place; and he had heard that some of the articles of the cargo had gone up to Rockboukah.

King Tom acknowledged that old Cracow was at his town, sick, at the time specified; but that it was his son who killed Captain Farewell; and that after the deed had been committed, some of his people went to Little Berriby, and begged some of the stolen articles.

King George stated that neither he nor his people had anything to do in the matter; that he had warned Cracow not to molest the vessel, and was told by him not to interfere with his concerns; that he (Cracow) could manage his own affairs, and that King George must manage his.

It was then decided that there had not been sufficient proof elicited to convict the people of Rockboukah, Grand Tabou, Bassa, and Grand Berriby, of direct participation in the piracy of the *Mary Carver*, and consequently the tax proposed at a former council to be laid upon them could not be justified, and therefore that that part of the proceedings of the council referring to said proposed tax should be declared null and void. But it was thought advisable to seize upon the occasion of the friendly disposition of the kings of Rockboukah and Bassa, who were present, to obtain from them, and, if possible, to induce the kings of Grand Tabou and Grand Berriby to join them, in a compact to protect the lives and property of all American citizens that may now be, or may hereafter be, upon the coast hitherto subject to the depredations of pirates and murderers. This compact, which is as follows, they willingly assented to, and also promised to use their influence in bringing the kings of Grand Tabou and Grand Berriby into the confederacy. After the completion of this compact, King Tom and King George left the ships for their respective homes.

DECEMBER 15, 1843.

In conformity to, and in execution of, the determination of the council of the 13th instant, the four remaining villages of the Cracow family, after having been deserted by the inhabitants, were destroyed by fire. This was not done without some skirmishing with the natives—possibly without loss to them, as they fired from concealed places. One of the *Saratoga's* men was severely wounded. The carpenter of the *Decatur* slightly, and a seaman from the same ship severely: the latter was occasioned by the accidental going off of his own pistol.

DECEMBER 16, 1843.

Having anchored off Grand Berriby on the 16th of December, a message was sent to the king of Grand Berriby, by one of the six men who had been detained by Lieutenant Commandant H. S. Stellwagen, in October last, inviting the king to a palaver on board the *Macedonian*: at the same time a flag of truce was displayed from the respective ships.

King Ben, one of the kings of Grand Berriby, and several of his headmen, came on board the same day. The commanding officers were then sent for, and a palaver was held in the cabin of the *Macedonian*, of which the following are the notes:

Notes of a palaver held on board the United States ship Macedonian, December 16, 1843, between Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding United States naval forces western coast of Africa; assisted by—

Captain Isaac Mayo, commanding United States ship Macedonian;
 Commander J. Tattnall, commanding United States ship Saratoga;
 Commander J. Abbot, commanding United States ship Decatur;
 Governor J. J. Roberts, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia; of the one part: and—

King Ben, of Grand Berriby;
 Headman Tom Freeman, of do;
 Headman Jack Davis, of do.

Commodore Perry told the king and his headmen that they had been at one time suspected of having been engaged in the piracy on the *Mary Carver*; but he was glad to find, from information he had received, that there was no proof of their participation in that cruel act. He therefore was disposed to look upon them as friendly to the Americans.

King Ben said, in substance, that he never had any difficulty with trading vessels; that he condemned the people of Little Berriby for their frequent acts of outrage upon strangers; that since the affair of the *Mary Carver*, his tribe had declined all intercourse with the Cracow people—indeed, they were at open variance; that the punishment inflicted upon them was just, and he was very glad they had received it, as the example would have the effect to inspire confidence among honest traders, and bring back the former trade to this part of the coast.

Commodore Perry then told him that, as he lived so near to these depredators and murderers, it would be well for him to join the king residing on the other side of them, in the compact to defend the lives and property of Americans. This arrangement would prevent any future suspicion of participation of the Grand Berriby tribe in piratical acts, and would effectually render the Cracow people incapable of renewing their depredations.

King Ben replied, that he would be very glad to join the compact, and would pledge himself, that as the Cracow people came from the interior, where they properly belonged, to settle on the beach, in order to depredate upon strangers, they should not be allowed to rebuild their villages. King Ben once more remarked that the chastisement inflicted upon the Cracow people was well deserved, and would have a favorable influence upon the trade of his people.

After signing the compact, King Ben and his attendants returned on shore, accompanied by the remaining five men who had been detained by Lieutenant Commandant H. S. Stellwagen.

DECEMBER 17, 1843.

King Tom, king of a part of Grand Berriby, came on board in state this day, with two of his headmen, and desired to be allowed to sign the compact, that he might be considered one of the confederacy to act in future as the friends of Americans.

King Ben also came on board, to witness the signature of King Tom.

The squadron being off Bassa, young King George of Grand Bassa, and King George McCauley, of Grand Tabou, came on board, and requested to be permitted to sign the compact, and join the confederacy. The document was signed by them, and they returned on shore.

DECEMBER 19, 1843—10 A. M.

The American squadron being off Tabou river mission station, King Karplo, of Tabou river, and Governor Weah, of the same place, came on board and signed the compact.

It is proper to observe, in conclusion, that at all the palavers held at the various places, as mentioned in the foregoing documents, the kings and chiefs were repeatedly told that aggressions or alleged wrongs upon the natives, coming from American citizens, or traders under the American flag, would not be tolerated by the Commodore and commanding officers of the American squadron, and would be redressed so far as it might be in their power to do so; that the rights of the natives, when considered in reference to Americans, would command equal notice and solicitude; and it would be the business of the Commodore and commanding officers to endeavor to correct, by all suitable means, any acts of the kind; that on proper representation being made by the natives, either to the commander of an American vessel of war, or to either of the Governors of Monrovia and Cape Palmas, steps would be taken to secure redress to the natives.

M. C. PERRY.

I. MAYO, *Captain.*

JOSIAH TATTNALL, *Commander.*

JOEL ABBOT, *Commander.*

J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original in my possession.

WM. P. RODGERS,
Commodore's Secretary.

Whereas charges have been brought against the tribes under our government, of connivance at the piracy and murder committed upon the American schooner *Mary Carver*, Captain Farewell,—in order to repel all these suspicions, we, the undersigned kings and headmen of Rockboukah, Grand Tabou, Bassa, and Grand Berriby, do, by these presents, enter into solemn compact with Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding the United States naval forces on the western coast of Africa, to protect and defend all American property, of whatever kind or character, that may now be, or may hereafter be, upon any part of the western coast of Africa, within that portion of coast lying between Cavally river, in latitude $4^{\circ} 26' N.$, longitude $8^{\circ} 31' W.$, and Tabou town, latitude $4^{\circ} 43' N.$, longitude $6^{\circ} 38' W.$,*

* The latitudes and longitudes of the places designated may not be exactly correct, as they were taken from an imperfect chart.

and extending twenty miles into the interior; and we further agree to protect and defend all American citizens who may now be, or may hereafter be, within the aforesaid limits; and for this end, we do hereby pledge ourselves to use our greatest influence, power, and force of arms, if necessary.

And we do likewise, by these presents, agree to make and declare ourselves to be responsible for the safety of the lives and property of all persons aforesaid, now and hereafter.

In witness whereof, we do hereby set our hands, on board the United States frigate *Macedonian*, December 14th, 1843.

his
KING x TOM, of *Rockboukah*.
mark.

his
BEN x COFFEE, son of *King Tom*.
mark.

his
JACK x FIRE, of *Rockboukah*.
mark.

his
BEN x JOHNSON, of *Half Rockboukah*.
mark.

his
KING x GEORGE, of *Bassa*.
mark.

Witnesses:

I. MAYO, *Captain U. S. N.*
JOSIAH TATTNALL, *Commander*.
JOEL ABBOT, *Commander*.
J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia*.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original compact.

WM. P. RODGERS,
Commodore's Secretary.

We, the undersigned, do hereby signify our approbation of the above compact, and pledge ourselves to observe and carry out the agreement therein set forth.

In witness whereof, we do hereto set our hands, on board the United States frigate *Macedonian*, this 16th day of December, 1843.

his
KING x BEN, of *Grand Berriby*.
mark.

his
HEADMAN TOM x FREEMAN.
mark.

his
HEADMAN JACK x DAVIS.
mark.

Witnesses:

I. MAYO, *Captain U. S. N.*
JOSIAH TATTNALL, *Commander*.
JOEL ABBOT, *Commander*.
J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia*.

We, the undersigned, do hereby signify our approbation of the foregoing

compact, and pledge ourselves to observe and carry out the agreement therein set forth.

In witness whereof, we do hereto set our hands, on board the United States frigate *Macedonian*, this 17th day of December, 1843.

^{his}
KING x TOM, of *Cape town, Grand Berriby.*
mark.

^{his}
GOVERNOR x NUMA,
mark.

Of one of the Grand Berriby towns.

^{his}
HEADMAN x YEAH, of *Grand Berriby.*
mark.

Witnesses:

I. MAYO, *Captain U. S. N.*
C. H. POOR, *Lieut. U. S. N.*
JNO. CONTEE, *Lieut. U. S. N.*
J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

December 18th, 1843.

^{his}
KING YOUNG x GEORGE, of *Grand Bassa.*
mark.

^{his}
HEADMAN TOM x PETER, of *Grand Bassa.*
mark.

^{his}
KING GEORGE x McCAULEY,
mark.

of Grand Tabou.

^{his}
HEADMAN x SAMBO, *King's son.*
mark.

Witnesses:

C. H. POOR, *Lieut. U. S. N.*
JNO. CONTEE, *Lieut. U. S. N.*
J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

We, the undersigned, do hereby signify our approbation of the foregoing compact, and pledge ourselves to observe and carry out the agreement therein set forth.

In witness whereof, we hereto set our hands this 19th day of December, 1843, on board the United States ship *Macedonian*.

^{his}
KING x KARPLO, of *Tabou river.*
mark.

^{his}
GOVERNOR x WEAH, of *Tabou river.*
mark.

Witnesses:

JNO. CONTEE, *Lieut. U. S. N.*
EDMUND L. DU BARRY, *Surgeon U. S. N.*
THOS. N. GLENTWORTH, *Surgeon U. S. N.*
J. J. ROBERTS, *Governor of Liberia.*

Y.

Additional Notes.

On our return to Cape Palmas, it was found that the mediatory influence of the squadron had given to affairs a more healthful and harmonious turn, as will be seen by reference to extracts of letters from Governor Russwurm, and the American missionaries. hereto appended, and marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

On the evening of the 24th instant, the Macedonian being off Settra Kroo, the head Krooman Jumba was despatched on shore, with a note to Doctor Day, inquiring if all was quiet, and to demand the remainder of the bullocks due as an indemnification to Captain Brown.

Jumba returned early on the morning of the 25th, with a note from Doctor Day, informing the Commodore that, since the visit of the squadron, there had been a great change in the bearing of the natives towards the Americans residing among them, and that every day the benefit of the palaver was made more manifest.

The following is an extract from the letter of Doctor Day:

“ We are daily experiencing the good effects of your visit to this place ; the natives do not now attempt those petty annoyances they used to do very frequently.”

At 11 o'clock three of the headmen came off with the six bullocks, for which a receipt was given by Purser Fitting : made sail for Sinoe, where the ship arrived the same evening.

Having heard that a few of the Fish-men had been permitted to return to their former habitations, contrary to the agreement made by the Sinoe and Blue Barra people, Commodore Perry, accompanied by Captain Mayo, and a number of other officers, landed at Sinoe, on the morning of the 26th, for the purpose of warning the kings and headmen of these people against any violation of the promises made to him on his previous visit. The kings and principal men, having gone some distance into the country to prepare their rice fields, could not be assembled without much delay.

Commodore Perry then told Nimini (the only headman present) that he should notice and resent any breach of faith on the part of the Sinoe and Blue Barra people, and required that those Fish-men who had returned to their houses should be sent away, and told Nimini to repeat his injunctions the kings and headmen. Nimini promised to do so, and said he was confident that the contract would be strictly observed by the natives ; and that the Fish-men who had returned were members of Nippio's family, to whom, in consideration of having rescued Charley Freeman, on the occasion of the massacre of the mate and cook of the Edward Burley, permission had been given to remain.

Commodore Perry reminded the settlers at Sinoe of the necessity of putting up a block house and stockade, for retreat and defence in case of an attack by the Fish-men or other tribes ; that this step was the more called for, as the American squadron was not authorized to interfere in their disputes with the natives, except to defend them, if attacked ; that the vessels of the squadron had various other matters to attend to, and the settlers ought not to expect to be constantly looked after ; that they were fully able to protect themselves by proper precautions, and a reasonable degree of energy ; that they would not deserve the sympathy of the officers of the squadron, if they neglected their own defence. He concluded, by advising them to call a town meeting, and assess to each adult male a quota of

money, materials, or labor, in proportion to the means of the individual, and to set about at once the erection of a block-house—the materials for building which were close at hand.

They acknowledged the necessity of such step, but pleaded a general disinclination upon the part of the settlers to labor even for their own benefit.

It had been determined by Commodore Perry to release, at this place, young Smith and the other Fish-men, detained on our former visit to Sinoe; but it was thought advisable not to do so at this moment, as will be explained in the following correspondence :

UNITED STATES SHIP MACEDONIAN,
Off Monrovia, January 3, 1844.

SIR: In the expectation that the Fish-men who put to death the mate and cook of the American schooner Edward Burley, would have abandoned Sinoe and Blue Barra, and returned to their own country, I had determined to release the three men, Smith, Duma, and Mattao, who were detained as hostages for the safety of the colonists, and the fulfilment of the compact entered into by the Sinoe and Blue Barra people. But, on my return to Sinoe, I found that the Fish-men were still hovering about their former habitations, with the supposed intention of returning to them after the squadron had proceeded to windward. The American settlers were still in fear of the treachery of these people, and thought that nothing but the occasional visit of a ship-of-war would prevent them from committing some further act of violence. Smith was particularly mentioned as a person of great influence, and of very bad character.

In consideration of these circumstances, I thought it most advisable to bring the three persons mentioned above to this place, to discharge them here, or deliver them to your charge, to be kept still in durance by the authorities of the commonwealth over which you preside, if you should deem it advisable, in reference to the safety of the American settlers, to do so.

So far as regards the operations of the squadron, I do not deem it necessary further to detain them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

J. J. ROBERTS,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, Monrovia.

Reply of Governor Roberts.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Monrovia, January 3, 1844.

SIR: Your communication of to-day's date, by Lieutenant Rich, is received; and I beg that you will receive my acknowledgments for the attention shown the colony at Sinoe, and especially for the service you have done us in retaining those three Fish-men, Smith, Duma, and Mattao, which will, no doubt, be the means of preserving the peace and quietness of that settlement.

As soon as I can believe it perfectly safe, I shall discharge these men, and send them to their country.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. J. ROBERTS,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Commodore M. C. PERRY,

Commanding U. S. naval forces, western coast of Africa.

No. 1.

Extract from a letter of Governor Russwurm.

“ We are pleased to learn from Governor Roberts’s letter, that you have succeeded in chastising the Berriby people. They deserve all they have received. Nothing has happened to disturb our peace. I have sent messengers to the Bush twice, and the words brought back have been rather favorable. Messengers are on the eve of setting out again, for the purpose of bringing in men to talk and settle the palaver. King Freeman seems in earnest.”

No. 2.

AGENCY HOUSE, CAPE PALMAS,
December 23, 1843.

DEAR SIR: As your squadron is on the eve of departure from this port, allow me, as agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, and Governor of this colony, to express our grateful feelings for the aid afforded by you in our palaver with the natives.

Our hearts are cheered, and our hands will take hold of our ploughs, &c., with renewed vigor, with a knowledge that a market is opened for our surplus produce. Our prospects have been brighter since the arrival of your squadron on this coast than ever; and, however willing we were before to endure everything for liberty, our hearts now swell with gratitude to you for the deep interest expressed in our future well-being.

That a gracious Providence may long preserve your life for usefulness, is the ardent prayer of every citizen of Maryland in Liberia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. RUSSWURM.

Commodore M. C. PERRY.

No. 3.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. James Kelly, (Catholic mission.)

“ I have also to request Mr. Perry to present my acknowledgments to the Commodore for his kindness to us, as well as to all the missions. His

services were tendered in a way decidedly American—without ostentation, yet carrying effect here in every quarter.

“Be so good as to say to the Commodore, that, though an indisposition, arising from a cold, prevents me from availing myself of the benefit and pleasure of visiting his noble vessel at this time, the Commodore and his brave officers will be remembered with enduring gratitude by all at our mission in Harper.”

No. 4.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. J. Hazelhurst, (Episcopalian mission.)

“Understanding it is your intention to sail to-day, I am truly sorry that my present situation will not permit me, in person, to tender you my sincere thanks for the assistance and protection afforded me, and the institution with which I am connected. Be assured, dear sir, it will ever be gratefully remembered by all connected, not only here, but by our many friends at home.”

Z.

NOTE.—An incident which occurred at Cape Palmas, on the 7th of December last, was omitted to be mentioned in the minutes already forwarded to the department; and, as it was illustrative of the benefit arising from the presence of American vessels of war on the coast, it is now briefly noted.

A chief of one of the native towns, situated upon Cape Palmas, had been accused by a rival chief of having poisoned a person recently deceased; and he was subjected to the ordeal of drinking lessy-water—which is a poisonous decoction, prepared from the bark of a tree. The proof of guilt or innocence depends upon the effects of this water: if, after taking a certain quantity, the accused survives, he is pronounced innocent; if he dies, of course, guilty.

This man, on the arrival of the squadron, had been under trial one day, and had taken a large quantity; and it is supposed had found means to swallow some antidote, by which the fatal effects had, so far, been averted.

On reaching the Government House, Commodore Perry was informed, by Dr. McGill, (colonial physician,) of the circumstances, who expressed the opinion that the judges were determined to destroy the accused.

Commodore Perry, in the hope of saving the man's life, hastened towards the scene of trial, in company with Dr. McGill, and a large number of officers.

The natives, on seeing the party approach, probably suspecting the design of the Commodore, seized the accused, threw him into a canoe, and paddled him across a neighboring lake.

The Commodore, on coming upon the group, asked for the man under trial, and was informed that he had been taken away; on receiving this

answer, he immediately seized a person, who seemed to be the chief of the party; and, directing another to be seized by the officers present, he declared he would hold them responsible for the safe return of the man under trial; remarking to them, that the territory on which this scene was exhibiting belonged to the Maryland Colonization Society, and that the trial should not proceed in full view of an American squadron.

The natives, on seeing this, and fearing for the safety of the two persons detained, after a good deal of delay, brought and delivered to the Commodore the person under trial, who was immediately placed under charge of Doctors McGill, Du Barry, and Glentworth; who, by strong remedies, produced copious vomiting. In this way, the man's life was saved, and he was subsequently sent to another town for safety.