

Farmington, Oct. 11th, 1841

Dear Brother

We were all made very glad tonight by the reception of your letters. Cinque & the Mendians were greatly rejoiced by your letter to him. They wish me to write you immediately & tell you that “they very glad to go to Boston, or anywhere, to get money to go home.”

Their anxiety to return home seems to increase. They dread the cold weather & not only that, the fact that they are expecting to go home naturally brings vividly before their minds the objects of their love. Their fathers & mothers—their brothers & sisters—their wives & their children—their homes—their native palm trees & everything that is dear are thrown in rapid succession before their minds. The fond expectation of soon embracing the objects of their affection from which they have been so cruelly & so wickedly torn gives them a foretaste of the reality.

It seems to me necessary that they return this fall & I believe that God will open the way. God does not leave his work half done. If all England & America should unite in saying that there was no such place as Mendi & that the Mendians could not get home, I would not believe them. I apprehend no danger, not because humanly speaking there is none. But because I am confident that God has a great & glorious design in permitting these men to be thrown upon our coasts. And that design is the propagation of the gospel in Mendi & not only in Mendi but in the neighboring nations. God will not permit the enemy of souls to frustrate this great design. For this reason I feel no apprehension but that the Mendians will all return safely home. But means have got to be used & perhaps our faith tried.

I wish to ask should the Mendians go to Boston etc. what will be the exercises they had better go through on those occasions. By knowing beforehand I may be able to train them so they will appear to better advantage. Do you intend to have any of the singers so as to have them sing in their native tongue? This I think would be quite desirable if it could be done. If there is no singing there will be necessary a greater variety in the exercises to make them interesting. I have thought of learning them a part of the multiplication table to repeat all together in the Mendi language. There will doubtless be a great curiosity to hear them talk, sing or do something in their native language.

I wish to ask whether it is probable that it will be practicable to carry anything of the furniture kind with us. I could probably get some among my friends if it was thought best to carry any. I intend to carry tools for making chairs, tables etc. but then it is going to take some time to get ready to work. Br. Williams suggested that such articles would probably sell to good advantage at Sierra Leone provided there was not a suitable conveyance to Mendi. I have no doubt but there is. The fact that Englishmen go up there with boats to trade with the natives is indubitable proof. Cinque told me his father would send a ship (a boat) any time to Sierra Leone to get what we wanted.

Their plan is, as they inform me, for all to keep together & somewhere in the vicinity of Cinque's town, to settle down & commence a new town & then persuade their friends to come & join them & adopt the American dress & manners as far as may be. The first thing will be to build their teachers a house. I think the Mendians have learnt very fast since I have been with them. I think I never had scholars learn so fast. I do not attribute this however to the excellency of my teaching but to their power of acquiring knowledge. Their progress for the future will be somewhat impeded. They are expecting to return home. They wish to carry with them for their friends some little presents which though they cost but little here will be considered of great value there. It is now harvest time & the neighboring farmers are glad to hire them & they are improving the opportunity for the sake of purchasing those articles above referred to. I do not think it best to discourage them in this. For my own part I am glad to see it. It shows that they are men possessed of like affections & feelings with ourselves.

A good brother in Haverhill, Mass., a flannel manufacturer, has kindly offered to supply or partly supply me with flannel. I rejoice that you fell in with those Canadian Ministers. I think there is a providence of God in it. I feel quite confident that my brother will come. I shall write him immediately.

I suppose you will not be able to tell when the Mendians will go to Boston till you ascertain about a vessel. Please write me immediately.

Your brother in great haste
Wm Raymond