

Farmington, March 22, 1841

My Dear Friend

I have nothing of special interest to communicate respecting our African friends. The girls are provided for at present as follows, viz; one at Dr. Porter's, one at Mr. Timothy Cowles' and the remaining one at Mr. Horace Cowles.

Cinque, Kinna and the three girls attended church yesterday and were very respectful and attentive. Mr. Booth was gone Saturday but I hope will now get settled down and pursue more systematic course.

It seems to me very important that as soon as possible now one or two individuals should be found who are willing to devote themselves to a Mission to the Mendi people, and that they should at once come here and commence teaching and also learning the Mendi language. If this is done a Mission can be commenced under the most favorable circumstances, and I can see plainly, that we shall do comparatively but little good to these people if we change their teachers frequently or if we promote those who are only half devoted to their work.

They are suspicious & fearful, not naturally perhaps, but circumstances have made them so, and a steady course must be pursued toward them or they will become discontented and perhaps discouraged and ready to resort to anything rather than remain in their present condition.

Mr. Williams went to Hartford on Saturday to purchase materials for clothing, and the ladies are to meet on Wednesday of next week & make up some of the lighter articles.

The sooner a more definite plan is settled, the better. If these people are to remain here, even two or three months, some other accommodations must be provided for them—and if they are to remain 6 or 7 mos. we must take a house with land attached where not only they but their teachers can be accommodated and where they can have employment out of doors part of the time.

Yours very truly

John T Norton