

Williams-Tappan

Farmington, Sept. 7, 1841

Brothers Leavitt, Jocelyn & Tappan

Mr. Josiah Coffin of Phila. left this place today for N. Haven, will proceed to N. York tomorrow. I write you now to give you a full statement of my views, on the whole subject of agencies, deposition, or _____ to Mendi.

I will state that it seems to me that the whole expenditure of such an expedition would be useless or nearly so from recent investigations, it would seem as if there was no more difficulty in passing from Sierra Leone to their native land, to their homes & families, than there would be in your passing from N. York to Buffalo ; and should there be difficulty on arrival, their stay at S.L. would be as advantageous as in this country so far as their mental and physical condition is concerned (this is the testimony of Mr. Buxton) & the Americans who should go out would find their stay less objectionable in the months of November & December than at any other time during the year. Now if a delegation go out in 3 weeks they will not return in time for the main body of Mendians to go out this year & to detain them over until next year, Nov. or Dec. would very much impair their confidence in the Comt. & give a very unfavorable opinion to these strangers to go back to Africa, as they understand that the pledge to them in N.H. when they were about to be released from the custody of the Marshall, was made in good faith & by true men; & should the decision of the Comt. Be to delay their return much or any after the 1st of May next it would be a very unfortunate circumstance. It is my decided opinion that these men should go out this fall in Nov. or Dec.: & if any agent should go out to prepare the way, the bals. of the company should follow them soon.

I have not so much confidence in Mr. Coffin as the Comt. In N.Y. seem to have. It appears to me he is too impetuous, not given to consultation, but forming an opinion at first glance & then goes ahead. I had no opportunity to converse with him upon religious subjects but should think from the time I spent with him that he is not so devotedly pious as is Chas. Stuart.

I called on Bro. Pennington today; he is ready & willing to go to S. Leone in 3 weeks if the Comt. Will engage to supply his pulpit during his absence. & will go out in Nov. if the Comt. Prefer, as would be his choice, as the time is short to prepare. He wants to know immediately—the necessity of an early reply is apparent to you, if he goes in 3 weeks. Mr. Raymond is waiting the direction of the Comt., he & wife will go if it be God's will whenever the Mendians go. Have you made any inquiries of ___Humphrey, Professor Fleming? & others relative to Mr. R's moral character. I am quite pleased with him, & the Mendians love him very much.

The Mendians were grossly insulted yesterday & last evening some 6 or 8 men of the "baser sort" sure they would have satisfaction of these strangers, why, "because they wore a skin not colored like their own" & will not give them all the walk, at least not the

inside of it. In the afternoon, 3 young fellows assaulted Kimbo, snubbed his nose?, pushed upon him & shook him; notwithstanding all this he forced himself away without the least resistance. Next was an assault on Grabbeau. He went to C. Rowe's store to procure some lamp oil. 4 men met him and pushed or knocked him into the ditch covering him with the oil as he fell. He then escaped to the store. Next some 10 or a dozen of them came up in search of Ceci & Kong who they that might be in the hands of their assailants, they came up & asking one of the men if he struck Grabbeau. Upon receiving a negative answer left him & went to another & asked the same question & he, filled with ardent spirit as well as rage, seized a club or limb of a tree, as if to strike them, they then sprang upon him & a general scuffle ensued & by this time Mr. Deming & myself were in the crowd. They seized Mr. D. (the white villains) & upon this all the Mendians ran to his relief. Upon this, seeing that there was no room for the exercise of reason [I] said to Cinque "Avow" which is "Come here" & then C. repeated it with emphasis & every man instantly left their enemy followed Mr. D & me. They had not gone more than 10 rods before one of the rabble pursued and struck Grabbeau, who then turned upon him & resisted. At this moment Cinque struck or pushed him down upon the ground & then gave him a pretty good drubbing; he cries out "enough" & in the ___ took Cinque's watch. The Mendians then went home quietly & have been ever since. I was delighted with their composure 2 hours after the last affray.

We have instituted process against the ruffians & they will have their trial tomorrow. Our proof's clear & undoubted. More after the trial.

Yours for the oppressed

A. F. Williams