

Reverend & dear Sir –

I fully expected that the N.E. Monsoon, just passed, would waft a letter to us from the Committee, but the last I received is now ten months old & written thirteen months ago (March 10/57); I however comfort myself with the belief that certainly a letter must be on its way & probably has been taken to Bombay by Mr. Deimler.

We find that we have to wait much longer for a new Consul than we at first thought. Till now we do not even know of the appointment having been made or not. Of the expedition also no tidings have been received yet during this year, & no caravan is expected to arrive with news of the Interior before another month or two. The reports received from them, in Oct. or Nov. last, will have been known in Europe months ago.

I have been enabled to prosecute my studies in perfect peace & quietness. In Dec., I sent a messenger to call Abe Gonja. He arrived in Rabbai on a Sunday & found him with three other men assembled, keeping the Sabbath day & engaged in reading & spelling. One of them at once determined to accompany Abbe Gonja on this his second visit to Zanzibar & they arrived here on Christmas day. A better Christmas present we could not have received. On seeing this man we also thanked God & took courage. Even the Mohammedan messenger when about 20 years ago had been a sepoy in the Begal army, related the fact with evident pleasure that he had found Abe Gonja with three other Wanika assembled for reading on our great day. When Abe Gonja returned to his home in Sept. last, I indeed thought to have some reason for hope, that, as his countrymen had been deeply humbled, the account which he would bring them of what he saw & heard here, might not be wholly lost on them. The fact that I continued, even at a distance, to be engaged in their behalf, in writing their language & teaching Abe Gonja, must certainly at last prove to them, that we had no secret & selfish object in view in coming to their country, but that truly we must have come only to teach them our book, as containing the word of God. Abe Gonja himself had still to learn the difference between a "Musungu" who is a teacher & one who is not, & it was only here, when he saw the respect with which I was treated by other "Wasungu", & also the much greater comforts of living we enjoyed here, that he learned to form some idea of the sacrifices we made by staying in his country. My hope was not disappointed. While they had looked on his following us to Zanzibar & leaving his wife & children behind him as an evidence, that he was not yet perfectly cured of his former insanity, & predicted, that he would once more return to his country, he now appeared to them as one who had chosen a better part, & some of them expressed even a desire for our return, when they would also enter the book". The one who accompanied him here, had been a charmmaker (such as they are used for plantations). He leaves his countrymen without further excuses. Merenge had been to them no person to go by, because he was a helpless cripple, neither Abe

Gonja, because he had been insane. Now there is a man sound in body & mind, who has thrown away his charms, & according to their language, "Entered the book". Yea even the wife of Abe Gonja who had always seemed harder & darker than others, appeared softened on his return. She had begun to pray to Christ & wondered that she felt strengthened by it in her solitude. Now, I believe, the time has arrived, when Abe Gonja is to be baptized. I parted from him & his friends eight days ago, when they left for their home, & held out to them a prospect of my visiting them in Autumn on the change of the Monsoon, but our returning to them for good could hardly be thought of when an other Consul would have come. They expressed their belief, that God would direct all things well, as He had begun already to make a way for the gospel to come to their country. Abe Gonja made a good application of the words of Christ in Luke 7, 32, that God had piped to the Wanikas by our coming & opening to them but they would not dance, now he mourned unto them by having sent the Masai, to see whether they would weep. – These people have a wonderful aptness & facility of speech, so that by becoming Christians they also will, to some degree, become teachers, & Christianity, being once really established, may speedily spread from tribe to tribe. – But whenever I remember that a Muhammedan power is standing between us & the heathens, I feel afraid of indulging any great hopes myself & more so of raising them in others, though the humiliation Muhammedanism has received in India will confer some benefit on us in Eastern Africa also. When Abe Gonja went home in Sept. last, he heard the Muhammedans talk in triumph over the power of the English being at last broken, but now that other tidings have come of victories obtained by them, they appear as if they were ignorant.

The old Arab, whom I mentioned in my last, continued his visits to me & wished me very much to accompany him to Arabia, for which he is about to sail, but I told him that without permission from my superiors I could not do so. I believe the controversies I had with him, were of great benefit to Abe Gonja & his friend, who were always listening with great delight.

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