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[1140]

Rec<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir

Knowing that you will be glad to hear from this country I will drop you a line or two. We, I mean my wife & myself are now at King Will Town, about twelve or fifteen miles from Seltra Kroo. After remaining at the latter place fifteen months the Board instructed us to move to this place to form a new station, to be under our direction. The Station at Seltra Kroo, was designed for white persons & yet the Natives call all of us white, not understanding the distinction as it is understood in the U. S. - We have been here nine months but owing to the want of means & to the movements of the Board, we have not been able to do much & are <sup>now</sup> <sup>only</sup> preaching every Sabbath day. I teach some seven or eight boys & girls: But the Lord has been very merciful unto us since we came to this country, in protecting us from harm & in giving us health & notwithstanding he saw fit to take away our first born - God has been mindful of us to a very great degree ever since we undertook to form this Station for we came here under distressing circumstances. We had no house ready for us to enter. We had to rent one, which contained only twelve square feet, for <sup>the reception</sup> my wife, two workmen, a woman & a girl, a young man & three native children & myself. We soon had to rent one more room - in a month's time however we moved into the house that I had building, though no roof. I had to have my wife carried for she was not able to walk & was sick for some time after we entered the house, through it all I could see the hand of God in preserving of life. In two months, after my coming into the house my wife was confined, I had to be Dr, granny, nurse & cook & every thing of the kind. But I must leave my own account & return to the Natives - Two day ago two men died; the way by which they were brought to their end is enough to cause humanity to weep. And it will give you a knowledge of the degraded state in which the people are to whom we are called to labor - There is



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a species of wood called the dancey wood from its poisonous effects, used as a test in finding out witches, this mixture has respects to no one, yet this people think it to be an impartial judge, inflicting death upon the guilty & clearing the innocent." a greater specimen of superstition can be found. An old man went to his palm wine to drink & finding that some one had been to it beside himself, he separated the wine into two things, putting the poison into the one designed for his friend - the man that had been drinking or stealing the wine came & drank the poison, but finding that he was poisoned, threw a part of the mixture into the other. Thus when the owner came he drank poison also - Thus you see the value that is placed upon an immortal soul by this ignorant & wicked people, Two lives have been squandered away for a drink of palm wine; not worth one cent. Two souls have been hurried into endless misery for less than one cent. This is the state in which poor Africa is in & yet there is not a Missionary for every thousand square miles but I trust God that humanity is unveiling her face to behold & help Africa - In as much as you have done much for your own species, will you not try & do a little for Africa before you go hence. You can do something by recommending your church of Africa or by sending us a box of clothes either for my wife & my self, or for the native children, or by praying for us we are at this very needy - I know that from the station that you occupy that your hands are full, yet you must try, since I saw you last, I have been trying to improve myself in a spiritual & in an intellectual point of view, but have made but little progress, I still find that I have a depraved heart. You may pray for me, pray that I may arrive at a greater degree of perfection in every respect. Pray for this people, they are needy.



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I would glad if you will give me some account of the state of affairs in South Hanover. The College & the Church in that place. Let me know something of your Colored members. Mr. Share, Thomson, Sarry, Steps &c. - As I have not been in the Colonies for some time I am not able to say how they are getting on. I long I hope well, however. - If some of the Presbyters in Indiana could Educate a Colored man for this Mission, it would be doing good for Africa. He should have a thorough college course, four year theological course. - I am not in favour of hurrying persons off to Africa, with a competent Education, then they can occupy all the purposes for which a missionary is needed. - The different orders on the coast have employed only one man to be at the head of their Mission operation the other take an under station. - A Colored man ought to take an under station in Africa. If Colored men are Educated they will be respected equal to the white man, these facts are known to your self, so I will add no more, but remain your true friend.

Yours truly  
 A. M. Priest  
 If you send us anything direct to King Will Town, West Africa

King Will Town  
 July 2, 1840