

prepared to do. Richardson's Arabic Grammar and my Arabic
lexicon, if there are any published Arabic & English
I have Willmetts but I hope there may be better
than his. I am certain from a knowledge of this People
we shall need every argument we can bring forward
to face them; and it is only when looking that the promise
of God's Word I have any hope of their conversion.
It is amazing how thickly these People are spreading over
Africa endeavouring to convert the People to their faith.
And thus the want of Christian instructors they too
generally prevail. At Port Loko which is at the head
of this Sierra Leone River the People are all Timanees
of Timanees, but here the Mahomedans have obtained
leave to open a school for their Children to teach the
Koran. There is a Gentleman here in Town who
owns a great deal of land in that Place & is
indeed looked up to in every thing by these People.
He tells me he has often endeavoured to show them
the impropriety of this, but they always silence him
by saying they would be very glad to have their Children
taught God's Word & to have Ministers there but more
will come to them, & therefore that their Children may
not remain in ignorance like themselves
they suffer this. I have promised this Gentleman to go
with them as soon as the Ship's commerce to look at the
place. He has offered to give land to build a house
on to the build the house himself, & also to give a
present towards the support of the Missionary if
the Society would send one. Their language is easily
attained & they are a very quiet People spread over a
large tract of this great Country. I hope my dear
Father will take this into consideration.

There is again to leeward of us a Cluster of Islands
about 40 miles distant called the Plantains the
Property of one Man named Bantler & a considerable
portion of the main land is also his. This Man
received his education in England where he resided
6 years. He has lately begun a translation of the
Scriptures into the Sherbro, & I understand from
those who read it, is very near our version.
He has also translated some of ours & some of Dr.
Watts' Hymns, & keeps Morning & Evening Prayer
in his Town. And he has also by his example
& persuasion prevailed on the People of the Coast for
a distance of from 30 to 100 miles to observe the
Sabbath day. There are certainly great things &
we doubtless precious persons. These Sherbro People
are pure heathens and are our next Neighbours

nowward as the Timanees are upward. This Mr.
Bantler does not (that I know of) exercise the Ministry
but calling his People to Prayer, & most earnestly
wishes for Missionaries. How surely my dear Father
if ever there was a Call here is one. I have stated
some facts & the things themselves are in every one's
mouth. In reference to Health if those few directed
I sent are attended to in the choice of Missionaries
& they will be careful & prudent at first, there is no
so much danger as many represent. I could this
moment place 6 Missionaries among pure Pagan
where there would not exist a doubt under the divine
Blessing of their being gloriously useful, and all
of them within the distance of 120 miles & this
Place would be just in the Centre. I hope my dear
Father will allow me to say this is not the offering
of deal, but the language of certainly springing
from the mature & deliberate consideration & observa-
tion of notorious facts. I have been long enough
in Africa to form some correct notion of the natives
and I do not hesitate to say with respect to
Part of this Country as few obstacles to their
exist as in any part of the World, and when
the soul every where is of infinite value. In
all the force of its feeling, & Powers cries, Lord
us more labourers. So you my dear Father in
In mercy to these poor perishing heathens for
send more help here. Shall we let this Disciples of this
new Importer ride on hump-backs & we tamely submit to it
or shall we more effectually come up to the help of the
Lord against this iniquity. Our Work here blessed be God
still goes on but of this you shall hear by the next
opportunity. I must now conclude as the vessel sails in a
few hours. I hope I am not forgotten in your Prayers
I remain yours affectionately &
Respectfully J. Bantler

P. S. Mr. Nichol will hand you my accounts
you will see what I owe on the Congo account I
have not added that but wait your leave to draw
I shall send a Bill by this for £50 according to Rule
another for that sum must go by the next which you
will please honour
Our house is now comfortable & has a fireplace to the
heavy rains. Not will it want any repairs except a
few shingles now & then for the next 10 or 12 years