

Now a few months residence in England would restore
tone to my Constitution & I should then come back to this
country restored to Health, without being by any means
so liable to ^{fevers} as before, & might then be fit for any
such fatigue as visiting the Coast should you wish it.
I wish to be allowed to ^{visit} ~~Manx~~ because I am fully persua-
ded it would be to the glory of God, my mind has for some
time past, been urging me to solicit your leave, but I have
revised it as I thought it would look so much like ^{disrespect} want of
change; but since I have made up my mind to ask your leave
the comfort I have felt is great

I am here exposed to many temptations and as my dear friends Mr Harvey ^{and} the Ladies are a juncture, so I have found them, & I find temptations at times most grievously heavy. I have maturely weighed the matter & most fervently asked God for direction: and I am persuaded it is my duty to ask your leave to Mary. If I had a wife (a fit one I mean & to such an one I pray God to direct me) she might be of incalculable benefit to my dear Recaptured People & would I own sure find the ~~employment~~ ^{teaching} of them useful & domestic employments, a full reward. There is an idea I believe prevailing at home that Females do not live here as well as Men, but this is without proof: and if Females coming here are of good sound Constitution I will be careful the first year, it is the opinion of Medical Men that they then are not in so much danger as ourselves.

There is a difficulty in the shortness of time for the settlement of such a thing because as I told my dear Father, when I offered myself I was free from engagements: so that there is now both a choice & completion to take place

But should you consent to my request, doubtless some of my dear Father, would be able to point out a fit Person to me, as at present I have no one that I well know of that would suit me and the Station, as both have here to be consulted. Piety, Health, & Cheerfulness (necessary here to health) & a Missionary Spirit, & some degree of what is termed Education the nearer this mark the better for my own satisfaction as I do think an ignorant boorian displaces a Man

There are, qualifications of the greatest importance; but as perhaps when home I might not meet with a suitable Person willing to come to this Climate, I most unhesitatingly promise to return to my Station, should this be the Case (tho I think it is

2nd not likely

I should have an opportunity of saying many things to you which I cannot write, & should I trust be able to afford you some information, you may not yet have received, in reference to this Colony, Mission & neighbourhood.

I know that you will (I very naturally too) look at this expense. If it were in my Power I would gladly bear it but this is not in my Power, yet there is this to be considered. My Passage home would not cost more than to the least India & therefore it would only be the Passage from England here again, & I then should come with much less risk than a first Person, By the time I could reach England my 8 years would be nearly expired & thus I should not intrust much on any Rule or thing I wish always scrupulously to avoid.

However after all I have said I leave myself in your hands, & do trust I should feel resigned were you to think proper not to accede to my request. I yesterday dined with Patit front the Commandant of the Gambia & who is now our Governor & with whom it will be recollected myself & B^d Killison came to this Coast. He felt quite gratified at the idea of residing in the Gambia & expresses himself ready to render us any assistance in his Power. I enquired how we should be situated in reference to our House, & he told me we should procure a lot of Land & must build a stone bottom to it house & must have a porch of wood on the top. He will be returning there just as we are ready to go & will be happy to take us with him, when I be. to get our Passage free. I have now to ask of my dear Father as early an answer as they ^{can} conveniently send.

I remain yours respectfully & affectionately,

Book

Mr. Bunting will be able to give you information of the work as I have written him, we now reach ^{about} 2600, I believe we have turned out not less than 39 Brooms who were a disgrace to us in any place where discipline is at all attended too

Recapitulation

Perhaps my letter in the past referring to my return here
may be thought passed, but all I mean is, that I am willing
to remain here as long as health will, admit; For tho' I must not
not have any ^{known} fears, yet old standards are subject to Chinese Inten-
sification & Dispoxy - the latter of which is almost always the cause
of continued Agues, of which I have had here repeated attacks, & I fear
am constitutionally inclined to it. In either of the latter Cases
remaining here would be madness. I wish to say something to you
about the Mismanagement of this Coast removing to force in case of sickness
an order to recover their health, whilst if I do not come home I will
not write you at large or