

No 6

Sena Leone Feb 14 1820

Rev & dear Fathers

I know not the time you intend sending me the help Mr Taylor speaks of in his letter of Oct 24th but should they not arrive till next month it would be too late for us to make any alteration till the Rains are past, as they would then be on the eve of commencing & should even Mr Talboys come here, his being at the West Indies many years will not screen him here, as People coming here from thence & the most unwholesome parts of the East have stood on exactly the same footing as others, indeed many from the West Indies died last year. His escaping therefore would not depend on that; and again those destined for the Gambia if they went would arrive just as the Rains commenced (granting they could procure a passage immediately on their arrival, which is very uncertain) and as there are no Houses to procure lodgings at there, we should have to face the Rains in some prep Hut, which if I should providently escape, my Colleague humbly speaking would be sure to not stand it. I hope my dear Fathers will excuse the liberty I now take on the subject that letter contains which may throw a little more light on them.

In reference to the Gambia, you will perceive by my letters 1.2.3 written before I received yours, that I shall hail this auspicious event. I do indeed look at it as one that promises much good. The River itself is such an inlet to the interior of Africa & extends so far, as will enable Missionaries to enter the very heart of the Country, and plant the standard of the Cross amidst the delusions of Mahomedanism and the folly & superstition of Paganism; and what there is to encourage us is, that we may in general expect to find the interior healthier than at the mouth of the River. The banks of this mighty stream are inhabited principally by 4 Clashes of People. The Felops, Jaloffs, Foulahs & Maudingoes. The general Religion of the whole is Mahomedanism. tho the great bulk of the People retain their Pagan superstitions.

The Felops are very revengeful never forgiving an injury, yet at the same time they are very affectionate & grateful to their Benefactors. The Jaloffs are a very warlike active People, very much attached to Mahomedanism.