

Talaguga
Ogove River
Gabon & Conico Mission
West Africa

Rev. W. Ho. Belden

Dear Bro,

Just as
your meetings are closing, I respond
to your Circular Letter of date Aug. 1st,
recd. Oct. 22nd. Simply to manifest
my sympathy and interest, and to
acknowledge your courtesy. You
perceive, from the date, that, ^{even} if I
had written on the very day of the
reception of your letter, I could not
have reached you in any time to be
of service to your purpose.

It is possible for a letter to reach
me in 6 weeks from America, if it
makes every connection. But ^{with} the
possibility of a week's delay in England
or France; the probability of a month's
delay at Gabon, and of a week's
delay in the Ogove, I ordinarily

receive letters three months after they are written in America.

I remembered the Week. But there were no gatherings or prayer-meetings in wh. to join you. The only other Station in this River is Kängeve, 70 miles down. Mr. Ford, its occupant, had been away in England since July. On the 12th of this month, I heard ~~that~~ he had returned on the 7th. I had been making monthly journey to his Station, inspecting and taking charge of it in his absence. But, of course, I could make no arrangements with him. And here, ^(at Salagaga) besides my sister, Miss S. A. Murray, there were only 2 other professing Christians, with whom any united prayer could be held.

I can not furnish you any interesting facts, such as you ask for, e.g. seeking for the Light by the nations. The field is a very trying one. If I did not have a

faith in the Future, a waiting for God's time, and a simple respect for the "Go, preach!" without regard to immediate visible results, I would give up the work. The infidel sneer about "rice Christians" finds too frequent and ample basis here for me to deny it, or to attempt to gild our church-members' self-sacrifice, real, or simulated.

Profession of Christianity brings here no persecution, - no pecuniary loss (except the putting away of polygamy, - and even as to ~~that~~ there is actually pecuniary gain to a monogamist), nor ^{now} loss of social position. Even for the great movement at Kängeve during the past year, with 300 or more "inquirers", I suppose ~~that~~ 2/3 have no real desire for the Truth. They are elevated socially by seeking the name "Christian", and receiving notice from the Mission; and, like a servant's written "character" in

America or England, connection
with us, however slight, is an aid
to better wages in the trading-
houses. Very few make any sacrifice:
and, to most, connection with Church or
Mission is socially & pecuniarily a gain.
Out of the 50 Ojore Church-members,
perhaps there are 5 who would, for
the sake of Christ, work for or with us
at less wages than they can get in the
Rum-stained Trading-houses

I am hoping you may have had
some communication in your meetings,
from one of our members, Mr. J. N. Reading,
temporarily residing at Woodstown, Salem
Co., N. J. But he will be on his return
sooner when this reaches you.

There are photographs and African
Curiosities, & you c^d. have the use
of, doubtless, with my brother-in-law
D. Eosman, of Lumberville; or with another
brother-in-law Rev. Swan, of Lumberville, or
with the Officers of the Independent Bk., W. F. M. S.

Fraternally
Your fellow laborer
R. H. Nassau