Preparation for journeying—company—departure—mode of travelling—rice fields—wet ride—arrival—Gilliboh—object of curiosity—fare—native school—American names.

My Dear Reader,—It had long been my intention, whenever a favourable opportunity was afforded, to visit the native tribes and towns in the rear of the colonial settlement at Cape Palmas. That opportunity seemed now to present itself, for all my regular work as presiding elder being finished, and not a vessel making its appearance from the leeward coast bound to windward, I began to foresee that I should have time enough and to spare, for visiting the natives. On communicating my intention to Governor Russwurm, he remarked that he was himself projecting a similar tour, and would be glad if we could arrange matters so as to go together. This was of course very pleasing to me, and we set about the necessary preparations. Brother Herring who had charge of the entire circuit, not having yet visited the native schools under our care, availed himself likewise of the favourable opportunity, and was included in the group of travellers. It was also determined to take one or two colonists of known integrity and piety, and withal popular among the natives. So we pitched on two of the members of our church, well known to the Bush people far and near. Brother John Banks, who talks the Greybo tongue as if he had been born right in their midst and grew up among them, was selected as our interpreter general, and brother Alexander Hance, because of the great attachment of the natives for him, was also requested to accompany us. It is an amusing circumstance that this last mentioned colonist has so completely established his *Christian* character among the natives that the nick-name by which he is universally known is SUNDAY, as if all they were ever taught to ascribe to the holy Sabbath, may with propriety be attributed to him.

The Governor proposed that we should ride. Not on horseback, reader, but on jack-back. So after a pleasant row in a canoe about three miles up Hoffman river, we disembarked, and our donkeys having been taken round and swam across the river, were resaddled, and the Governor and myself mounted, while all the others followed on foot. I say *all* the others, for beside brother Herring who preferred to walk, and the two others named, we had of course to obtain boys to carry our boxes with provisions, and our money, i. e. cloth, tobacco, pipes, beads, &c., &c., without which it would be highly impolitic and unwise to undertake a journey in the interior of Africa.

Our pathway for several miles led through large and extensive rice fields belonging to king Freeman's people. The rice was up, and in some spots eight, perhaps ten inches high, affording one far spread carpet of beautiful green. The Greybo people clear their land better than the Queahs or Goulahs. They *log up*, and burn off with more care, hence there are not seen but very few comparatively of those heaps of half burned logs, and brush, so common among other tribes, and their fields in consequence have more of the appearance of civilized and scientific agriculture than we perceive elsewhere.

Our ride was pleasant so long as our path continued through those rice fields, but after travelling a few miles, we entered upon extensive meadows of a kind of tall, broad leaf, indigenous grass, which made it very disagreeable travelling. For independently of the fact that the grass was in some places as high as our heads, donkey and all, it was all wet, and to pursue this narrow path almost shut up entirely by the luxuriant growth on either side, was to force oneself through dripping leaves, and soon to have our clothing completely saturated. Besides this there were occasionally logs, great logs, across the path, and it required some forethought, and indeed

consultation, which was the best way to surmount these difficulties. It was rather a risk to attempt a leap on the back of a donkey, over a log not unfrequently as high as Jack himself. However, what with alighting sometimes, and letting them get over unburdened with our weight, and sometimes trying our horsemanship, we succeeded, without any other accident than one fall which the Governor had. This was owing however, to a vine growing across the path, which tripped up his donkey's fore feet, and being unexpected, while descending a little nole, away went the rider, into a lodgment, perfectly soft and safe however, of grass and shrubbery.

At about half past one, P. M., we arrived safely at Gilliboh, a large native town, the king of which, a tall, fine looking African named *Quih*, received us most cordially. We had travelled about three miles on the river, and eight by land, making the distance from Harper to this town, by this route, about eleven miles. Besides the African king, we had the satisfaction of meeting with a warm and hospitable reception from our school teacher located here, brother Frederick Lewis, who made every effort to entertain us comfortably.

The Methodist school at Gilliboh has been only recently established. At the close of the last Conference year, the house which brother Williams, the preacher in charge, had been instructed to have erected, by the late Superintendent of this mission, was not finished, nor was it until the beginning of the present year. Brother Lewis was employed temporarily, and began his labours in April. The house is about forty-five feet long, by twenty-two or three wide, thatched roof, boarded sides, and partitioned off at one end for the teacher's residence, which is also floored, while the other part is used for a chapel and school house. Here we took up our quarters, and what with the provisions we carried,—but stop, I should not say *we*, for I was wholly indebted to the hospitality of Governor Russwurm and brother Herring in this matter,—and what with good brother Lewis's effort to please, by adding to our stock of good things, we made out finely. Indeed so far as it regarded myself, it was really necessary that I should repair my physical strength with good wholesome eating and drinking, in order to endure what was before me. Reader, they had rarely ever seen a member of the *pale-faced* race at Gilliboh, some doubtless *never*, until they set eyes on your humble servant. The consequence you may judge. I was regularly beset, and that too with a fearless degree of curiosity far ahead of the Queahs or Goulahs. Men, women, and children crowded around me in suffocating officiousness and familiarity. They felt my skin, examined my hair, pulled up my sleeves, watched every movement, followed me from place to place, and indeed rendered their curiosity most oppressive. The boys of the school, ten in number, were pefectly delighted. Brother Lewis had told them who it was he expected. And now that this *head man* had come, every little fellow must get a chance to hold his hand, one on one side, another on the other, some behind, others before, walking sometimes backwards, the more readily to observe every gesture of the strange being as he moved about the premises. This coming so frequently in contact, would be attended with serious consequences, where cutaneous diseases and filth are so common. But I was *no new man for this country side*, and so ever and anon, unperceived by them, would resort to a thorough ablution of the hands and arms, face, neck, and head.

We had preaching in the evening, but the people behaved exceedingly disorderly. They were little accustomed to religious worship, and talked, and laughed, and acted the uncouth savage to the life. As soon as I gave out the first hymn, after a remark or two explanatory of the character of the exercises we were commencing, and brother Herring had pitched a tune, and the few of us Christians began to sing, why they thought they must sing

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