for independence, will probably be compelled to seek it by force of arms. The nature & habitual policy of that government will almost necessarily lead to this result. Our colony, on the contrary, ought to be republican from the beginning, and formed and fashioned with a view to self-government & independence, with the consent of the mother country, at the earliest practicable period. It is thus only that it can be most useful to the colonists, to Africa, to us, and to the general cause of humanity.

It would, however, be premature to decide at present on the question of incorporation; & therefore, with a view to the interesting part of the case, the agent should be instructed to investigate most carefully, the progress and present state of the Sierra Leone ~~colony~~ settlement, and to ascertain as exactly ~~nearly~~ as possible all the circumstances of its locality, as relates to health, fertility, objects of culture suitable to its soil & climate, navigation, the nature of the country in its vicinity

vicinity, the character situation and strength of the neighboring tribes, and the facilities of communication with the remote and interior parts of the continent.

One very important circumstance in the selection of a suitable place for our settlement, to which the attention of the agent ought to be particularly directed, still remains to be brought into view. I mean the facility of communication with the Niger, that mighty river, which seems destined to supply the link of connection, between the interior of Africa & the civilized world.

It is the question relative to the lower course and termination of the Niger to be now satisfactorily settled. The discoveries of Park in his last journey, compared and connected with the information derived from Mr. Maxwell & others, concerning the river Zaire, improperly called