Re: Dear Sir,

Knowing that you were to be glad to hear from this country I will drop this line on the 29th. We have not yet the necessary means to form a station here to suit our wishes. The station at Bethel Grove was designed for white people and for the Natives. You will understand the distinction as well as I understand it in the U.S. We have been here nine months but owing to the want of means to do the work of the Board we have not been able to do much and have beenおります negotiations to erect a school for the negroes. The present school was built by a gentleman who left the country two years ago. He intended to return and to open a school for the negroes. But he has been very much in debt since he came to this country in protecting us from harm, viz. giving us health. I understand that he was fit to take away our first born—had been mindful of us a very great degree ever since we undertook to form a station for we came here under distressing circumstances. We had no house or food or clothing, etc. However, we moved into the house that I had built through my own efforts. I had to make my own carriages for the car and able to sail it was sick for a time after I entered the house. Through it all I could see the hand of God in preserving us. In two months after my coming into the house my wife was confined. I had to be my own nurse and cook and everything about the kind. I must leave my own account. After a few days we returned to the station. Two day ago two men died. The way by which they were brought to their end was enough to cause humanity to weep and it will give you a knowledge of the deplorable state in which the people are to whom we are called to labor.
A species of God called a fancy word from its poisonous effects, used as a test in finding out witches. The mixture has respect to no one, yet this people think it to be an unparished judge, inflicting death upon the guilty, clearing the innocent. A greater species of superstition can be found.

An old man went to his palm wine to drink & finding that some one had been to divide himself. He separated the wine into two things putting the poison in the one designed for his friend. The man that had been drinking or stealing the wine came & drank the poison but finding that he was poisoned threw a part of the mixture into the other. Thus when the owner came he drank poison also. Thus you see the value that is placed upon an innocent soul by this ignorant & wicked people. Two lives have been snatched away for a drink of palm wine, not worth one cent. Two souls have been hurled into endless misery for less than one cent. This is the state in which poor Africa is, & yet there is not a Missionary for every thousand square miles, but I thank God that humanity is unveiling its face to behold & help Africa. Inasmuch as you have done much for your own people will you not try to do a little for Africa before you go hence. You can do something by sending a few books of mine to your church of Africa or by sending to a few of the native children, or by praying for us as we are at this very needy time. Know that from the station that you occupy that your hand is felt. Yet you must realize if I saw you last, I have been trying to improve myself in a spiritual & in an intellectual point of view, but have made but little progress. I will then find that I have a depraved heart. You must pray for me, pray that I may arrive at a greater degree of perfection in every respect. Pray for the people they are needy.
I would glad if you will give me some account of the state of affairs in South Hanover, the College, the Church in that place, let me know something of your colored members. Mr. Shonn Thorme, Dancy, Stephens. I have not been in the colonies for some time, I am not able to say how they are getting on, I hope well however, if some of the Presbyters in Indiana could educate a colored man this Mission, it would be doing good for this. We should have a thorough college course of four years, theological course. I am not in favour of sending them off to Africa, with a competent education they can occupy all the places, which a missionary is needed. The different orders on the coast have employed only one man to be at the head of this Mission, in operation, the other take an under station, a colored man ought to take an under station in Africa. If colored men are educated, they will be respected equal to the white man. These facts are known to your self. So I will add no more, but remain yours truly,

Geo. W. Priest

If you send anything direct to King Will Down, West Africa.

King Will Dow
July 2, 1859.