

Mss 10

PAUL CUFFE PAPERS

SERIES A

SUB-SERIES 1

FOLDER 8

Colony of Sierra Leone July 22^d 1846
Dear friend Paul Cuffee

I have taken this opportunity of addressing you with
those few lines hoping that this will find you and your
family in a perfect state of health as this has left me at
present. I have made two voyages & amongst the
Shabro tribe buying oil I bought in two weeks two
tons of palm oil and sold it at 3/6 per gallon by the
quantity which amount to £76. 10/ and after
that voyage I was taken sick with the fever and
was very ill for some weeks. I am now striving for
to get me a stone house built and after that is finished
I shall try for to go down to the Leeward Coast in order
for to get a little ivory I have got a little wood on
hand and is trying for to get a little more but I
cannot ascertain what time I shall be ready for
to go to England but I hope that in a short time
I will be better able for to write you more fully
The whole of our passengers has been very sick
with the fever Mr. Hines & Mrs. Jarvis & her
child died with it. They planted their country land
with corn but it did not yield them much corn
in consequence of their not tending it properly.

Provisions in the Colony is very high
Pork is from £ 8 to £ 10 and beef £ 5 butter
2/9^d per lb ham 1/6 per lb. Lumber \$ 8 per
Hundred Samuel Wilson is making out the
bills of all the passengers he has £ 5 per month
from Mr. Nichols for tending his farm
he is about building a stone house on
his own lot. Mr. Nichols brig has
returned home with a very valuable
Cargo and is bound for Sierra Leone
to London Edward wants to get a
voyage in her to London Edward has
been very steady since he has
here. My Father and Mother

writes in expressing their love
to you and family and would wish
for you to fetch out the things that
they send to you for that is two Doyn
Chairs two Doyn plates and a Doyn
Candle^{less} moles one Table and for you
to remember them to Alvan and his
family No more at present

But remain yours

George Davis



SHIP

Capt^m

SHIP

Q

Paul Cuffee

Weymouth State of Massachusetts



1818

Bridgewater October 8th 1816

Esteemed friend after I left you I came safely home
And found all well having an anxiety to right you
I have taken the liberty I hope in a return to hear
of your welfare and your family in whom I

Estem I have seen Elder Paul Senne I left westport
and he was much Pleased to hear of your welfare & family
Wishing a further interview and also much gratified that
you were much in favor of some good institution
Being Established in this Country hoping you will
Be a Father to aid its Progress &

I have thought of late of the Difficulties that are found
in this part of the world and the Evils that result
from them as respects Colored People

first our Propertys are so small that we cannot
Get from one to the other

second if we do transiently see each ^{other} for the want
of a sufficient Education we fail of accomplishing
Every kind of Buisness of a Publick nature

Besides ignorance Produces a grate Deel of jealousy
so that it is almost imposable to form a society

Sir we are in hopes that you will tack a journey this
Way and have the goodness to call and make us a visit
that an open Correspondence may tack Place and I think
for the Better in a number of Sentiments.

in Respects to my affairs Sir I did not meet with
that Encouragement that I expected the week I
Was down to see you I sent one of my Brothers
away with some acres to a considerable amount
But money is so scarce that Repole could not
Pay for them & he left them I mentioned Sir to
you of my affairs at Present I see nothing in favor
of my accomplishing my or meeting my Parents
unless I can get ~~any~~ assistance I had rather come

to get it ^{of} you then Every other Person Because I
can do it with safety By Putting Property into
your hands I have sense I saw you opened a
Trade to the Eastward Country for axes But do
Not find Endless Payment

I could get along very well if my Payments
did not get hear Before I can Possibly receive
Payments

And I thought to right and let you no of the
things as they now stand

if Sir you can get me one Thousand Dollars
Such Security as you require if real Estate
we should have no apprehension of danger and
should Be gratified in Paying you the Exchange
of getting the same

if you can favor us with Every if not so much
you will oblige us much at this time

Please to give my Best respects to
your family

Yours in Esteem

James Easton your

Agent for Easton & Sons

My father with the rest of our folks send there
respects to you & yours

NB Please to right a letter if sent to Mr

Howard's ~~the~~ the Baggage wagon will bring
it immediately to us

PS

Paul Cuffee

Westport

Mass

SSSSSSSS

Eternal Friend

Philadelphia 6 mo: 23. 1816

Thine of 29 Wth advising me of thy safe arrival & return from Serra Leone, was pleasant, And thy Mention of the Independence of mind discovered by Anthony Sumner, as well in not binding himself to fix his settlement at ~~Serra Leone~~ and his prospect of seeing Congo, as his declining to accept of any assistance, I am not disappointed believing that if he holds fast his integrity, he may be made an Instrument of good & of spreading light & knowledge among the Nations of his native Country

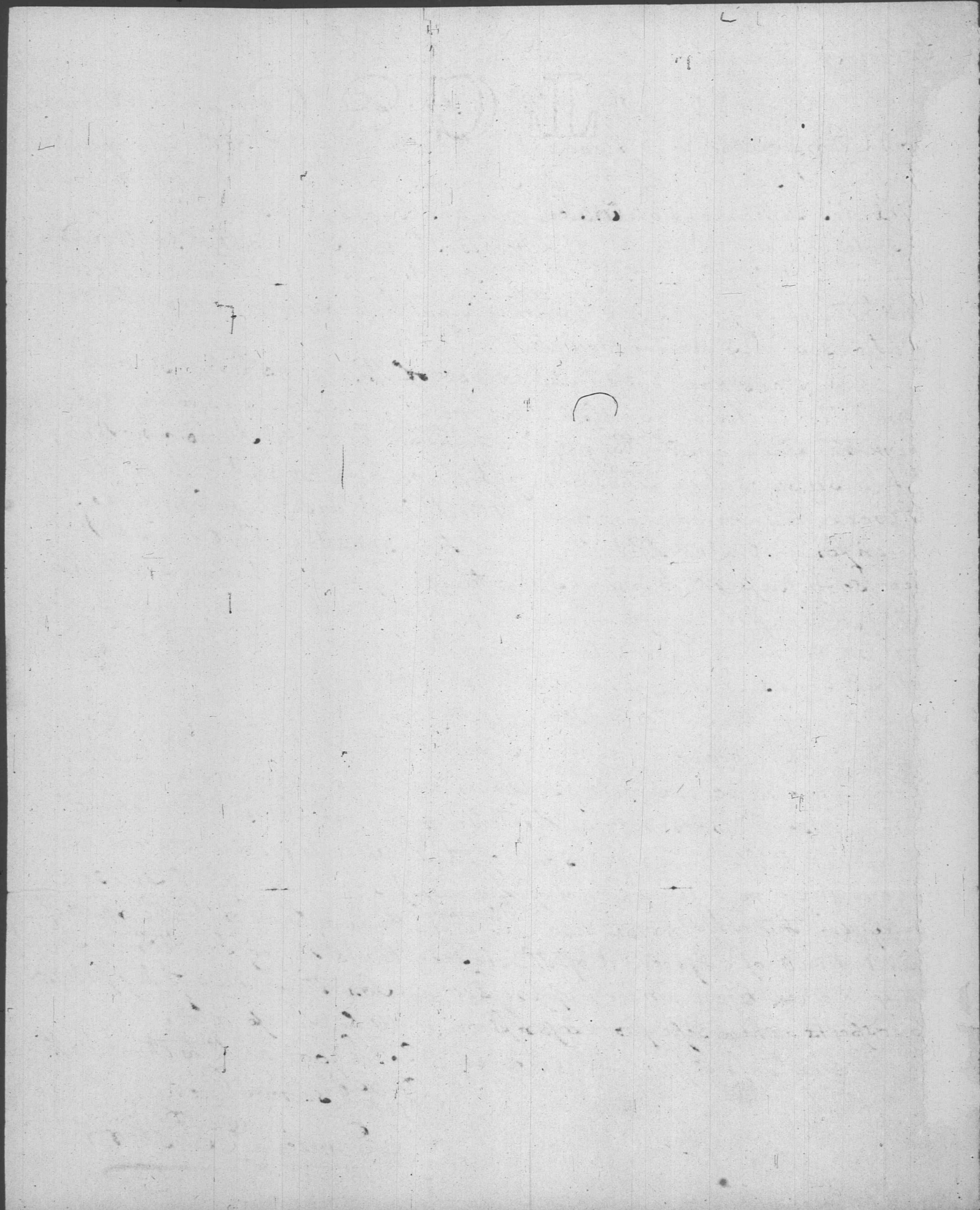
I observe that in the course of thy Transactions with him. The balance settled due from him to thee, was to be paid from the Sale of Anthony's house here, & which I know nothing but a supposition, that I might have been expected to aid therein, till on conversing on the Subject, with Absalom Jones he informed me, that thou had transmitted thy Claim & the necessary papers to James Fortune, by which it seems all in a right way of being faithfully done, so that it does not seem proper for me to take any other notice, than occasionally to enquire of A. Jones & J. Fortune, who are well capable, whether they want any thing to be done by me -

It would have been pleasant to have had some of thy Company here - And as I feel an increasing desire for the good & real prosperity of the Settlement, at Serra Leone, it will be acceptable to know some of the most interesting particulars about it from thee - And of thy own prosperity, which I desire may be thy a Motment, amidst thy Arduous Labor, for the good of the Nations of Africa & of the descendants thereof so long as they have been under oppression - Something also of thy future prospects, when ripe for expression will be acceptable.

My wife & family unite in love & good will to thee, with

Thy Affectionate Friend

Samuel R. Fisher



Chilab^{ga} June 2nd 1816

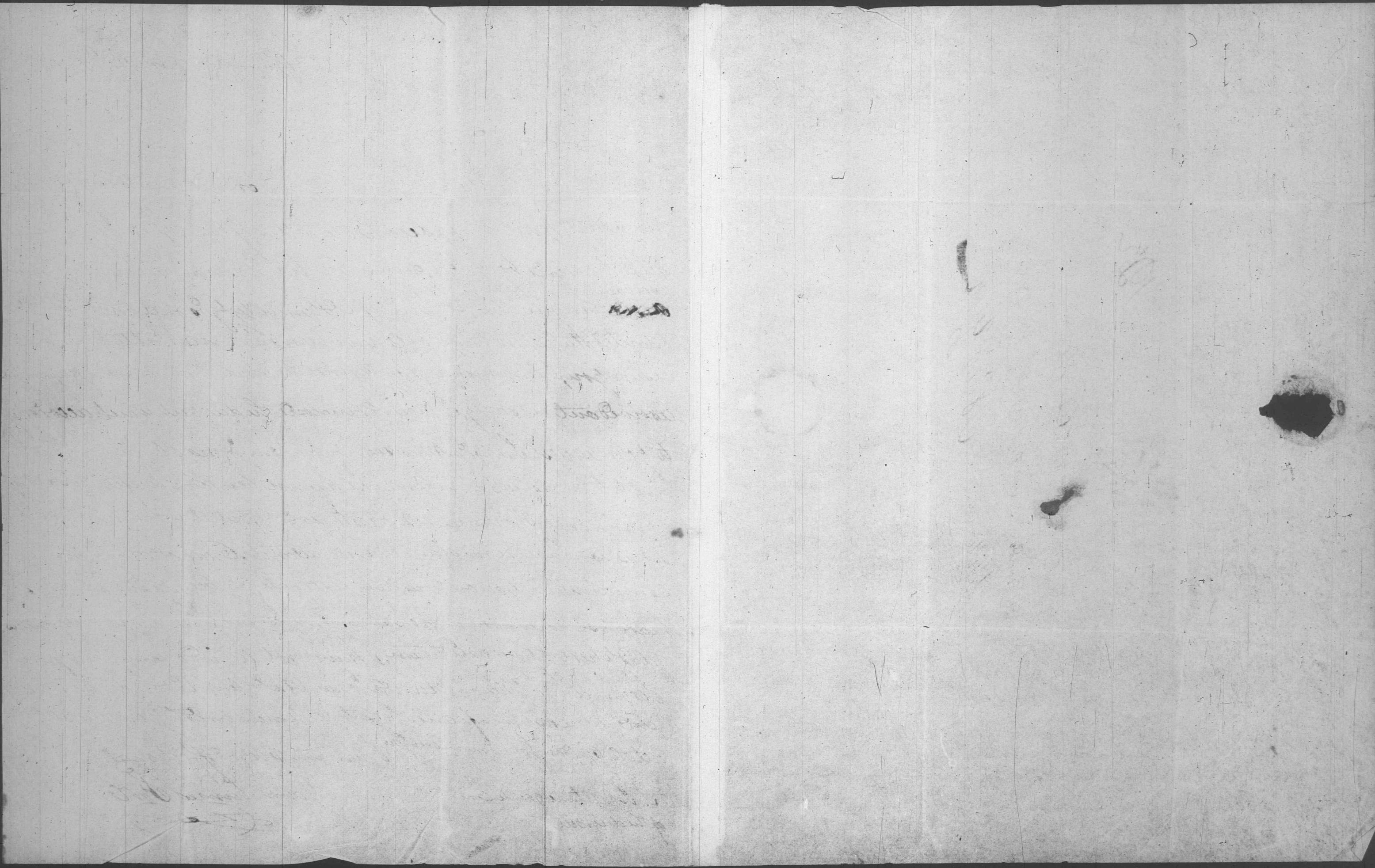
Dear and Esteemed friend~

Permit me to inform

you that your very acceptable letter of the 29th of May, came
safe to hand by post, giving me the pleasing account of your
arrivale
~~again~~ though the blessing of Almighty God, once more to the
United States, nothing could have been more acceptable to me & so
assure you, I am very happy to find likewise that all your passengers
arrived out in safety, I received inclosed the due bill, which according
to your request I shod to the Rev. Absalom Jones. The fact is that
owing to the badness of the times, he has not ben able to effect a sale of
Anthony Servance's property as yet, but it is our intention to
sell as soon as circumstances will admit. Charlotte begs me to
congratulate you on your safe arrivale, and begs that you will some
heart to see us as soon as possible. The James & Family is well and is
glad to hear of your safe return. I have not received any letter from
Servance nor Wilson, Rev. A. Jones. R. Allen. R. Douglass. R. Gordon
and all enquire friends beg to be remembered to you, Charlotte and
all the children joins me in love to you.

P.S. I shall take great care
of the due bill.

I remain very Affectionately
Yours James Forten





12th

Capt Paul Cuffe

On board of Brig Truvel, & to the care of Mr Peter

Williams.

New York

Chilao Sept. 20. 1816

Dear and esteemed friend

This will inform you that your friendly letter came safe to hand by your nephew, which gave me an account of you and Samuel's welfare. I made a Man sail for the South Revolution, and should have answered your letter by her, and I was very desirous of giving you some information of Anthony's services properly. I showed your letter and the acc. current with Anthony, to the Rev. J. Jones, the committee has advertised the property for sale, several times, but so completely is all business stagnated here at present, that I do not believe it would sell at any price, but the committee is resolved to try it at public sale in the course of a week or ten days. I shall then write you the result.

I have according to your desire made all the enquiry that laid in my power relative to the construction and cost of a Rice Mill, but cannot find any one here that makes them, they say that they are made to the south of us like with a saw Mill, I shall still continue my enquiry and should I meet with any I will apprise you of it immediately, we have looked with great anxiety for you staying in a vessel, indeed I am very sorry that you did not. I find that you have ^{at} your letter giving up the idea of going to Africa this year, and will wait until some regulations take place between you and the English Government, which I highly approve of, our Society wrote a letter to Mr. William Allen, apprising him of the establishment of it, dated in December last, but we have had no answer from him.

as yet. I should be glad to know whether you intend paying us
a visit this fall, our Friend John James, desires to be kindly
remembered to you and family, I have had several consignments
of Wines from Oyster, and from other places he is doing very well
and his Son Joseph, bids very fair to become a good young man,
Charlotte, has been very ill with an inflammation of the head, but
thanks to the Almighty, she has quite recovered, give our loves to
young Paul, and his family, Charlotte, and all the children
Join me in love to you and family, The Rev. A. Jones, and
The Rev. R. Allen, respects to you, and the Society in general and
their loves to you.

I remain very affectionately
Yours
James Foster

P.S. I read the report of your Voyage to Africa, as taken from the report
of the African Institution of New York, which gave great satis-
faction to the whole congregation, the same was done in Richard
Allen's Church



PAID

184

Capt. Paul Cuffe

West Port

(Mapa)

1810

Sir,

I now sit down to write to you in behalf of your Sister Molly Sterling, at her request, to inform you that she is well at present and hope these lines will find you and the rest of her friends well. She wants to hear from you very much and would be glad if you would take the trouble to write to her and let her know how you all do, and what has become of her Children where they are and how they prosper. She does not live in Nuttana now but is married to a Timothy Prince, and lives in Benson about twenty miles from here. She was here on a visit last winter and desired me to write to you when an opportunity occurred. She has sent several letters and received no answer.

Mr Sulling informed me that he lived near Mr Howard that married your daughter. I thought a letter would be likely to reach you, as his Father's people are my next neighbors.

Your Sister is anxious to hear from you. She said she had no news to write, but wished you to forgive, yet not forget her.

She would be glad to know whether her Paul be worth any thing that she could receive any benefit from it. She has a very clever man for her husband yet rather poor. Yet they have a comfortable living. She says she wishes to see you once more but does not know that she shall unless you would take the trouble to come and see her. yet blessed be that God who has protected you, so long whilst Thousands have gone to that "bowing from which no traveler returneth"

you will please to direct your Letters to me as I have
opportunities to hear from your Sister every week and
she would get it sooner than if they were directed
to her as she does not live near the Post Office -
she wishes you to give her Love to her Brother Michael
and desire him to write to her if consistent with his business
she sends her Love and respect to all enquiring friends
and relations,

Marion Freeman for Molly Prince
Wuttand Vermont Sept 27th 1816

Dr. I am glad to hear from you and yours. I rejoice to
hear there is a man of colour, that can do good
to their Nation.

I hear by Mr Pulling, that you have been to Africa
to help, and enlighten, those that want help; for that
your honor is most nobly estim'd, you have done
a good deed, and I hope, the blessings of God may
smile upon you, forever & ever.

I have no news, it has been a remarkable season,
our corn is pretty much all cut off, our hay very
thin, yet English Grain is pretty good,
we ought to be thankful for that, for surely the
Lord doeth what is right.

I should be happy if you could make it convenient
to make me a visit as well as your Sister, if you will
take the trouble to enquire of Mr Pulling I trust he will
not speak disrespectful of me altho unknown to you
This from your Friend & Humble Servant

D.

Marion Freeman to

Marion Freeman Wuttand St
Vt

Captain Buff New Bedford Mass

Forwarded by David Pulling

To Capt. Cuff

1876

person Freeman's letter Vermont

Estim'd Fr^d
Puffe }

Newport 9th M^o 27th 1816

I know of no opportunity to forward
thy package to Africa & therefore return it to thee
again agreeably to thy request, tho' I think it probable
that one may present sometime hence, in which
case I will endeavour to send thee notice. —

Soon after I saw thee last I placed thy note
against T Green in the hands of an Attorney here for
collection who forwarded it to another in Bristol ~~for~~
~~who~~ returned for answer that T Green was a
petitioner for the Insolvent Act. & proceedings stayed
against him, but that he (the Attorney in Bristol) had
some accounts in his hands of T Greens against other folks,
& if he obtained any thing he would retain it for thee
— Since which I have heard that T Green is Dead &
I fear thy note is dead also, should any thing be
obtained I will forward it to thee. —

With respect to the two letters, I have not yet
had time to reflect upon them, shall therefore retain
them a little longer. & make them the subject of
a future letter

Please to tell thy son W^m that I
have repaired the watch he sent, & should

Have been glad to have kept her a little longer
for regulation, but the beaver seems very anxious
to take her. — If on trial she does not perform
well, send her round again, & I will do the needful
— she is now under the government of the regulator
& if she needs it he can move it, with the sun
to make it go faster & against the sun to make it
go slower — I am as ever thy affectionate fr^d

Step^r Gould

Friends here are in usual health —
we have lately, at one of our fresh day meetings, had the
company of P Dunham which was acceptable

Since writing the foregoing I have been informed
that there is a prospect of an opportunity to Africa
soon, it is a little uncertain, but sufficient
to induce me to retain thy package a little
longer —

Dear Sir
Puffe

Newport 10th Nov^r 8. 1816

I have perused the two letters thou sent me one from Saml^d Akin the other from Saml^d Mills — The one from Akin, I think, a very good one, the circumstance of individuals having apply'd to the Government of the States of Virginia & Tennessee for liberty to liberate their slaves was new to me, & a renewed evidence that light is gradually increasing in the world — I perceive by a young man who is here from Savannah Geo: that many of the people of that place & there away, are very uneasy with their slaves, but know not what to do with them, & are even afraid of an investigation of the subject in their own minds, the picture as far as they do see it, is so bad that further light they dread, how natural it is for us to fear an infringement of interest & of this appears to be the case with them — they apprehend that full light on the subject would forbid their holding them, & even should they form the resolution not to, the government of that country is such that they cannot free them — the young man observes that several of the more enlightened of them have proposed to establish schools for the benefit of the people of colour, that they may read the Bible, but even this is so much opposed by the more selfish & darkened, as to meet with great opposition. — He mentions a boy whom he hired that manifested a disposition to learn to read, which he has so far encouraged as that he has obtained sufficient knowledge of letters to read in the Bible tolerably well, he further states of having met several sitting by the side of a road together reading (or trying to learn to read) the bible — this looks encouraging on their part, but as respects their naughty task masters, how gloomy!

He further mentions that in that place he with a number of others, have become scrupulous on the subject of War, this is remarkable, as it appears to be the result of their own investigation, they had never heard of the exertions of Noah Worcester & knew nothing of what is going on in the world with respect to it — during the late War several of them refused to bear arms, & underwent considerable persecution on that account, but were finally, after standing their ground like true christians, were liberated by the General —

This set of people (among whom are several women) appear to dissent from the common mode of worship, particularly in formal Prayers, & I told him, if he kept on, he would soon find that they would

needs not that any man teach them. — I have furnished him with several Books relative to our principles, & on War & Very + ~~Pr~~ Barclay, Scott Luke &c &c, & friends, of Peace & wish I had more, as I think there appears to be a great opening to diffuse light —

As respects Mills letter, may be true, the design may be good, but I should as well promote a school under some other institution as a Presbyterian Synod —

I apprehend the time is remote when an American Colony may be established in Africa, but should way open, the plan may be a good one.

I have made inquiry for an opportunity to forward thy letter to Sierra Leone, but cannot find one that in my judgement will do to trust — people say there are one or two vessels fitting for Africa. but on application we shall receive for answer, that they are going to S America for jerked Beef — & my impression is that they are going some clandestine voyage. & people of that cast I am afraid to trust letters with directed to Governors, for fear they might feel a curiosity to read the contents. — I therefore return it to thee, & should any safe & direct conveyance present that I may hear of seasonably, I will try to give thee information.

Thy Tr^d S Gould

1810