

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
From James Nathan Calloway

Lome Togo W.A. Feb 3rd 1901

Dear Mr. Washington Your letter of Dec. 8th. reached us Jan. 22. At the same time each of us received a copy of Southern Letter. These gave us great delight since we have not seen an American paper since Nov. 3rd.

We had a rather pleasant trip out from Hamburg and reached our first point in Africa Dec. 10th. This was Bissao a Portugu[e]se settlement about 1000 miles up the coast from Lome. Bissao is 50 miles up the Geba river and was at one time [a] slave trading post. The natives in this colony are kept in their original state.

Leaving this point we stopped frequently along the coast and went ashore among the natives. The next point at which our vessel stopped was Conakery¹ a French Colony. Here we found the natives as clerks, costum officers, and traders. We visited a little church for the English speaking natives and found it filled with nicely dressed natives and a native preacher conducting the services. Many of these natives have come here from S[i]erra Leone.

Our next stop was at Monrovia Liberia. Here to our sorrow we had only one day. The 6 or 8 hours we had on shore were spent in viewing the town and visiting the Senate which was in session at this time. This body consists of about 22 members. About half of this number were natives or native born. The debate was filled with words of wisdom and showed some statesmanship. This little republic is exerting a great influence upon the natives along the coast below. The Negro here from America must work and thus he teaches the natives to work. These natives are sought by the European vessels for laborers and carried down the coast. In this way they are being used for most [of] the important labor along the west coast. Manual labor is more dignified here than in other colonies. The masters work here.

In the English Colonies we found the natives especially the boys quite improved in education but not inclined to manual labor. They seek to immitate their masters and become English Gentlemen.

Lome, Togo was our first and only stop in German territory. Here the German exactness is in evidence. The natives are made