

19
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Riviera May 15th 1860

Dear Sir

I arrived here yesterday accompanied by Mr. Thron & Mr. Turner, the latter formerly agent of the N.Y. Association for the Blind. I found all well.

I have not had time to form a correct opinion of matters here yet, but I think from what I have seen and heard from Mr. Allen & Mr. Adin that with careful management you will be able to accomplish your object.

I wrote to Capt. Grasson this morning under the impression that there were 50 pupils to be had, but I have

since learned from Mr Adams ~~that~~ ^{after} that the ~~Hondurians~~ ^{officials} ~~they~~ ^{are} at Balise, he thinks ~~they can be held~~ but I would not deem it safe to depend on getting them. We are here without arms there being but three Revolvers in the party therefore I hope you will be prepared to send arms by the first vessel that leaves New Orleans for this place, and every man that ~~can~~ ^{should} be provided with a Revolver.

I think it best to send here a small lot of provisions fifty men ^{all} that are required at present, but they should be sent at once. The ~~lands~~ ^{will} be transferred on or before the 28th quietly, after which the Citizens will protest

~~against the Hondurians~~ ^{officials} remaining among them if the protest is not heeded they will resort to force. They are determined to declare themselves ~~independent~~ ^{and} establish a Republican form of Government or rather as Mr Adams says a ~~rather~~ ^{rather} Government. I believe the Constitution is drafted

I shall scatter the men as much as can be in order to allay suspicion

I shall mingle fully with the blacks to learn how ~~far~~ ^{completely} their feelings. I believe a large majority are in favour the move

The greatest enemy that we have ~~not~~ ^{yet} encountered is our men. I have just

Leard Small has told several
nigroes that he was with
you two years in N. C.

I will write by the
Taylor, which leaves in
4 or 5 days.

Respectfully

J. S. West

J. S. West - Boston
to Wm. M. McKim
May 13th 1860

Rustan June 12th 1860

Genl W. Walker

Dear Sir

At the time of the sailing of the Clifton I was down with the fever & unable to write but I told Mr Allen to do so. However there are some things that he neglected, which I deem it important that you should know

First Mr Turner & Mr Bantley left here at the time I was sick, for New Orleans contrary to my express orders, thereby setting to others ^{an example} that cannot be too severely condemned. Their conduct however whilst here was bad in the extreme, more especially Turners, he could not be kept from rum shops & hence he was constantly drunk. He since he has left I hear that he got credit where ever he could & left without settling. They profess to have made some arrangement to start a paper on this Island, but this is all gammon, no paper here can pay & could, if they are not the men to undertake as important an object as that would be to your future movements, therefore I trust you ^{will} prevent if you can the above ~~named~~ deserters from ever returning here or to any portion of Central America

Mr Allen is quite sick I doubt much his recovery there being no Doctor on the Island I have been compelled to do the best I could for the sick with the limited amount of medicine that we could gather here & there, all the others however are convalescing, they require ~~however~~ better nourishment than I can procure for them why they should be so slow in recovering unless that is it I cannot see, It is said that I had as severe an attack of fever as any and yet I am now able to do soldiers duty

I think it would be well for Capt. Rogers to see Dr Rustan, there is no doubt but he would come out he expressed a wish to do so when I left, he can be

found at Woodman's Drug Store

The Island is very quiet at present. the leading Negroes talk loudly of opposing the Honduranian authorities, but whether this talk amounts to much or not time will decide. The Whites however are generally united & determined to make a bold position. Mr. Willott a white man & a strong friend of yours I hear received a day or so ago 200 or 300 stand of arms from Balise, these are the same that I wrote to you some time since about what disposition he intends making of them I know not, but suppose they are for sale to the Islanders.

There was an anti Revolutionary meeting, called a few days ago headed by one Poppleton (a white man) & they had a very methodical plan, asking the Lord as to prepare the minds of the Darkies, that they might govern quietly to Honduras and thereby become the means of civilizing the benighted Central American also a resolution was passed prizing Indiola to appoint said Poppleton Alcalde or Governor of the Island. This move however, still by this time has died out for the want of a sufficient number of friends - - -

I had intended by this time to have been at Port Royal & should have been but for the sick. I shall move however as soon as they can stand the trip -

The report that Cabanias was in arms against Indiola I believe to be unfounded & one of the many false reports that we are here constantly getting.

It is generally believed here that Mosquito Indians are not quietly submit to the rule of Honduras.

There must have been some misunderstanding between Capt. Pagseous and Mr. Elern in reference to keeping the men here, he has refused to furnish any thing in the way of provisions except a few Plantains

and he has done nothing in the way of administering to the wants of the sick, this I attribute to his enormous love of money. As for the men getting work that is out of question, there is nothing to be done except in their little plantain patches, hence you see we have to rely on you for all our supplies which I trust you will continue to forward.

I suppose we will have the pleasure of seeing you here soon after the 4th of July & I respectfully suggest that you have men enough with you to make a move as soon after landing here as practicable for if the men stop on this Island one month they will half of them down with this fever.

Your Obed Servant
J. S. West

J. C. West - Puatan
June 12th 1860