

Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 6, 1906.

Dear Brother J. Howe:

Christopher came over to see me Friday night, and Joseph last night. They think they can get ready to sail the 20th of this month. The only obstacle in the way is a few dollars that Christopher owes (perhaps less than ten dollars) and Joseph about \$20.00. They each get \$1.75 a day for ^{are} work, which makes but \$10.50 a week when there ^{are} no rainy days, they often getting to work not more than three days in the week. Now judge how much net profit that would leave them for a week. Constance expects to get back from Covington, Kentucky, Monday the 8th. Her mother expects to come back with her to her father's, Mr. Nook's in this city. Constance has all along been eager to go soon. Now all of them, except Constance, have said they will be ready the 20th, and she not heard from. Joseph thinks he ~~owns~~ nothing but that \$20.00, except a note of \$90.00, which the Liberal secretary Bell had him sign for expenses while he was at Westerville. I questioned him closely as to debts. He bought a bed-room set at his marriage for \$35.00, on which he has paid \$15.00, which the Mays, the Jewish firm, will take if the remaining \$20.00 are not paid; and probably sold second hand the set would not bring more than \$20.00.

Now as to visiting Huntington on their way, they can come to Huntington, Monday the 15th, if that is early enough. You only talked of Bessie's coming, but I think care should be used (as you all no doubt intend) to avoid any preference shown to one of the women, or to ^{one of} the men. Indeed I should not be surprized if Constance proves to be the most valuable worker of them all. A ready, energetic mind & ready and generally judicious speech, gives good promise, if she proves pious and good. I think you should all see both the women, as sight, and a little acquaintance, would increase interest in them when they are away, and enhance their interest and understanding in what the Board does. I think the girls promise full as much as the boys. Please let us know the conclusions quickly. M. Wright.

P. S.

Would Monday the 15th be soon enough for them to come to Huntington? Could their tickets be best bought (for New York) at Dayton, Huntington, or Ft. Wayne? Will you get any reduction for them as missionaries, from the railroads? Is it best to have a farewell meeting for them at Huntington? Might not a few presents at a farewell, pay some extra expenses. They will go to Africa about penniless, financially. Will it be best for you or Bro. Stemen to go to New York, to see to their departure to Africa?

Now all turns on the goodness of Joseph and Christopher, and on that of Bessie and Constance. If they are good we never have sent a more promising set of missionaries to Africa. They all have good minds, and they are young and capable. Constance is probably a little younger than Bessie, tho hardly looking it. Prayer and care and encouragement ought to attend them. Encouragement and tenderness are worth "stacks" of scolding and rebuffs.

Please push the matter of getting your mind and instructions back to me. I go to Elida, Ohio, not later than Wednesday, the 10th, to a family reunion, and to see J. Freeman, The White River P. E. So I will have little time to do your bidding.

M. W.

That \$20.00 of Joe's owing, is exclusive of what he will pay from his wages up to the 13th. Christopher may not owe more than \$5.00. W.