

Martin, Joseph Letter

Joseph Martin Letter

1915 October 31



WILLIAM
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CHARTERED 1693

Title Statement

Martin, Joseph LetterGuide to the Joseph Martin Letter SC 01576

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 01576

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/8301

Unit Date

1915 October 31

Language

English

Creator

Martin, Joseph

source

James Arsenault and Company

Extent

0.01 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Scope and Contents

14 page letter written to his father in Washington, DC from a missionary trip in Garmu, Liberia. In his letter, Martin gives great detail of the weather, jungle conditions, and the farming practices of the natives. He informs his father, also, of traditions and cultural practices of the natives, like their worshiping of the cottonwood tree, referred to as the "tree of worship" and musical practices to welcome the full moon. Martin retells of an arduous journey through the bush that came across a washed out bridge. Their efforts to cross were met with many failed attempts and they were successful only with the help of another tribe from the area. Martin concludes his letter by commenting on the current state of missionary work in the area, calling most of it a failed endeavor. He accurately foreshadows the decolonization of Africa saying, "No doubt you would be satisfied to know that some day in the near future the black man means to drive every white man off the face of Africa. Today this is slow but sure unification of the black man is going on..."

Keywords

Liberia

Missions -- Liberia

Rivers -- Liberia

Liberia -- Civilization -- American influences

James Arsenault and Company

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

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Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 109 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

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