

Toussaint During Boukman's Rebellion 1791

This letter, written by Toussaint during the first great uprising led by Boukman, was addressed to Biassou, one of the commanders of the rebellious slaves. It was only in the 1930's that this letter was credited to Toussaint, who functioned as a general doctor in the rebel's camp.)

Grande Riviere
This October 15, 1791

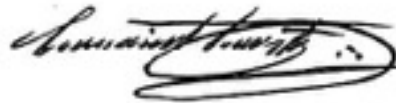
My very dear friend:

In keeping with the request I just made of the Spanish and daily awaiting the thing I asked for, I beg of you to wait until we are in a better state before going on to what you have the kindness to write me about. I have too much of a wish to go, but in all the habitations I would like to have crowbars in order to have the rocks of the mountains of Haut du Cap fall to prevent them [*the slaveowner's forces*] from approaching us for I think they have no other means without exposing their people to a slaughter. I ask that you make sure with the spy you have sent to have him clearly explain where the powder works are in Haut du Cap so we can succeed in taking the powder works. Thus my friend you can see if I took precautions in this affair you can tell this to Bouqueman. As for Jean Francois he can still go in a carriage with his ladies, but he hasn't done me the honor of writing to me for several days. I am very surprised by this. If you need tafia I will send you some when you'd like, but try to use it sparingly. They must not be given this so they won't be disturbed. Send me a few barrows for I need them to transport wood to put up the cabins at the tannery for my people.

I ask you to assure your mother and sister of my humble respect.

I have the honor, my dear friend, of being your very humble, obedient servant.

To M. Biassou, brigadier of the King's Army at Grand Boucan



Source: *Toussaint Louverture Fonde a Saint Domingue la Liberté et l'égalité*, by General Neomours. Port-au-Prince, 1945;

Translated: for Marxists.org by Mitch Abidor;

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