

The New York Times

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PYGMY TO BE KEPT HERE.

Colored Ministers Want to Take Him When Guardian Comes.

Ota Benga, the African pygmy, is to stay at the Zoological Park a few days longer. This was decided at a conference between Director Hornaday and the committee of Baptist clergymen appointed by the Colored Baptist Ministers' Conference, to save Benga from appearing on exhibition in a monkey cage, and if possible, also to get custody of him.

The length of time he is still to remain and inmate of the primate house in the park is dependent on Dr. Verner's return from North Carolina. As soon as he returns he, Director Hornaday, and the Rev. James H. Gordon, the Chairman of the committee, will have another conference. The colored Clergymen will then try through Mr. Gordon to get possession of Benga, so that they may send him to Lynchburg, Va., to be educated.

There is a hitch at present on the matter of signing an agreement. Director Hornaday, who is willing to give up the custody of Benga, is not willing to give him into the hands of the colored clergymen without an agreement that he will be delivered to Dr. Verner again when he wants him. That was the understanding which Director Hornaday had with Dr. Verner when the latter allowed him to go to the Zoological Garden.

Benga had a new guardian yesterday, a tall colored man. This colored man took no chances with the crowds. He kept Benga on the move most of the time, leading him into secluded wooded spots in the park, and waving the crowd back as he entered.