

The New York Times
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STILL STIRRED ABOUT BENGA.

Negro Communities Heard From – He Is Happy Now He Is Free.

Although Ota Benga, the pigmy, brought here from South Africa by Dr. Verner, the explorer, is no longer caged with the monkeys in the Bronx Zoological Park, letters about the indignity put upon the negro race by his incarceration there are still reaching THE TIMES.

The Rev. Dr. M. W. Gilbert, pastor of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, writes expressing his regret that he was not in New York when the other colored ministers voiced their indignation.

“Only prejudice against the negro race made such a thing possible in this country,” Dr. Gilbert writes. “I have had occasion to travel abroad, and I am confident that such a thing would not have been tolerated a day in any other civilized country.”

Dr. Gilbert says that the matter is stirring up great indignation among the negroes throughout the country, and he incloses as a proof of this a communication from a special committee of the Minister’s Union of Charlotte, N. C., adopted unanimously by the union, which says among other things:

“We regard the actors or authorities in this most reprehensible conduct as offering an unpardonable insult to humanity, and especially to the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ota Benga is now enjoying himself fairly well in the park, when not bothered by unruly visitors. He wears in these days a natty suit of white duck and canvas shoes. He walks about the park a great deal, but yesterday was so rainy that he spent most of the day in the Primate House. When he feels in the mood he good-naturedly lends a hand to the keepers in doing some small piece of non-fatiguing work, about which he learns from signs by the keepers.

In the afternoon he mingled with the crowd. He would let some child grab his hand, would say a few smiling words in his native tongue, and then move on to the soda fountain. He likes American soda drinks.