

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper

VOYAGE OF THE SHIP HUDSON.

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND, January 7th 1864.—The council of Elders adjourned. In company with several took train for London and arrived at 4:30 p. m. I found several letters from the Swiss, Italian, German and Holland missions, which I answered as per previous instructions from President George Q. Cannon. The damp, foggy weather of London takes hold of me rather severely, and I have a severe cold and cough, with a hoarseness that causes my voice to sink to a whisper. Being unwilling to give up I keep moving.

Sunday, the 10th, London conference convened, President George Q. Cannon and numbers of valley Elders being present. It seems like a continuation of the good times enjoyed at the general council. Hall filled to overflowing.

Appointments arranged that I hold meetings nearly every evening, Sunday mornings priesthood, afternoon preaching and evening. Thus I have an opportunity of bearing my testimony to many people in the great city of London. I find an occasional opposing voice raised; and I can only acknowledge God's power in giving me the right words in the right place, necessary to silence every opposing voice. To Him be all praise. I find many come out of curiosity to hear what a cousin of the Prophet Joseph Smith would have to say. Often upon arriving at places of meeting I found them filled and many standing around the entrance, reading notices. Upon glancing at one of these I saw in large letters, "Come everybody, come all, and hear the cousin of the great Prophet Joseph Smith preach," giving the hour. O, how small this made me feel! I could only say "Father, Thy will not mine, for I can do nothing myself, but I will get up and open my mouth. If Thou fillest it I shall speak, otherwise I shall sit down. O, Father, help me, for I am nothing." Upon reaching the stand and looking around I could see the people whisper to each other, and must say I could not help but hear words like these, "A lion," "A giant." I must say it seemed a mockery, for I was too hoarse to speak scarcely above my breath, and again I said, "Father, Father, remember me." At one of these meetings enough were gathered of the Saints near the stand to sing, after which the president prayed. How fervently I watched each word; after another hymn the president of the branch arose and introduced me. I arose and looked over the congregation; every seat filled and even crowded. I turned to the president and asked if the large windows on the side next one street could be opened? He replied yes, and the big door on the end; after this was done, I said in a low voice: "My friends you will favor me by being very quiet that you may all hear." As I took the stand with the Book of Mormon in my hand, it seemed that the flood gates of the Holy Spirit were opened and I spoke with a clear voice for over one hour and a half loud and distinct; three times a man arose to his feet and said, "It is all a lie," and seemed determined to break up the

meeting. Turning to him I said, "Sit down until your time comes," and he sat down; but soon stood up again. I said, "Sit down, sir," when he dropped to his seat, but soon sprang to his feet and said "The Book of Mormon is all a lie." I then said in a voice of thunder, "Sit down," when he dropped into his seat, and I said, "You have at one time preached the Prophet Joseph, and proclaimed the Book of Mormon as true, but through your wickedness you have lost the spirit of truth, and have become an opposer, and I tell you in the name of the Lord if you raise your voice again against the truth you shall speedily be smitten and ere long die in the streets begging your bread, with none to befriend you, only those you have persecuted." Here he began stamping upon the floor, when four of the deacons took him on their shoulders through the alley and placed him outside the door. Soon all became quiet and our meeting was continued to the close. After the meeting I learned from the Saints that they had often been disturbed by this man's noise and that he was an old apostate. (I afterwards learned that his end came as promised.)

These opportunities given me were of untold worth and highly appreciated by me, for I truly know that the power of God alone gave me utterance. Praise and honor be to Him. I had much opportunity of learning the shortest and best routes of travel from place to place through the great mart of human life and trade, the city of London. I often found myself in families of the Saints conversing with them when the great clock bells would admonish us that morning approached, and as each day passed I desired only to do more good. I became more than ever satisfied that there is no place where an Elder can do more good than as a traveling teacher among the Saints, if he is humble and prayerful; he will have the Spirit to counsel and advise, instruct, trim and prune, and work around each plant, and do that which will improve the growth of each stalk; to comfort and cheer all. "A soft answer turneth away wrath" is surely a true adage.

Early in March, 1864, I received a letter from President George Q. Cannon, Liverpool, appointing me to act as passenger agent in London for the Swiss, Italian, German and Holland mission, to look after our emigrants and keep the brethren in these different fields posted, etc.

April 1864, I met President Cannon at the London office and spent some time with him there seeking instruction on the various items necessary to enable me to do what was required. I also with him and brothers Joseph A. and John W. Young visited several of the noted places of the great city of London, the tower, the monument, the Thames tunnel, etc. Meetings I continued nearly every night and they grew better and better every time. Many who came out of curiosity at first are now regular attendants. About this time I was relieved from meeting and filling these appointments to look after emigration business.

April 21st, I received notification from President George Q. Cannon that the ship "Hudson" had been chartered to

sail from London about the middle of May, 1864, with our people. I immediately wrote the brethren on the continent to that effect.

Sunday 24th, I addressed a large assembly at the Goswell road meeting room, portraying some of the annoyances to be encountered by emigrants en-route to Zion, both by sea and land, showing what folly for any one to think they were the only ones who wanted comfort or aid, for each had some failing to overcome, and by being kind and ready to help all, and especially one's self as much as possible, was the way to secure helpers when we should need them.

On the 26th, I received lists of Saints from Timothy Mets, Holland, of those intending to sail on board the ship "Hudson."

On the 28th, in company with J. L. Barfoot, visited Shadwell Basin and the ship "Hudson," and made arrangements for lodgings for the Holland Saints.

May 1st, 1864, in company with Elders Bullock and Barfoot I visited the chapel of the renowned Rev. Dr. Spurgeon, and listened attentively to his sermon. I became fully convinced that he had made out a grand awful nothing; and that he is either dreadfully ignorant or wilfully wicked; that he has got into the mud and a long way from water. In the afternoon I preached at Kennington hall to a full house, and in the evening at the Paddington branch and the Lord truly gave utterance and words in abundance. Monday, the 2nd, I met Elder T. Mets from Holland with a company of emigrants and piloted them to lodgings I had saved for them. Thursday, the 5th, I attended a meeting of the London pastorate priesthood and was released from all appointments for preaching that I might attend to emigration business.

On the 7th I received notification from President George Q. Cannon that I was to sail with Saints on board ship "Hudson" for New York, U. S. A.

May 10th, 1864, I received a list of 100 names of emigrants from Elder W. W. Riter, Geneva office, Switzerland, to be in London on the 11th; and immediately arranged lodgings for them.

May 11th met and took the company to their lodgings, and with Brother Riter went to the London office, where we found President Cannon just starting for Liverpool. Brother Riter accompanied him. I returned to Sun Court and took up my quarters there, and entered fully into looking after the welfare of our emigration. I got my trunk and bedding from the place where I have been staying and kept busy early and late to see all was right, occasionally changing foreign money for the people and generally saving from two to three pence per pound for them. Brother Ulrich Forrer assisting, we got our lists of emigrants, and Brother Mets the Dutch lists (thirty) all in order.

May 16th—Elder W. W. Riter returned from Liverpool and we got everything arranged for necessities for the company. Brother T. Mets was taken with high fever and was raving for some hours each day and would not be still only when I was by his side.

Received many visits from London Saints to see the Saints of our company. A number of friends joined and brought an Enfield rifle which they presented to me, with the fixtures, for which I feel to bless and thank them heartily.