

For the Deseret News.

SONG OF THE SAINT.

Farewell, my native land, farewell,
Thou hast no charms for me—
I go with Zion's sons to dwell—
'Mongst noble men and free.

CHORUS.

Across the mighty deep we roll,
With spirits bold and free;
Blow gentle gale, fill every sail,
And speed us o'er the sea.

Adieu to priestcraft, pomp and pride,
Oppression and distress;
I go the laws of God to abide,
With those the Lord will bless.

No earthly tie or sympathy
Shall cause my heart to grieve;
I leave them all, most joyfully,
With saints of God to live.

What is the joy the world affords?
What are its happiest hours,
Compared with those consoling words,
"Eternal lives are yours?"

I'll go to Zion's peaceful vale,
And learn celestial love;
And there prepare with Gods to dwell,
In realms of bliss above.

Oh God! preserve us on the way,
Our lives and health defend;
Let angels guard us night and day,
Unto our journey's end.

Across the mighty deep we roll, &c. C. W.

THE INDIA MISSION.

BY ELDER CHAUNCEY W. WEST.

SAILING ALONG THE MALABAR COAST—
ISLAND OF JAVA—BORNEO—BANGA—ARRIVAL
IN CHINA.

LETTER NO. 3.

Jan. 9, 1854.—We gave the printing hand to Prest. Findley, and the brethren in Bombay, and took passage on the ship "Cressa," Capt. Bell, for Java (at this juncture I cannot do justice to my own feelings without expressing my unfeigned gratitude to brother and sister Davies for their unceasing kindness to us during our sojourn in Bombay).

From Bombay we sailed south-east along the Malabar coast. On the 14th we passed the ancient town of Goar, it being the first town settled by the Portuguese in India. On the 15th passed the town of Calicut, and on the 21st passed the town of Cochin, where several natives came on board, who supplied us with fruits of various kinds.

Feb. 3.—We crossed the line; the heat of the sun was almost suffocating. On the 14th we spoke the ship "Burlington," of Liverpool, Capt. Gamble, who left Bombay the day before we did; he came on board our ship and counseled with Capt. Bell on the propriety of taking the north-east passage from Java round Borneo, thinking by doing so they would beat several captains into China who left Bombay before us, calculating to take the eastern route. They finally concluded to take the north passage, although a ship had not taken that route for 30 years. On the 24th we sighted the island of Guenna; the 25th, passed the island of Berila Buissa, and entered the straits of Sunday on the 26th in the morning, when six natives from Sumatra came on board with some very nice shells, cocoanuts, and monkeys to sell.

In the evening we arrived at Batavia, where we found there were no vessels sailing to Singapore, with the exception of two Malay junks, and it was not considered safe for a white man to trust his life with that people; the laws were such that we could not stop there, as no stranger is permitted to tarry in the city unless he has means to take lodgings at some licensed public house, and the landlord has to examine the size of his purse, being responsible for the sustenance of all he has taken in, and obliged to see them conducted from the island. This being the condition of affairs, and Capt. Bell having proposed to let us go on with him to China, it seemed that the only and best chance was for us to accept the offer, and try and make our way from there.

March 1.—We left Batavia and sailed into the Java seas; on the 5th we neared the coast of Borneo, passed the island of Button, and in the evening entered the straits of Macassar. 6th, sailed between the Bush island and the coast of Borneo; the tide was so strong, with the wind light, we came near running ashore on the island; had to anchor until the tide changed. 7th, we sailed between Borneo and Macassar.

On the night of the 9th we encountered a very severe storm, which carried away the jibboom, and split near half the sails on the ship. On the 10th we were sailing close along the shore of Borneo, found a very stiff tide, and the wind being light, we had to come to anchor.

We were seven days beating trying to round Kenneecoon Point on the coast of Borneo. We would beat all day, tacking ship between thirty and forty times, and getting within 3 or 4 miles of the point, and it then would become a calm; and during the night we would drift back to where we were in the morning.

On the fifth day, Capt. Gamble, who was in company with us, rounded the point and went out of sight. On the evening of the seventh, our Capt. got discouraged and thought he could not round the point with his craft, the tide was so strong, and he supposed Capt. Gamble had gone and left him; he swore he would strike across the Selebecean sea and take the eastern route.

As we left the land and got from behind the point in the open sea, we could see the ship Burlington in the distance, the captain of which, as soon as he saw us steering in that direction, mistrusted what was up, and steered after us, and the next morning informed Capt. Bell he had been waiting for him.

About 12 o'clock the wind fell, and it became a calm and continued so until the next day at noon, when they ascertained they had drifted 40 miles from where they were when they left the coast, and they became satisfied that they could not stem the tide and cross the sea with

the light winds which they would naturally get at that time of the year, and the only chance would be to go back in order to take the eastern route.

Capt. Gamble finally persuaded Capt. Bell to go back and try and round the point, thinking the tide would not be so bad. We struck the coast some 40 miles below where we left it, and commenced to beat again, and continued for three days, but could not round the point. They discovered as they supposed, a small bay or eddy between the point (which extended into the sea some three miles) and the main land, and concluded to run their ships in there and lay till morning, when they would get the breeze and could round the point, as they would not have far to beat.

About 10 p. m., Capt. Bell discovered that the ship was drifting ashore; about the same time, Capt. Gamble, who was about a mile above us, fired a cannon and made a blue light, which was a signal to us that his ship was near going ashore, and in great danger (I will here mention that they had a list of signals wrote out and each one had a copy).

Capt. Bell gave immediate orders for the three small boats to be let down and manned, made fast to the ship with a line, to row ahead of the vessel and try to tow her off; but we found we could not make any impression upon her, as she had got so near the shore that the swells of the sea had full control of her.

At this time Capt. Gamble shot a rocket, which was a signal that he was out of danger. Capt. Bell saw that our ship was nearing the shore very fast, and finding the water too deep for anchorage, he gave orders for a cannon to be fired and a blue light to be made, as a signal to Capt. Gamble that we were in great danger. In a few minutes more the stern of our vessel commenced to thump on the rock bound coast.

Capt. Bell then gave orders for two cannon to be fired, two rockets to be shot, and a blue light to be made, for a signal to Capt. Gamble that we were ashore, and wanted immediate help; who instantly sent to our help his first mate with two boats well manned. They hitched on with our boats and tried to tow her off, but all to no purpose; the Capt. then gave orders to throw overboard some of the cargo to lighten the stern of the vessel, as he was afraid the rudder would get unshipped. While we were throwing over cargo, she swung round broadside on the shore, where she lay perfectly at the mercy of the swell, which was dashing her against the rocks.

As she struck very heavy in the centre, the Capt. saw something must be done or she would break in two; he therefore sent to the Burlington and got a kedge, (a small anchor) made it fast to a hawser (a large rope) took it out from us the ships' distance and let it down in 270 fathoms water; made the other end fast to the capstan, and commenced to heave and thereby threw her bow off so that she did not strike so hard in the centre; she lay in that position until day light, when the tide commenced to ebb, and the stern swung off.

The night was dark, and not a breath of wind, otherwise she would have gone to pieces in a very few minutes. At day light it was still a calm, when the two mates, the doctor, the carpenter, Elder Dewy and myself went on shore. We found the land densely timbered, plenty of cocoa nuts, some few berries and large numbers of monkeys, who showed off their gymnastics among the trees; we also saw droves of wild hogs.

While we were traveling in the woods, we came to a wet marshy place, and could discover marks of the feet of the lion and the tiger; having no weapons of war with us, we concluded to beat a speedy retreat.

About 1 o'clock p. m., a good breeze sprung up; we made sail and steered for the point, and rounded it at 4 p. m. While we were beating to round Kenneecoon point, we crossed the equator twice in each 24 hours; once when we beat up in the day time, and once when we drifted back in the night; the heat of the sun was almost unendurable.

A few days after, she ran upon a coral reef, causing a portion more of her cargo to be thrown into the sea to lighten her, so that she could be got off. I will here mention that there was scarcely a day during the passage along the coast of Borneo but what we saw reefs or shoals, consequently had to keep a boat ahead sounding; we sailed nearly three thousand miles in an open boat steering, rowing or throwing the lead, and the sun hot enough to bake one's brains.

On the evening of the 24th we went ashore on Borneo with our Capt. and six seamen accompanied by Capt. Gamble and eight of his men, we saw some natives but they would not come to us, on our return to the vessel we found a fine lot of turtles but their shells were so hard that we broke our spears and did not get many.

March 26th,—while we were ahead sounding, a shark about 20 ft. long came up to the boat, and made a lounge at the man who was throwing the lead, he saw it in time to throw himself down in the boat, when it struck one of the oars with great violence and nearly capsized the boat.

On the 31st the captains thought they had got out of the reefs, as they were in an open sea and neither reef nor island in sight, they therefore concluded to give the men rest and not send any boats ahead. In the evening Capt. Gamble ran his ship on to a reef when under good headway; on seeing the reef he immediately let go his small anchor thinking it might drag along and not bring up the ship so sudden, but the cable broke and hence to him the anchor lost. He then let go one of his large bower anchors, which stopped her just in time, as she would touch occasionally when she rocked.

Our captain did not see the reef until the ship touched, but she was under such headway that she went over it although she bumped several times very hard.

April 2nd we lay becalmed between Borneo and several small islands, when a number of small boats made their appearance in various directions and continued to increase until they numbered over one hundred; they were gathering in towards us and from their movements we believed they intended giving us battle and taking our ship if they could; Capt. Bell became much alarmed as Capt. Gamble with his ship was several miles ahead.

He then gave orders for the cannons to be loaded with shot, and all the fire arms on board to be put in readiness, also that the cook should fill his boilers with hot water and grease; we had everything ready and waiting their approach, when a little wind sprung up and increased to a stiff breeze when we soon left them and sailed close

alongside of the island of Gai, and in the evening came to anchor near the shore of Borneo; during the night we saw large fires on the shore and heard the natives howling, yelling and making a tremendous fuss.

On the 4th in the after part of the day there was no wind, we went with Capt. Bell and 6 seamen to the "Burlington" to fit up for an excursion on shore; at 2 p. m. we started, being accompanied by Capt. Gamble and 8 of his seamen, all well armed; shortly after reaching the shore we saw some natives but they seemed afraid and run from us, we walked along the shore for several miles and collected some very fine specimens of coral and shells.

On the 7th of April we lay becalmed between the islands Tuscany, Toquet and Paggoner. We went ashore with Capt. Bell on the latter island; though it had a fine appearance, it was uninhabited, well timbered but very little game; we saw hundreds of turtles but they were very wild; the captain struck his 12 feet long spear into one of them, but it darted off with spear and all.

While we were in the Selebecean sea near the entrance of the straits of Banghey we had sailed for 2 days without seeing a reef or finding anchorage. The captains were in hopes we had got through with reefs and did not send a boat ahead to sound.

On the night of the 11th of April, as pleasant a moonlight night as we could wish to see in a tropical climate, we were sailing with a firm breeze at the rate of 7 knots an hour, the captain was on his lounge on the poop deck, the officers and ourselves were listening to the sweet strains of the violin as played by the third mate, the sailors on the forecabin were singing songs, and all was mirth and glee, thinking we had got through with pulling oars and heaving the lead. All on a sudden the ship ran into a reef, and as the water shallowed gradually and the coral alive and soft, she fastened herself as firm as if she had been in the stocks; when she struck, it was most terrific and not unlike the shock of an earthquake.

The captain immediately gave orders for two cannon to be fired, two rockets to be shot, and a blue light to be made as a signal to Capt. Gamble (who was about a mile to the windward) that we were aground and wanted immediate assistance; he bore down towards us when Capt. Bell sent out a boat and requested him to come and anchor near the stern of our vessel as we had sounded and found the water 7 fathoms deep; he came to anchor about a cable length from our ship, we then passed two nine inch hawsers from his foremast to our capstan and windlass and commenced to heave but without effect, then passed two hawsers from our middlemast to their capstan and windlass; we could not move her, but dragged the anchors of the other ship.

The captain then judged it impossible to get her off without lightening her cargo; he then called his mates and took a survey of the ship and commenced to throw over cargo and continued until we threw out nearly all on board, when all of a sudden she slid off and swung round.

Bales of cotton and other goods could be seen floating in every direction. The next day we made sail and steered on our course. On the 13th we entered the straits of Banghey, passed the beautiful island of Mulwally, noted as being the place where the English planted a small colony in the year A. D. 1700, who were all massacred by the Malays.

At 1 p. m. we were sailing opposite the island of Banghey. Capt. Gamble having only a few days' supply of water on board, wished to go on shore on that island to obtain as much as would last him until he reached China.

Mr. Ausburg gives an account of a stream of fresh water flowing from that island into the straits, at which place he got a supply for his ship in the year 1700. We came to anchor near Banghey point where the stream was said to be, when each sent a boat in search of it; we found the mouth of a small brook, the water of which was quite saltish. The first mate (Mr. Miller) who had command of our boat would not go farther up the stream for fear of the natives; as Mr. Ausburg gives an account of a party of Dutch being massacred there while getting water.

We returned to the ship and reported what we had discovered; the next morning Capt. Gamble and Bell with 2 boats manned with 10 men each, well armed started to explore the stream, we ascended it about three fourths of a mile, when the water became so shallow we could go no further with our boats, we saw native tracks along the banks and passed several boats in which were some cooking utensils and other family necessities, which seemed to us as if the natives had just fled.

We left a party to guard the boats and ascended the stream one mile farther on foot before we came to fresh water, when it was so shallow we could not go farther with our boats even in high tide and the brush so thick it would be impossible to get our casks up to the water; we then concluded it could not be the stream spoken of by Mr. Ausburg; we returned to the ship and after taking some refreshment we cruised along the shore but could find no stream, it was then conjectured it might be on the other side of Banghey point; during the night the natives came down on the beach in hundreds, howling and yelling in such a terrific manner that the captains gave up the idea of exploring farther.

Capt. Bell thought he could spare Capt. Gamble some water by putting his men on short allowance and make shift with what we had.

We made sail and steered on our course passing the island of Tonier, and about 1 p. m. sailed into the China sea; all hands were rejoicing, thinking we had got out of trouble, but we had not gone far when the Burlington who was ahead ran into a sand bank, they fired a cannon and made a blue light to let us know he found bottom again and then raised signals for Capt. Bell to keep to the leeward, which he did and passed the bank; as the wind was blowing pretty strong, Capt. Gamble put on all sail and flung the yards back, and as the waves and swells would occasionally raise her, he succeeded in backing her off and in a few hours were under way again.

I may here mention that the charts that they had was of little account. The captains believed that many of the reefs had grown since the charts were made. If we were afraid of reefs, sand banks and howling of natives before, we had now to encounter what was more

terrific, a "Typhoon" (a dreadful hurricane) while in the China sea; it is impossible for me to describe the fury of the elements; they were truly awful and terrific, it seemed as if the great deep above and below were about to unite.

The captain being acquainted with these storms which frequent the tropical regions, made preparations for it, by sending down the top yards and masts, and as it was she lay on her side with her bulwarks under water for 36 hours while the waves ran mountains high, oft times dashing themselves over the vessel, and as she was very dry and open on her top side caused by the great heat of the sun, also had received much injury while on the passage, she leaked so that the pumps had to be kept constantly going to keep her afloat, and when the storm abated there were between 4 and 5 feet of water in her hold.

It appeared truly miraculous to all on board that she ever rode the storm. A number of vessels were lost in that sea during the same gale, but through the distinguished favor of our heavenly Father, on the 30th April we beheld the coast of China, and on the 2nd of May came to anchor before the town of Macao.

[To be continued.]

[From "The Zion's Watchman" of Jan. 15.]

Quarterly Conference

OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, HELD AT THE OLD ASSEMBLY ROOMS, KING STREET, SYDNEY, JAN. 7, 1855.

PRESENT.—Augustus Farnham, President, and Josiah W. Fleming, First Counselor.

Travelling Elders—James Graham, John S. Eldredge, John McCarthy.

Sydney Branch—John Jones, President; William Robb, and Robert Evans, Counselors.

The meeting was opened by singing the 121st hymn,—"Sweet is the work my God, my King."

Prayer by Elder James Graham.

Sung the 126th hymn, "Except the Lord conduct the plan."

The meeting was called to order by President Jones.

Elder Augustus Farnham was appointed President of the Conference, and Elder J. Jones, clerk.

Resolved, 1st.—That we sustain Elder A. Farnham as President of the Australasian Mission, and Elders J. W. Fleming and B. Frost as his counselors.

2d.—That we receive Elder J. Jones as President of the Sydney Branch, and W. Robb and R. Evans as his counselors.

3d.—That we receive and sustain Brigham Young as the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Zion, and throughout the world, and as their Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and as their Leader in Israel; also Heber C. Kimball and Jedediah M. Grant as his counselors.

4th.—That we receive and sustain the Twelve Apostles and all other authorities of the Church in Zion, and throughout the world.

The President then called for the reports.

Elder J. W. Fleming presented the report of the Adelaide Conference, received by letter from Elder A. P. Dowd. A conference was held on the 3d of December last, from the reports of which it appears that there has been added to the church by baptism 13, by certificate 4; total number of members in that conference, 70. Prospects cheering. It makes the hearts of the saints rejoice in the progress of the work of the Lord.

He next presented the report of the Victoria Conference, received by letter from Elder B. Frost; there had been 3 baptized and 4 received by certificate; total number of members, 60. The elders are faithful, but the excitement that has prevailed at the diggings, and the opening of new places and the scarcity of laborers have caused that there has not been more baptized. Elders Frost and Owens are laboring at Launceston, V. D.; prospects of the work are good in that place; many are enquiring, and the expectation is that a good work will be done there.

Elder James Graham said, "Since last conference I have been laboring a part of the time at the Illawarra District with Elder McCarthy; there were 5 baptised before last conference, and there have been 7 added since. I labored with diligence—tried to do all the good I could, and preached to those that would hear. Many that seemed to be believing became darkened and turned to be as great enemies as they could. In consequence of this feeling, and it being harvest time, it was thought wisdom that I should leave; so I left Wollongong and came to Sydney, since which I have been laboring in the neighborhood of Camden; have preached the gospel to some who have never heard it before. I have done the best I could according to the strength God has given me."

Elder John S. Eldredge said, "Brethren, I am happy to present myself before you, and rejoice in the work of God in which we are engaged. After last conference I started out in company with Elder Fleming on the South Western Section. We visited Windsor, Penrith, Camden, where we baptized two. Having received permission, I came into Sydney. After a few days I returned and baptized two at Emu Plains, near Richmond; my labors have been in that section, and I returned by way of Kissing Point, striving to do the will of God, and teaching the things of his kingdom. In leaving, I told them I did not know whether I should return or not. They were very desirous that they should not be left alone. The work is progressing, and I believe that there will be a good work done in that section."

Elder John McCarthy said, "Since last conference I may say that I have been laboring in two fields of labor;—the one, as has been alluded to, was at Illawarra, where I baptized 7; finding the field too small I came down to Sydney, from whence I proceeded to the North Shore, and from thence to Brisbane Water, traveling by the sea-coast. At Gosford I called on a Roman Catholic priest, told him that I was a minister of truth, and asked him for something to eat, and for lodgings; he said that he had no room to accommodate me, but he took me to the principal hotel, where I was boarded and lodged. I obtained a place to preach in, published a meeting—he (the R. C. priest) attended; after meeting he spoke a few words saying, that he was the person that I came to for assistance, but that he did not think I was going to stop there among his people. He withdrew his support from me, when the host said that he believed I had brought the truth, and that I should be welcome to his parlor and my board as