Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology



https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb

PayPal https://paypal.me/robbradshaw

A table of contents for the *The Evangelical Magazine* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_evangelical-magazine.php

THE

Evangelical Magazine,

FOR NOVEMBER, 1796.

VOL. IV.

was of the seed of *Abraham* and *David*, and born in *Bethlehem*, and, (for aught we know) may be the true Messiah; and we may have suffered this long captivity because we have rejected him: Therefore my advice is, as my last words, that if the Messiah, which we expect, do not come at or about the year 1650, reckoning from the birth of their *Christ*, then you may know and believe, that this *Jesus* is the Christ, and you shall have no other."

This remarkable circumstance is related by Dr. Thomas Hill, Master of Trinity-College, Cambridge, in his preface to six sermons published in 1648, who says he had it from very good hands, a citizen of London being present at the time.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Missionary Ship.

IN our last number we promised a more particular account of the Missionaries, and the final departure of the vessel. We know not how better to fulfil our engagement, than by submitting to the consideration of our readers the following letters. The first from one of the Missionaries to a very valuable and active friend of the Society. The second from the Rev. Dr. Haweis (which came too late to be inserted last month). And the third from William Wilson, the Captain's nephew, who was lately himself a captain in the West-India service; which, for the improvement of his mind in spiritual things, he cheerfully quitted, that he might accompany his uncle in the Duff, in the quality of first mate.

LETTER *from one of the* MISSIONARIES, *to* Mr. PINDER, *of London.*

Portsmouth, Spithead, Sept. 4, 1796.

MY DEAR AND REAL FRIEND,

WITH a mixture of complacency and grief, I now resume my pen to answer your affectionate and kind letter, the contents of which truly warmed my heart, as did your other three, which I duly received. They all occasioned sensations similar to what I felt in parting with you at Gravesend; and also drew out my sincere, though imperfect, breathings to a throne of grace on your behalf. O may the Lord hear and answer them in his own good time, for his dear Son's sake!

I have now to inform you that we had a signal yesterday evening from our convoy to get ready for sailing; and we know not but in a few hours we may have the next signal to depart from Spithead. But as there is no wind to take us out at present, we expect to spend the Sabbath here, on which day Dr. Haweis hath purposed to administer the sacrament to us. O may it be a time of refreshing to our little hill of Zion! May we all be prepared to depart, by being filled with that zeal for Christ, and souls that shall raise us above the feelings and fears of flesh and blood, and increase a thirst for the glory of him who hath called us to this great and honourable work.

We are all at present in good health and spirits, except our brother Clode, who has been much indisposed the last two days, but is somewhat better. Brotherly

therly affection and harmony abound amongst us: The more we know of each other, the more abundantly we love; for my own part, I am, blessed be God! well satisfied with, and thankful for, the disposals of Providence. I am content and happy in my present circumstances. I wish to be nothing but what I am. I am willing, by grace, to do or suffer any thing, so that the great object of my mission may be accomplished in the conversion of the heathen, and the glory of the great Immanuel be thereby promoted. O that that *dear man of sorrows* may see more abundantly of the travail of his soul!

My dear friend, thus far was written on Saturday in haste, with a design to send it to the post-office that evening by some visiters then on board; but on hearing that the post did not go out to London that night, I thought it better to omit writing any more till this day, that I might be able to give you more news; and, thanks be to the God of all consolation! I have good news to tell you respecting our Sabbath's work. We were not left comfortless; our dear Master paid us a gracious visit, and, I trust, refreshed, warmed, and comforted all our hearts. He was truly at the head of his own table; and, I have reason to believe, brake the bread of life to our souls. Dr. Haweis preached a very comfortable and animating discourse from the words, "The cup of blessing which we bless," &c. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Jefferson prayed, the former before, and the latter after sermon; then the ordinance was administered. I trust the opportunity will be long remembered by us, and others who were then present, one of whom was Mr. Fen, of London, who came on Saturday evening, and is still with us. I think every one who was present on the occasion must be constrained to say, that God was among us of a truth. My poor heart, hard as it is, was much melted under a sense of the love of Christ to me, and my ingratitude and want of love to him. O to be still in such a repenting frame! O my dear friend, there is more sweetness in this godly sorrow, than in all the world's comforts. May you and I be still kept hungering and thirsting after communion with this precious and lovely Jesus, whose presence is better than life; may we still be willing to be made any thing or nothing, so that he may be glorified in us and by us!

I can now look forward with cheerfulness and confidence, firmly persuaded that the Lord would not have brought me thus far, nor have shewn me such things as he hath, if he did not intend to do for me yet greater things; yea, to use me as an instrument in promoting his glory, by making me, in some measure, subservient to the accomplishment of the number of his elect. O! if I am but honoured in being instrumental in placing one jewel in the crown of Christ, I shall be amply rewarded for all the toil and labour I may be called to experience in my missionary work! O my dear friend! let your prayers ascend to a throne of grace on my behalf, that I may find grace, and obtain mercy to be faithful to my sacred trust, even unto death, and so finish my course with joy.

It adds much to my comfort and encouragement, that my dear wife is of the same mind with me, and is heartily willing to go forward; she joins me in love to you and Mrs. Pinder. I gave your kind remembrance to my brethren, and in return, they desire their love and best respects to you. My dearest friend, farewel! the Lord be with thy spirit! I am,

Most affectionately and sincerely, yours,

W. HENRY.

Letter from Dr. HAWEIS.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

AT last, after between six and seven weeks of anxious expectation, our precious cargo is wafted on the bosom of the deep, and, I trust, safe under the wings of the cherubim. Thursday the 22d, the wind came round to S. E. and I saw the Adamant under sail. I was ashore preaching the evening preceding, and hastened on board just as the ship weighed anchor. Every heart welcomed me, and every hand; we now felt the propitious gale, and trusted, after long patience, that the Lord's time was

come. I have not leiſure to detail to you the whole of what hath paſſed; I can only ſay, every day brought freſh evidence of the devotedneſs and fidelity of our brethren, and their eagerneſs to proceed to the places of their deſtination. During the whole time I have been with them, I have not heard a fainting word, or an expreſſion of fear; but all of one heart and one mind, and growing every day more cemented in love. You will ſee all my papers which I have ready for the Directors' inſpection, and ſhall only deſcribe to you our parting ſcene. I brought them that morning the glad tidings which Mr. Latrobe had communicated to me from Germany, and left them a copy of the letter, which exceedingly gladdened their hearts, with ſome other important papers of information, which Providence put in our way at Portſmouth, and you ſhall ſee. We converſed ſweetly together; and as the ſhip followed the Adamant, and very cloſely, the remainder of the convoy, with a preſs of ſail croſſing on different boards behind us to come up, exhibited a ſcene ſingularly beautiful; and to heighten the magnificence, it being the King's coronation-day, the forts and men of war fired a royal ſalute of twenty one guns each, which ſent up ſuch a volume of fire and ſmoke, as was at once to us, unuſed to ſuch ſcenes, awful, grand, and impreſſive.—About two o'clock we caſt anchor at St. Helens, and dined with the Captain, with five of the Miſſionaries, whom he receives in turn every day at his table. I will tell you when we meet our pilgrim's fare. They are all willing to meet hardſhips as good ſoldiers of Jeſus Chriſt. Dinner being ended, the bell rang to call all the Miſſionaries, and as many of the ſeamen brethren, as could be ſpared from the calls of the ſhip, to the quarter-deck, where we were to take our leave of each other, till we ſhould meet at the right hand of that incarnate Lord, whoſe we are, and whom we ſerve. I ſpoke to them from the firſt verſe of the third chapter to the Hebrews: And uniting in praiſe, we cloſed with prayer and ſolemn dedication of ourſelves to God. I need not deſcribe the ſcene; our tears of joy and ſorrow mingled; every heart appeared full; but the glory of God our Saviour, and the great object in our view, ſeemed to abſorb every other conſideration. We believed we ſhould meet and pray no more together; but we vowed to remember each other before the throne daily, and knew we ſhould ſhortly be reunited in that kingdom, where our prayers ſhould be exchanged for everlaſting praiſes. We ſhook hands all round; I ſpoke to every brother a word, commending him to the keeping and care of our covenant God; and the dear women, with tears ſtreaming, wiſhed me every bleſſing. The boat was waiting to convey me to the ſhore; the evening approached; our diſtance was conſiderable; but the day was beautifully fair. I ſtepped down the ſide of the ſhip, caſt many a mingled look of joy and reluctance behind me, till the ſhip faded from my view, and, mingling with the multitude of maſts around her, was no longer diſtinctly viſible.

Early the next morning we looked out, but they had turned the point, and the laſt of the convoy only was ſeen clearing the land at St. Helens.—Ye people of God, follow them with your prayers! When I ſee you, I will give you a fuller account.

Your's, affectionately,

T. HAWEIS.

I have the pleaſure to tell you that as I came down the ſhip, Capt. William Wilſon, the Captain's nephew, and now his firſt mate, who, among his other qualifications, draws in a moſt ſuperior ſtile, put into my hands a beautiful drawing of the DUFF, under ſail, in two views, a ſide, and a ſtern view, and wiſhed me to preſent it to the Directors, and, if they pleaſe, to have it engraved for the benefit of the Society. It is adorned with emblematical

blematical trophies, and the names of the Miſſionaries are underneath.—The Directors will, no doubt, every one of them, wiſh to be poſſeſſed of it, and every friend to the Inſtitution will look at it a thouſand times with pleaſure, and ſend up many a fervent prayer for the ſucceſs of the voyage. Adieu!

Southampton, Sept. 28, 1796. T. H.

Letter from Mr. WILLIAM WILSON.

Ship Duff, off Falmouth, Sunday morning, Sept. 25, 1796, Eight o'clock.

MY DEAR SALLY,

I AM very glad of an opportunity of writing, knowing well that every ſcribble of mine is always received by you with pleaſure. We left St. Helens the next morning*, with a fair wind, which has continued ever ſince, and is now blowing freſh from the N. E. The Commodore, with the fleet, of near ſixty ſail, has been lying off this place eight hours, for what purpoſe I know not. This and the ſlow ſailing of ſome ſhips detain us greatly; for the DUFF ſails very faſt, equal to either of the two ſhips of war that is with us. I mention this for your encouragement; that when you may ſuppoſe us parted from the convoy, you need be under no apprehenſion for our ſafety, as but few veſſels could overtake us.

My uncle deſires his kind love. We are very happy together. The Miſſionaries, all of them, behave remarkably well. They ſeem to feel like men, while they all expreſs a willing devotedneſs to their great work, and a humble ſubmiſſion to their Maſter's will. I hope I alſo ſhall be enabled to act worthily in the honourable ſtation to which God has called me; and to commit you and myſelf to his direction and care. We know that if there be one reaſonable ſervice, it is in preſenting our bodies and ſpirits unto God willingly: And though we ſuffer much, as loving each other greatly, yet the ſufferings of this life are not to be compared unto the glory that will be revealed unto them who are found in his dear Son. Let us, therefore, my dear love, perſevere to pray for each other, that we may be accepted, and have our robes waſhed. Preſent my kind love to thoſe in the houſe with you, and to all that aſk as friends, intereſted in our ſafety and ſucceſs. I pray you to be eaſy in your mind, and take care of your health, and remember that I neither forget you, nor ceaſe to love you; but am your ever-affectionate huſband,

WILLIAM WILSON.

P. S. Uncle and myſelf deſire to be kindly remembered to Dr. Hamilton, who, I truſt, will be a father to my Sally. To him you may communicate this letter, if you think proper.

Dr. Gillham joins in reſpects to you, and his worthy friend the Doctor.

Miſſionary Society.

WE underſtand that the Directors are proceeding, with all poſſible expedition, in their arrangements for an African Miſſion. They are collecting as much intelligence as poſſible reſpecting this very extenſive, but almoſt unexplored quarter of the globe; and would be highly thankful for communications, on this ſubject, from any friends of the Inſtitution.—Teembo, Fatetendar, and the Cape, appear to be moſt acceſſible; and

* Meaning the Thurſday preceding; having taken leave of Mrs. W. the day before.

ſhould

should the finances of the Society be equal to their zeal, a mission to each will, probably, be one day attempted. Though the efforts of our Moravian Brethren, among the Hottentots, near the Cape, seemed for a long while to struggle under great discouragements, it has pleased God so abundantly to succeed their patient endeavours lately, that great numbers of those poor abject heathen have been awakened, and brought to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Society for Propagating the Gospel.

Mr. EDITOR,

WERE you to insert in your next Magazine, under the article of *Religious Intelligence*, the following paragraph, from the Boston newspaper, of the 29th of last July, it would, doubtless, afford pleasure to many of your readers:

"The Rev. Dr. J. Belknap, and the Rev. J. Morse, have left this city, deputed by the Society for propagating the Gospel among the Heathen, on a public mission to the Oneida Indians."

X. Y.

ON Wednesday, the 12th of October, was opened at Lawford, in Warwickshire, a new chapel. This neat, small place of worship is situate in the centre of several villages, and was erected by Sir Egerton Leigh, for the accommodation of the inhabitants.

The honourable Baronet, a signal monument of sovereign grace, feeling the power of the Gospel, and the pleasures of religion, retired into the country, and began to preach to the poor ignorant villagers in several parishes round his seat. In this laudable work he was greatly opposed; but, amidst violent persecutions, and sometimes at the hazard of his life, he zealously persevered with diligence and success. The good effects of his itinerant labours are evidenced in the conversion of many, and reformation of more. The inhabitants of Lawford, among other games, took great delight in the barbarous custom of throwing at cocks on Shrove Tuesday; but after the Gospel found a residence amongst them, the religious people on one of the returns of this day resolved to employ the whole of the afternoon in prayer at several parts of the village. Though twenty-five cocks were brought from other places for the purposes of sport, the innocent animals were carried back in whole skins, as their owners could not find a solitary individual so inhuman as to throw at the poor unoffending creatures.

Twenty-seven ministers assembled at the opening of the above chapel. Mr. Gill, of Harborough; Mr. Denny, of Long Buckby; Mr. Little, of Birmingham; Mr. Hewett, of Bedworth; Mr. Burder, of Coventry; and Mr. Knight, of Yelvertoft, engaged in prayer; and Mr. Joss, Mr. J. A. Knight, and Mr. Wilks, all of London, preached. The house was far too small to admit the congregation, and in the afternoon the service was conducted out of doors. The prospects of an increase of converts to Jesus Christ afforded real joy to most who assembled on the above occasion.

ON Friday, October 21, a small chapel was opened at the Evangelical Academy, Hoxton, by the Rev. Mr. Jay, of Bath; who preached from the first four verses of the forty-second Psalm. We understand, that it is not only designed for the use of the students, but for the accommodation of the neighbourhood; as notice was given, that Mr. Simpson, the tutor, would preach every Sunday morning and afternoon, and the students, in rotation, every Thursday evening.

WE