

Presbyterian Banner

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Letter from China. TUNGCHOW, China, Jan. 20, 1864.

After a voyage of one hundred and sixty-seven days on the ship St. Paul, we remained in Shanghai a fortnight, waiting for a vessel going North. At length the steamer Scatow left, January 3d, for Chefoo, about seven hundred miles distant by water.

The passengers consisted of Bro. Mateer and wife, ourselves, and six others, including two English missionaries—one having a wife and a little child. We had a very pleasant and gentlemanly Captain, and good accommodations, which contrasted most favorably with our former voyage.

At 5 o'clock the Captain told us in two hours we would be anchored in Chefoo. We all gathered round the cabin stove, determined not to retire till the anchor was down. Land had been in sight all day. Many of the high peaks were covered with snow, and with the sun shining on them, were really beautiful.

The night was dark and the coast dangerous, but the Captain had been long in the water; so we sat, singing, talking, or enjoying ourselves, almost as though we were at home, feeling perfectly secure. In less than half an hour the ship struck, and rock as we supposed. She struck again and again, till she was fast in the sand.

The waves dashed the ship about so furiously that for a moment we were afraid of being broken in pieces. Our feelings cannot be described during those long moments—each at appalled and held his breath. After the ship became more steady, we all knelt down and prayed to our heavenly Father, and were comforted.

Magistrate of Stratford that he would see the Bailiff's plays—entertainments given by the Queen's players, and subsequently by the companies of the Earls of Leicester and Worcester, and also those of the Lord of Warwick.

Twenty-seven years ago the work of settling South Australia was commenced. A handful of men at Glenelg—the very spot where thousands of pleasure-seekers now betake themselves—were preparing to build their first rude houses and to put their first plough into the soil.

At the last. "Man goeth forth unto his work, and to his labor, until the evening." "Faint is his work, and the evening is calmest when it nears the tide, and flows are sweetest at the evening, and the sunset gleams at the close of day, and so divinest when they pass away."

What a strange and weird sensation stole on us, as we went on with gleaming drawls and stealthy step, with vague feeling that something not of earth would stop our way! Perhaps it was the passing storm which had caused or aided the effect upon our senses, but like we never felt before.

Whisky shops gathered around, and drunkenness prevailed to a fearful extent. Under its influence, it often was the case that a brother would fall by the hand of a brother, or a father by the hand of a son. Their intercourse with the whisky traders and the vagrant frontiers settlements, seemed to have a demoralizing influence. As they were by nature, they were made worse by these associations. Putting over things that cannot be told, I will mention a few, to prove the point.

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Presbytery Hall, Edinburgh, it was resolved immediately to endeavor to raise £5,000 in order to put the Foreign Mission Fund in a proper position by the time Dr. Duff arrives to undertake the governorship. It is expected that this movement will extend to Glasgow and other parts of Scotland.

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thankful we ought to be to the Giver of all our mercies, for the use of our mental faculties! As we entered the large enclosure surrounding the building, those unfortunate creatures (the insane), at that hour, were walking through it. Quite a number inquired for tobacco. We supplied our soldiers with bread and meat. It is to lose hospital soldiers are sent, who lose their legs in war, to be supplied with artificial ones. They make them there. The contractor furnishes them at fifty dollars a piece.

One afternoon, while visiting a hospital, I met a young man from Michigan (J. E. C.) who was very low. We conversed with him, also prayed for him; and when he struck up that beautiful hymn— "Alas! and did my Saviour bleed," his feeble voice falling him after singing the first line, the remaining lines were quoted to him— "And did my Saviour bleed? Would he devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?"

We then left him; but while preaching at another place that night, I was told that the young man I had visited that afternoon, in the barracks, was dying. As soon as I concluded the services, I hastened to his bedside. He was in great pain—prayed earnestly for himself, and asked me to pray for him. About ten minutes before he breathed his last, he prayed that beautiful little prayer— "Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep; I pray the Lord my soul to take."

These were the last audible words he uttered. He died at nine o'clock. Thus, far from home, surrounded by strangers, in the crowded hospital, he remembered and prayed that sweet little prayer, doubtless taught him as his mother's knee when a child. I shall always think more of this little prayer than I did before this touching incident. What encouragement for parents to early instill into the youthful mind wholesome truths!

In the same barracks was a soldier, too low to tell his parents' name, or his residence; but when spoken to about Jesus, a smile rested upon his countenance—would say in broken accents, "Yes, I know him." Often, as I have been passing through those hospitals, I have been requested by the sick and dying soldier to pray for him. Just the day before I left Camp Stoneman, as I was passing through one of them, I was addressed: "Chaplain, there is a young man here, who wishes to see you. He is very sick. I conversed with him, and prayed for him, but the thankfulness he expressed, both in words and in that cheerful countenance, can never be forgotten by me. It seemed doubly thankful, as my term of service had expired, I had gone as a delegate of the Christian Commission, to labor and pray for the salvation of those who are fast passing away. How glorious in the mission of the Christian Commission, to labor and pray for the salvation of those who are fast passing away. How glorious in the mission of the Christian Commission, to labor and pray for the salvation of those who are fast passing away.

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THE MORCER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, at the request of the Trustees, was dissolved in its connection with Presbytery, and is hereafter to be merely an Aecumenical Institution. The following persons were elected to the Board of Trustees, viz: John McInnis, Thomas Likely, Hopkins Broom, James Thompson, Henry Lee, and Graham Lee.

The following Commissioners to the General Assembly were elected: Rev. I. N. Candeo, D.D., Rev. Joseph Platt, and elders William K. Out and J. H. Wilson, principals; and Rev. A. Piper, Rev. J. R. Bevan, and elders Edward Connett and J. C. Dobbins, moderators.

The following supplies were appointed: New Boston—Bro. Matthews, Hanson, and Williams, to preach one Sabbath each, as missionary supplies. Commissioners' Pupils—At Galesburg, Bro. Nesbitt, Fourth Sabbath in May, and Bro. Vance, Fifth Sabbath in May. At Pittsfield, Bro. Brown, Fourth Sabbath in May, and Ash, Fifth Sabbath in May.

The statistical reports show an encouraging increase in the contributions of our churches to the various Boards of the Church. The Statistical Report to the General Assembly presents 40 churches, 31 ministers, 4 licentiates, and 2,300 communicants.

The Narrative to the Assembly indicates a marked increase of interest in our churches in sustaining the Christian ordinances, and the blessing of God upon the means of grace. The next meeting of Presbytery will be held at Keokuk, Ill., on Saturday, October 15th, at 2 o'clock P. M. GEO. W. ASH, Stated Clerk.

For the Presbyterian Banner. Presbytery of Steubenville. MESSRS. EDITORS:—The following items of business, among others, were transacted by the Presbytery of Steubenville, at its recent sessions in Steubenville First church, from Tuesday, April 20th, to Thursday afternoon, April 28th.

Mr. R. Thompson Price, of the Western Theological Seminary, was licensed to preach the Gospel, as a probationer for the ministry. Rev. J. K. Andrews, Chaplain 126th Reg. O. V. I., was received as a member of Presbytery from the U. P. Presbytery of Steubenville.

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