

HONG KONG
1848

29

PAID
AT
HONG-KONG

SHIP
19
1848

L
OC31
B

Mr. Elias Wiley
Care of Charles Wiley
Newland
Haverston
Connecticut

19
OC31
1848

Honolulu Oahu June 5 1848

Dear Brother

Your welcome letter written early in Oct. reached the island in the latter part of Feb. but by some mishap was not received till about a month later. Charles' letter has also been received. Both your letters bring the sad news of the death of our sister Maria. We had been in a measure prepared for such an event by your former letters which spoke of her being in a decline - and yet we did not fully realize that such would be the fact. It is a somewhat remarkable providence that has thus taken the two youngest of our number and that too within a period of six months. His ways are unsearchable and yet he does all things well. This world is not our home - nothing is permanent and satisfying here, and it seems to be the design of God to lead us by such sad providences to look beyond this world. It was a great consolation to us to hear that there was reason to hope that she was prepared for heaven.

We are now away from our station

attending our general Meetings
which take place once in two years
The family are about to separate
and return to their fields of labor. Thirtyseven
male members of the mission are present
most of them with their family. One
male member ^{only} of the mission is absent

These meetings are looked forward to
with much interest by the family as
a season for renewing social and
religious intercourse. At other times we
have little society other than that
of natives. At these meetings each
missionary reports in writing his
labors and reads it before the meeting

All our families attend the sessions
but none but the ^{adult} male members
vote in all questions which are
discussed

The reports for the last
2 years represent the state of
the churches and schools as pros-
perous and the people generally
as advancing in civilization

I have never informed you
that our fourth son is a cripple
having crooked feet - yet such is
the fact. He has now just entered

his fifth year and we have been advised by some to take him to the U. States to seek a cure. The mission

have expressed their approbation that we take him to the U. States in a year or two if the Board approve of it. I have written to Dr. Anderson and if we have a favorable answer we may think it best to embark in the Fall of 1849

I'm taking such a step I believe there is not one of us but what will feel that we are going away from home

We have lived here so long that not our children only but their parents

^{also} feel greatly attached to these islands and the mission family

Charly in his letter made an inquiry whether boxes of donations sent by friends are charged to the individual missionaries for whom intended. They are not now tho' I believe they once were when the box was valued

You complain that I have not written you nor mentioned your name in a long time. No slight was intended. I have written very little for the last few years to any one and there may be others whose names I have not mentioned. The Lord's name is no less to be praised for its not being found in all the book of Esther

Our love to you and your family and to Parents
brothers & sisters
yours very truly A. Wilcox