

[Book No. 5]

[Mar. 21-26, 1846]

Canton, Saturday, March 21st 1846.

The weather has become quite cold- the thermometer below 60°- and there is a drizzling rain which makes it uncomfortable abroad. Every thing seems very gloomy in my present circumstances - the cheering rays of the sun shut out- the atmosphere so cold that I find it necessary to be wrapped in flannels with thick clothes- surtout and cloak outside to keep me warm and, when sitting in another room from the fire, with a blanket wrapped about my feet: thus muffled up scarcely able to keep my body warm. My mind too has not been less cold and comfortless notwithstanding all my chiding with my heart, and arguments against unbelief. My spirits will feel dejection in spite of all my efforts to raise them. I remember what the Psalmist says, and in his strain endeavor to say, Why art thou cast down, O my soul ? and why art thou disquieted within me ? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

The weather doubtless has an effect upon my spirits, aside from the state of my health and separation from my beloved family, as well as the prospect of a long separation- the hazards of a voyage to the U. State and thence to the Islands. All these things rushing at once upon the mind have been most too much for endurance, I have been constrained to say, "Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord of my Salvation."

The Rev. Geo. Smith of the Church Missionary Society, of England, took breakfast at Dr. Bridgman's this morning, and has spent considerable part of the day here, reading in manuscript part

of a journal of exploration & residence at Amoy; which he is about to publish in the Chinese Repository. The article is written in a very pleasing style, the descriptions are graphic and the facts which he presents are of a very interesting nature. The publication of it will doubtless be of service to the cause of protestant missions in China. [S/c]

The health of Mr. Smith requires that he should return to his native land, and he has come recently from Shanghai the most northern free port of China, in order to get passage for home. He had thot. of going in the Lucas to New York; but the Captain can take no more passengers, and thus he must seek some other vessel- he will probably take the overland course. Mr. S. has a very youthful appearance; and a feminine voice, and I should not have guessed him to be more than 23 years of age, whereas he is, I understand, twenty-nine.

I shall be the only passenger in the Lucas, and on some accounts I am glad of this. I shall enjoy more quietness and retirement and be less tempted to use my voice.

Canton, Sabbath, March 22 1846.

The weather continues to be cold and damp - the thermometer in the house 54⁶ the lowest mark at which it has been since I have been in China (or rather I have not noticed it at a lower stand) The English service was at the English Consulate and was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Smith.

Mr. S. took tea and spent the evening with us, and was present at the Social meeting and made one of the prayers (extemporary) He appears to possess a good spirit and to have a warm zeal for Missions. He will doubtless wake up an interest for China with Episcopalians in England if not in the U. States.

Canton, Monday, March 23rd. 1846.

Had a call from Cap. Miller, of ship Lucas, who informs me that he has fixed Friday next for the day of embarkation. He will come up on Thursday, and on Friday he will take me down with my baggage to Whampoa, where the vessel lies - being a distance of 7 or 8 miles down the river. He says the vessel is well provided with comforts for the voyage, and he has assigned me a large state-room. I inquired respecting bedding, and learned that I should not need to purchase anything of that nature, as the ship is provided with blankets. I shall use my own sheets & pillow cases and also mattress. ^[sic] We may calculate on a pretty long passage, as at this season of the year light winds prevail, and the north east Monsoons are dying away. It will be cold weather off the Cape of Good Hope, as it may be the last of June or the first of July, before we are up with that point of the Continent of Africa. The Captain however thinks he shall be at home by the middle of August. I hope we shall arrive earlier than that, as I shall wish to do up all my visiting before cold weather.

I am pleased with the appearance of the Captain, and I learn that he is of a kind temper. One of the mates had a letter of introduction to Dr. Bridgman and took dinner with us a few days ago; he spoke of the Captain & his wife in terms of commendation. They have however not a very heavy crew, about one half of them being what are called boys;- probably young men on their first voyage; but their experience and skill have increased and will continue to increase as time passes away on their homeward bound voyage. I can make no calculation in regard to visiting in the U. States. I shall desire to visit Pennsylvania, and it seems to me

now, in case my health will admit of the fatigue of journeying, that it will be a saving of time and expense to go on immediately to Pequea and after finishing my visit there, go on to Boston by the way of East Hampton and visit Warren and Evarts. But I must leave every thing unsettled now: the Lord will order all things right.

Canton, Tuesday, March 24 1846.

The weather is a little more mild to day; but the atmosphere is damp and the sun does not make his appearance. I had hoped to witness pleasant weather to day: for in the night there was some thunder and lightning with rain, and I thought the lightning might clear the atmosphere. The climate is very different here from what it is at the islands. There have been very few sunny days since I arrived in Canton. The place differs from Hong Kong in respect to temperature and cloudy sky. There it is not so cold and the weather is more pleasant (This applies however only to the time I resided there). It is very clear to me that I ought to get away from here as soon as possible. The climate may not be an unhealthy one to persons of strong constitution and firm health; but it seems to me not to be a place for an invalid. This view of the subject reconciles me to my present plan of going on forthwith to the U. States. The plan, it is true, will keep me a longer time from home than I contemplated; but it seems to be the Lord's will. But I feel unwilling to take a step without the divine guidance. Unless it is his pleasure that I should go, I would stay here and here would I die. If his presence go not with me I would say as Moses did, (See Exodus: Chap. 33. v. 12-16.) "If thy presence go not with me carry us not up hence." If the Lord go not with me, let me not go on that ship-board or sail away

from these regions; but the Lord provide me a direct conveyance to the Islands. These have been my feelings in view of the present attitude of my affairs.

I have been turning my thoughts to getting ready. I think I shall not need anything more in regard to outfit. I have two dozen of shirts and of other clothing I suppose I have enough for the voyage. If I should arrive in the U. States with health improved, I can get some new clothing made in order to appear decent in company. I cannot get clothing made here in European style. Chinese can make thin clothing very well after a pattern- or muster; but they do not succeed in woollen clothing to make by measure (Note- At this point two pages ^{Ms.} are missing, cut out of the _{note} book. ~~W. J. F.~~) ~~xxxx~~ slight specimen of Chinese dealing. I have no doubt but the full worth of 75 cents had been expended upon the article; but he should not have charged for it more than I offered to give, and what, by his making it, was a tacit agreement on his part as the price of the thing.

I have told this long story as an illustration of character, and to show how things are done here. If an article be inquired for in a Chinaman's shop, if he has not got it- He will say; can make it, or, can get it for you.

China, Wednesday, 25 March, 1846.

It continues to be cloudy with the wind still from the north; but the temperature is a little more mild: the thermometer standing at 65°.

Mrs. Bridgman has given me eight shirts and six collars for the voyage; this will make my outfit abundant for these articles. I have had the cloth for slippers, which was wrought by Maria Jane and Martha Ann, made into a pair of shoes: and they

are really very pretty, and I must thank them for their work. I shall be constantly reminded of them, when these meet my eye. The pretty mark for my Bible which Maria Jane sent, bearing the appropriate motto: " Lord send prosperity", meets my eye every day, and reminds me of the beloved daughter who sent it, while the sentiment affords comfort as a theme of prayer and encouragement to lay hold upon the promise of God; "Ask and ye shall receive." May that dear daughter be taught by the Spirit to ask for the good part, and so seek as to find it. And may all of my children be among the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and early dedicate themselves to his service, and be willing to profess his name before their fellow men. If they refuse to confess him before a sinful world, and are ashamed of the profession of Christianity, of them will He be ashamed, and will refuse them admittance into his heavenly kingdom. I hope they will read the Bible every day with prayer to God. I do not mean reading and praying in the family; but I mean apart, by themselves. Until they do this, they will lack a very important evidence that they are seeking the salvation of their souls.

I have written more these two days than for a long time before. I have reason to think it is injurious to me to confine myself to writing; but I feel desirous to leave something to send to the islands after I have gone from here, and I am making an unusual effort, and yet I shall not write any private letters: the brethren at the islands, must excuse me. I bear them and their work constantly on my heart, and if the Lord will, I hope to join them again with improved health, and to take some humble part in helping on the great cause.

I feel more composed in mind in regard to the future- my

passage is paid- and I have only to get my baggage together and go on board. This will be in a few days and when I am once under way, directing my course towards my native land, I shall feel that I am under the divine conduct. Having cast myself upon the Lord, I wish to trust in his guidance, and to feel in whatever takes place a perfect acquiescence, believing that the Lord's plan is marked before him, and that he will glorify himself in all that concerns me, being found in the path of duty I shall be safe - no real evil can happen to me. Death must come sooner or later:- for here we shall not live alway, and who would wish to live alway in such a body, in such a state of sin with infirmities of flesh and spirit constantly pressing. (Man at his best estate being vanity). And yet I have a strong desire to live, and to return to my island home - to meet my wife and children and praise the Lord for his mercies to me and to them: Nor am I without hope that through your prayers and the prayers of my fellow laborers at the islands, I shall be restored unto you.

It has seemed to me that providence has been operating rather peculiarly to bring about what are now my prospects. It was no part of my plan to come to China, tho. the thought of its practicability was early presented to my mind, but without any intention on my part of pursuing it or following it up. As my infirmities continued and the reasons for my taking a voyage became more urgent, ² passage to China still presented itself to my mind, but there was an absence on my part of any will to go forward. I could see no way of getting back and onward to the U. States was the only course which seemed open. But here I was ir-
olute, my feelings would have been gratified with the prospect of a visit, after so long an absence, to my native land. But I must

be absent for a long time from my family, and much expense must be incurred, much hazard must be risked. My physicians, wife & brethren pressed me to take a voyage - to go to Canton and trust providence for a passage back. I had another attack of bleeding: I was brought to the point of submitting myself entirely to the advice of my brethren and to the will of Providence. I said, "I will have no will of my own: Tell me what I ought to do and I will do it." They said, "Take passage in the Congaree and trust to the Lord to open the way for your return." - I embarked- though I had strong expectations that I should be prevented from doing it- i.e. I thought that some event would transpire by which I should be prevented from taking passage. But providence threw no obstacle in my way and I went on board. There was nothing marked in regard to the passage. I had two slight turns of raising blood, one a few days after my embarkation & the other a few days before my arrival at Hong Kong. What effect these returns of bleeding were to have upon my plans I could not see, they doubtless have had some influence in determining to my present course. The recurrence of bleeding from the lungs indicates the existence of disease; to remove which a voyage was recommended; and, while existing, there would remain on my part inability for labor; so that should I return to the islands it must be to go through what I had previously experienced- cessation of labor and repeated attacks of illness,- or perhaps to take another voyage in some other direction - I had previously to leaving Hong Kong made up my mind to proceed in the Congaree to the U. States- that is, in case that vessel should have that destination. But as the Congaree had a destination unfavorable to my continuing in her, I re-

moved my relations, and I came to Canton, hoping that Providence might open the way for my return to the islands, my mind being strongly set on returning home. I submitted the subject to the advice of my friends here who understood the state of my feelings. I was also examined by an able physician on whose advice I was disposed to rely. A way of return to the islands seemed to be open, as the Commodore of the U. S. East India Squadron consented to my taking passage in the Columbus, which he assured Dr. Parker should be afforded free of expense, though it would be necessary to wait some months here. The point was settled in my mind of waiting for the Columbus, and so I dismissed the thought of a passage to the U. States in ships that were to sail about the first of March. And I should here say that the inquiries in regard to duty were instituted in reference to those opportunities, as I was desirous to avail myself of one of them, should it be the advice of my friends to proceed to my native land.

Had there been no change in my health I should not probably have thought of a change of course. But raising blood again, and the time of my being able to get away being quite doubtful as well as my condition on board a large Man of War not likely to be very comfortable as a sick man, and the entire uncertainty as to what time I should get back to the islands, in connection also with the fact that a favorable opportunity of a passage to the U. S. was presented, induced me to agitate the subject again, the result of which has been stated. All these things I cannot but look upon as Providential; and moreover I get a passage on very reasonable terms, in a vessel in all respects comfortable, and with a Captain and his lady, who are well spoken of; myself the

only passenger.

The passage I mentioned as reasonable - the usual price is from \$400 to \$500. Another vessel of which inquiry was made had for terms \$450, and accommodations not so desirable for me. I was to have given Cap. Deane \$290, and that was thought a very low price, the terms being agreed on at the islands.

I give for the passage in the Lucas \$300 : but I must pay according to the value of currency here, which makes the sum \$8.46 more : i.e. \$308.46 These I consider reasonable terms.

The indications of Providence in favor of a voyage to the U. S. seem to be referable to these:

- 1st. The continuance of the cause for which a voyage was undertaken.
2. Advice of a physician in regard to its immediate prosecution, with the hope of benefit.
3. Accommodations in a Ship of War undesirable for one in my circumstances.
4. Delay in regard to a passage to the islands, with uncertainty in regard to going direct & the time of arrival there might not be before January.
5. A favorable opportunity for the U. S.- a desirable vessel & moderate terms.

Canton, Thursday March 26, 1846.

There was some thunder last night and again this morning with rain, the atmosphere continuing damp and the sky lowery. One reason for my not waiting in China an indefinite time for a passage to the islands is the nature of the atmosphere: the Doctor has said the sooner [^] _^ ^[sic] I am at sea the better.

I continue to feel quite reconciled to the decision of

a voyage to the U. States. The Lord will doubtless grant me all needed prosperity. I am aware it will be a disappointment to my family not to have me return to the islands by the vessel that shall bear these communications.

I shall put up a small box to be sent by the first opportunity. In the box I shall put the two shawls for Maria Jane and Martha Ann, and the seals for James and Levi. I have also designated a comb for you and a box of envelopes. I have not as yet obtained anything for Isabella. If I am not able to get anything for her, you may buy some little thing to give her as a present from father. It is very unpleasant going out among the shops to make purchases particularly on account of the jockeying character of the Chinese to which I have referred, And of late I have not even gone into the streets. It will be necessary during the remainder of my stay that I exercise great caution to avoid another turn of bleeding: it is now 12 days since my last attack; and my expectorations have been very limited during the whole of the time. I feel encouragement in regard to my state from the fact that I have very little cough or expectoration from the lungs, and keep my ordinary amount of flesh. I am quite sure that I have as much flesh and as much bodily strength as I had when I left the islands. - probably more - My appetite has been uniformly good, though I am a little inclined to constipation, and am under the necessity of using occasionally some opening medicine.

Dr. Parker prescribed sugar of lead to be taken on occasion of bleeding. His recommendations have been essentially the same as Dr. Wood's & Dr. Smith's. I think my case is one which presents uncertainty to the mind of a physician. All who have seen me think that with care I may live a considerable time- say

ten years: though of course my disorder may take a turn to carry me off soon. Perhaps the single act of raising blood may not prove the cause of death, but I may take cold and have some violent attack upon the lungs, which will prove fatal. I refer all the future to the Lord.

I must not close my notes without saying something more of Mrs Bridgman. Her maiden name was Eliza J. Gillet and she was acquainted with Mrs. Paris of our mission, She belonged to Dr. Milnor's Church and came to China in the care of the Rev. Dr. Boone, Bishop of the Episcopal Board of Missions. There were two other single ladies who came out with her under the same care. On the arrival of those missionaries in Hong Kong some circumstances threw this Miss Gillet into the Society of Dr. Bridgman and a match was pretty soon formed, much to the dissatisfaction of Dr. Boone, who had valued much on the talent and character of this single lady, whom he supposed proof against all proposals of a matrimonial nature. Herein he was sadly disappointed for she became Mrs. Bridgman and Dr. Boone was under the stern necessity of leaving her behind and of going on to his station at Shanghai in the north with the other two single ladies & the other missionaries associated with him. I understood that he was at first very severe on Miss Gillet for leaving her mission & uniting herself with a gentleman of another denomination & another mission, but he has become more reconciled to the arrangement and now speaks in pleasant terms in regard to the alliance, and the manner of his losing this helper in his Mission.

I will also say a word or two in regard to the relations of Dr. Parker and the manner of his support. He has charge of the Hospital and receives from the Merchants in Canton from private subscription for medical practice, the sum of \$1000. and he

receives from the Government of the U. States a salary of \$2500 as Interpreter to Legation. He still retains his connection with the Board and the Mission. But receives no support from the Board. There is not perfect satisfaction felt I believe in regard to the application of these sums rec^d. by Dr. Parker for his services, retaining as he does his nominal relations with the Board & Mission

I should be sorry to have such a case as this in our Mission. It is felt to be one at variance with the principles of the Board. But it is a difficult case to manage and it would be better in my opinion that so far as support is concerned the Doctor were not connected with the Mission. The Dr. has been very kind and attentive to me, and I feel under many obligations to him, for his aid as a physician & his counsel & sympathy as a friend & Christian brother.

Since the foregoing memorandum was made I have purchased a fan for Isabella which cost 25 cents. Mr. Dimond wanted 10 or 12 paintings. I have got Dr. Ball to procure some - there are 20 of them. If Mr. Dimond does not want all of them I have requested him to let the children have half of them, if you think it best to take them. Half of them will be one dollar.

I did not see until I overhauled my chest this afternoon the umbrella frame which you put up with a view to get it covered in Canton. This of course I cannot get done now, and I doubt whether I could get it done to my satisfaction if I should try. I am bringing everything up to a close now, as I hope to embark tomorrow.

Dr. Bridgman has rec^d letters from the Missionary Rooms to day. I saw one addressed to Mr. James G. Bridgman by Dr.

Anderson dated Dec^r 22nd. It contained a copy of a vote of the Pru. Com. accepting him as an assistant Missionary of the Board, and he is to be ordian^{ed}~~ed~~ hereafter.-

Maxims.

Anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

A wise man deferreth his anger.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down & without walls.

A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger.

A wise son heareth his father's instruction.

A righteous man hateth lying.

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Good understanding giveth favor; but the way of transgressors is hard.

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction; but he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise.

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health.

The lip of truth shall be established forever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Deceit in in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they who deal truly are his delight.

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

To Isabella -

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right.

There is gold and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Happy is the man (for Isabella I will say, child) that feareth alway; but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

To Maria Jane.

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.

Pleasant words are as an honey-comb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, findeth life, righteousness and honor.

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

To Levi Tenny

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge.

There shall no evil happen to the just.

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule.

The way of the slothful is as a hedge of thorns; but the way of the righteous is made plain.

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul;
but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

To James Patton.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and
the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.

For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years
of thy life shall be increased.

If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself; but if
thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to
famish; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

A wise son maketh a glad father.

My son, be wise, and make my heart glad.

Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom.

Forsake not the law of thy mother: and despise not thy
mother when she is old.

An obedient child makes glad the heart of his parents:
and to such as honor their parents the Lord hath left a promise
of long life and prosperity, if that should be best for them.

The fear of the Lord prolongeth days; but the years
of the wicked shall be shortened.

Prov. 10 c. 27 v.

To Martha Ann.

"Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that
may be desired are not to be compared to it." Prov. 8 chap. 11 v

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early
shall find me. v. 17.

Whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor

of the Lord. v. 35.

Wisdom in the highest sense is the fear of the Lord.

In this sense may my daughter seek it first; and in the subordinate sense seek it also.

L. C.