

pr[esented] 19/10 [1838]

Port of Rio de Janeiro, August 6, 1838

Highly esteemed brother!

May the grace and peace, wisdom and zeal of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you more and more. Amen.

Since a Hamburg ship is leaving from here to Hamburg in the next few days, I consider it a pleasant duty to inform you of our well-being and our journey so far with this wonderful opportunity. Of course, my communication will be brief, partly because our journey is already half completed, partly because there is a lack of leisure and convenient opportunities to write here in the port (for example, I am writing these lines at 5 o'clock in the morning, on a box in our cabin, by candlelight), and partly because I don't want to take all the interest away from future excerpts and my diaries.

On **May 28th**, we left Blackwell, a part of London, but encountered such adverse winds in the canal that we weren't able to leave Plymouth until June 11th, where we stayed for a few days. In the notorious Bay of Biscay, we didn't experience any storms, but we faced constant headwinds, which meant we couldn't leave Santa Cruz (pronounced Santa Kruhs) until July 1st. We anchored there for another 2 to 3 days. You may ask why we anchored so often, especially since it was said that we wouldn't stop at all during the journey? The simple answer is that our ship is an emigrant ship; on board, including the crew, there are no fewer than 300 souls, all of whom naturally want to eat and drink. It's hard to imagine the inconveniences, dissatisfaction, and disasters caused by this excessive crowd, let alone describe them in the limited space of a letter. Suffice it to say, I can assure you that hardly a day goes by without fierce arguments, and certainly not a week without serious, sometimes bloody brawls, among both the lower-class emigrants and the sailors. However, I believe these phenomena should be attributed as much to the character of the people as to the limited space, because even those already settled in South Australia are said to be no better, according to a letter that arrived while we were in Plymouth, which stated that drunkenness and all the vices that accompany it are prevalent there in large quantities. Thus, the impressions of this settlement as being so excellent will, at least in moral terms, eventually prove to be a sad correction. We intended to write about Tenerife already, and indeed had the letter ready, but we were prevented from doing so by an unpleasant circumstance that I'd rather not mention.

The fact that we had almost continuous favorable winds from here to Rio can be seen from the long distance we covered from July 1 to August 30, on which last day we entered the port of Rio at 9 o'clock in the evening.

On the following day, we would have liked to go ashore like many others, but it was not possible for us, because the captain only wanted to send the ship's boat once, and on that first trip, the gentlemen in the first cabin were given priority. He also did not want to allow any shore boats to come to the ship. On the second day, I went ashore, but Brother Teichelmann could not, because it was Sunday and he had to hold a service on board. It was very refreshing for me, after months of staying among stiff and proud English people, to see the first fellow countryman in a tailor from Fallersleben, who radiated genuine German loyalty in his entire being. I received some valuable information from him, especially that in Rio, for the many Germans, most of whom are shop assistants, a German preacher is being maintained by Prussia. Due to the rain and to not being separated from my companions, I was unable to visit this gentleman yesterday: but today, God willing, we both want to visit him. It's just a shame that we can't include the perhaps not unimportant experiences about him and through him in our letters anymore, as we have to take the latter to the shore today, as we might be able to see more tomorrow, I say might, because the captains are very reluctant in this regard. There would be a lot of work here for a zealous servant of Jesus Christ, as it seemed to me, even among the heathens the need can hardly be greater; never and nowhere have I seen such a widespread desecration of Sunday, proving that Catholicism here cannot even achieve the little it still manages to achieve in European countries in this external respect. The Europeans here, as in all colonies, play the role of the great and amusing gentlemen, and the poor Negro slaves, among whom there may still be some heathens, run around with repulsive singing and shouting, partly burdened with Tamsters, partly for pleasure. I have never seen humanity in its entirety from such a mean side as here. At present, two ships loaded with Negro slaves are in the port here, which were recently captured by an English warship and whose Negroes are soon looking forward to their liberation in Sierra Leone.

What we have said so far has affected us more, but now, allow me, dear brethren! to add a few more things that concern you more. First, what would you do in this case, or advise others to do, if you were asked to hold a church service of the Church of England on an English ship, assuming on the one hand that you are not able to hold it according to the customs of your church, and on the other hand, that in the event of refusal, the doctor would read the prayers on behalf of the government. As you may guess, we have come to such a case and Brother Teichelmann said 'Yes' to it, reading the prayers of the church on Sundays, with some abbreviations, twice on Sundays. I remained unaffected until the penultimate Sunday, having expressed my opinion to Brother Teichelmann, and he consequently always read the prayers, so that others did not grasp my opinion in this matter; I had always read a sermon in the afternoons until then. On the penultimate Sunday, however, the service could not be held on the deck and due to the lack of a spacious enough location that could accommodate everyone, it was suggested to hold it in two places at the same time. Now, of course, I had to express my opinion, and bearing in mind the reasons that led me to oppose the connection with the English church in the past, bearing in mind my solemn ordination

as a servant of the Evangelical Church, and furthermore, to prevent anyone from forming a wrong impression about my future Christian position and activity, I refused to read the English liturgy and therefore only read a sermon with preceding and subsequent prayers. Yesterday, the governor expressed his displeasure to Teichelmann about this and saw it as a disturbance to our friendship, which I will, however, try to rectify at the first opportunity. What do you say to my course of action? -

Furthermore, a question has arisen among us as to whether we should use ordinary bread for the Lord's Supper in the future, or continue to use wafers; I am in favor of the latter, as I believe it is either indifferent which one we use, and then we do not disturb the uniformity of the mother and daughter churches, or it is not indifferent; and in that case, the mother church takes the lead in abolishing the question; I would at least like your decision on this matter. Finally, what about the wives of a man who has several of them, if he converts to Christianity? Since polygamy is common on the South Sea islands, New Holland should not make an exception, so we would also like your advice on this matter.

Finally, I would like to request that the new mission be gifted Brockhaus's Conversations Lexicon or another similar book. Even now, there are a hundred things that come to mind, especially on the spot, about which one would be glad to be able to obtain even the most basic information in that intellectual desert, which one can more or less do in the aforementioned works. In general, I think that Germany, which is so rich in intellectual resources, should never neglect the mission with these resources, as it obtains them with its physical resources, of which it is comparatively poor.

As I hear that all clothing items are first brought from England to Adelaide and are paid for at a huge price there, I would be very grateful if a pair of summer suits could be sent to me at the first opportunity, instead of spending so much money; the color should, if not completely white, at least be whitish, as the sun completely fades other colors. We acted very foolishly by not bringing more summer clothing with us. I don't know how much I should thank Cordes for his jacket, as I would have melted in my long skirt without it.

We are missing the instructions from Altenburg on how to slaughter and skin animals. Could you please send us at least a dozen annual reports from 1837 and inauguration speeches by Hesekei? We have had many opportunities in London where we could have distributed these reports, and hopefully, there will be no shortage of them in Adelaide either. The distribution of annual reports is all the more necessary, as many people still do not know how to benefit from the Society's future status and influence. Among the educated, many understand German.

My warmest greetings to the brothers in the seminary, to Mr. Director Steglich, to Mr. Geiseler, Seiler, etc. Recommending my work and myself to your fraternal intercession, I remain most sincerely yours.

Your humble brother.

Cl. Schürmann

To the Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society,
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