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To the Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society
in Dresden.

Port Lincoln, July 7, 1841

Dear brethren!

I wish you grace, peace, and joy in the Lord beforehand.

If, as I undoubtedly assume, my last report from the beginning of this year and a letter to Mr. Pastor Wermelskirch from the middle of March have reached you, you will already be aware of the most essential information about the nature and circumstances of my position and my personal situation. Overall, everything has remained as it was at that time, and I will report on the noteworthy changes that have occurred since then as briefly and clearly as I can in the following.

My acquaintance with the local natives, which I first established in November last year, has gradually expanded, so that I am now personally acquainted with about 70 - 80 souls, and the natives themselves have gained enough trust to bring their wives to the settlement. This is a major step on the part of the latter, as the old rumor that the crab fishermen on Kangaroo Island found women here several years ago can no longer be doubted, as the local indigenous people not only name the names of the abducted women, but also indicate the places and other circumstances of the abductions, and it was only natural for the latter to believe that the current settlers intended to do exactly what those succeeded in doing.

It would probably not be so difficult to keep them out of the houses, but they dig up the settlers' potatoes from the gardens, which is all the more annoying, as until now they could only take the seeds, because the young potatoes are still too small. Moreover, they are ungrateful companions, as they spare their benefactors just as little as those who turn them away from their doors. They not only took potatoes from me, but also, noticing the moment of my absence, stole flour from the house. Of course, one can't view these thefts in any other light than seeing them as the greediness of a naughty boy, but the unfortunate thing is that many people aren't as vigilant, and the natives are not subject to any discipline, so they only become more brazen by not being punished for such misdeeds. Therefore, I was very pleased that a

young native, who was suspected of theft, was arrested the day before yesterday, although he had to be released the following day due to a lack of sufficient evidence. They have all left now, probably because several more are aware of their guilt and fear being arrested. May God grant that this demonstration, because arresting them shouldn't be the end of it, will instill a salutary fear. --

In order to prevent such frictions between the white and black populations as much as possible, it has long been my aspiration to settle deeper in the country; and therefore, through the government's protector Moorehouse, I have proposed to allocate land to the local natives, to build me a small house on it, and to provide a worker who would teach them farming and other tasks. This arrangement, in my opinion, would not only have a preventive effect, but also a direct beneficial effect, keeping people gainfully employed and accustoming them to earning their own living through hard work, apart from the opportunity it would create for me to exercise my duties among them.

I have not yet received a response to that proposal, and I do not expect a favorable one with the change of governor and the austerity system that has come with it. I would turn to you for help in such cases, if it weren't for your principle of using your resources exclusively for the immediate promotion of the salvation of the heathens. But I can't foresee what I should do alone with the savages. I don't think I have to fear for my life if I settled alone somewhere, but they would beg for the last morsel from me or take it by force. If I still had my good Gottfried, I would have carried out this plan, even if the government had refused to help me, but the lack of the expected funds forced me to dismiss him.

The missionary's profession is perhaps full of trials of faith and patience everywhere, but especially so among the South Australians and in our circumstances. Brother Teichelmann complains a lot about the indifference and resistance of the natives in Adelaide; Brother Meyer urges me to come to him; I had a preference for these natives because they seem to be less exposed to temptations from the whites; and this is still the case until now and will probably remain so for a long time, but what advantage do I or the ministry gain from it if the support we count on fails to materialize! They wisely and correctly warn us not to concern ourselves too much with the external affairs of the natives, but who can observe their condition without being convinced of how much they depend on external influences? Who therefore refrains from reflecting and considering how to shape their external situation as much as possible to make them accessible and submissive to the inner influence of the Gospel of God?

In the entire field of current missionary activity, there is no people that can be compared to the indigenous inhabitants of this country; the hunters in the North American primeval forests and the nomads of South Africa can be considered civilized compared to these people. Therefore, I begin to worry that the otherwise correct principle of limiting missionary effectiveness to the spiritual realm will hardly find its application here, or that the physical and spiritual well-being of the natives

can only stem from it. Further experience will certainly teach us more about this, but in the meantime, I believe that the system on which the institutions for neglected children in Germany are based, expanded and established according to the needs of the natives, would be of great benefit. --

Despite the similarity of the local dialect to the Adelaide language, I'm still far from being as advanced with it as I was with the latter when I left Adelaide, because I haven't had continuous access to the people. Therefore, I haven't even started talking to them about religious matters yet; but I hope I won't have to wait as long as I've already waited.

With this, I have told you, dear brothers, everything I can share about local matters, fully aware of how superficial and insufficient it must seem to you. Of course, it cannot be otherwise at the moment, and it only encourages us to fervently pray to the Lord that he may perform miracles of mercy on the native inhabitants of Port Lincoln, whom he has created and preserved and intends to eternally bless, just like all other peoples. Arise, Lord! Come to seek us and let your glory shine upon us.

Since the arrival of the brethren Meyer and Klose, I haven't received anything from Dresden except for Herloß's magazine and your letter from July 27th. J. as the remaining news is either still in Adelaide or Encounter Bay; I therefore remind you again of the request to send me a copy of all written or printed news, if possible.

I have nothing further to reply to your letter, as the part that particularly concerned me had already been answered by me long ago. I just want to note that, if the quietly implied reproach about my hasty engagement was justified, the transgression has been sufficiently avenged, especially since I then had to justify P. Kavel's actions and take all the sins of that incident upon myself. However, I believe that your judgment would be different if you considered the claims that the other party can rightly make, and understood the real circumstances to which all matters of life in a young colony are subjected. --

I can't figure out why the money promised for October 1840 has still not arrived, especially since Mr. Flaxman recently returned to Adelaide and therefore should have brought the money or a bill of exchange if it had already arrived when he left London. The brothers in Adelaide have probably informed you of the embarrassment we've all encountered, but I've also been directly hindered in my work by the lack of support. I had to dismiss my servants and, as a result, had to forego undisturbed communication with the natives in the interior of the country, as I mentioned above. My salary is barely enough to adequately feed myself, as all food here is twice as expensive as in Adelaide. I would think that if the company were to offer to pay a certain sum annually to Mr. Angas or the South Australian Company's comptoir in London, there would be no obstacle to our accreditation with the bank in Adelaide. I know several young people here in South Australia who receive money from their parents in England in the same way.

I would like to repeat my earlier request to send me a newspaper. We are here, as if cut off from Germany, as the news provided by local newspapers is so sparse and often very outdated. It is said here that Germany is currently engaged in a war with Russia? -- Recommending himself to your fraternal remembrance and intercession,
yours sincerely.

C. W. Schürmann