

pr[esented] 27/2 [18]42

Port Lincoln, July 2nd, 1841

Dear Pastor!

Although I have already offered the meager harvest that the poor soil of Port Lincoln has yielded this quarter to the society, I will still try to see if I can gather a small supplement for you. As for Huschke's trade ideas, I would also like to share my unauthoritative opinion on them, although I can say in advance that Brother Teichelmann, who now has a better opportunity to judge this matter than I do, has already written or will write his own opinion to you. We ourselves, still both together in Adelaide, have often discussed the same plan with each other, but the reasons you yourself mention against it have prevented us from presenting it. A year ago, a venture of this kind would have brought great profit and could still promise considerable advantages. However, for the coming year, it would be a risky undertaking, as the general lack of money has awakened people from their delusions and driven them to farming to such an extent that it is expected that the colony will be able to supply itself with most of its needs next year. But I believe that there is no loss to be expected in any case. Manufactured goods are not at all advisable, not only because the choice would be very difficult, as the market is often oversaturated with these or those items, but also because there is so little money in circulation that no one buys anything unless they are absolutely forced to. If the proposal were to be implemented, one should take wheat flour, meat (but not beef), and possibly polished furniture. That, as I said, is my unauthoritative opinion.

You would hardly expect to find a small Lutheran church here in Port Lincoln. Nevertheless, it's the case. My former servant, a pious young man, has remained here in Port Lincoln, and there's also a family from Nordhausen named Neander here. I once had the privilege of baptizing a child of the latter into the church, and next Sunday, God willing, I will join those mentioned at the Lord Jesus' table. I fear that Neander and his wife are still unfamiliar with the life of God, and that's why I've postponed the enjoyment of this holy meal for so long. However, since they're not averse to the gospel, I think they can gain a full understanding and a more faithful grasp of the offered salvation through the sacrament of the altar and the accompanying instruction. After all, they're Christians and members of the Lutheran church by birth. If they confess themselves as poor repentant sinners and believe in the Lord, who has the right to reject them? Of course, they were Prussian subjects in the united church, but I believe that the transfer of Prussian conditions and the necessary admission requirements to South Australia is at the very least superfluous. I'm very pleased with this community, but I would be even more delighted if this church were made up of natives.

I am in a peculiar position regarding the small English population here in terms of church matters. When Governor Gawler was here, he established a service of the Anglican Church, entrusting its conduct to the tax collector Harvey.

This man, a secular one, asked me to give a sermon, but I declined, partly because I was concerned about becoming too closely involved with another church, and partly because I found a major obstacle in the language. This matter has weighed heavily on my heart for a long time and still partly affects my mood; but I realize that if I were to engage in preaching in English, it would take me so much time that my immediate duties would suffer. Anyone who knows how to do good and does not do it, is sinning. This is a serious statement, of course, but it's not always easy to decide where doing good is most necessary and beneficial.

The natives are starting to visit the whaling in Sleaford Bay, a circumstance that does not bode well for the future.

It gave me pleasure to learn from your letter that the brothers currently in the institution have the opportunity to speak in public. After all, the ability to express oneself and the courage to speak publicly are the main requirements for a missionary. I'm sorry that I can't meet the expectations of the naturalist friends in Altenburg anytime soon; however, preparing everything myself requires too much time, and buying specimens costs too much money.

Sending warm greetings to you and yours, along with your brothers and all your friends.

Your brother in the Lord.

C. W. Schürmann

Reverend
Pastor Wermelskirch
in Dresden.

C.W.S.
