

Answered 20/1 [18]44

No. 183

Came off

Adelaide, July 5, 1843

Dearly beloved and revered brethren!

Your valuable letter of October 1842 arrived here in May. It was truly comforting for me to read your encouragement again to continue with the Lord's work and to receive your assurance that you will not cease to remember us in your prayers. In difficult times, it was often a comfort for me to know that in our beloved homeland, our needs are remembered before the Lord and wisdom and strength are sought for us. As soon as I received your valuable letter, I inquired whether there was an opportunity to send letters to make up for any missed opportunities and to answer your questions; but all I could find out was that no ship would sail before Christmas. Several matters called me to Adelaide, and when I arrived here on the 1st of the month, I found the brothers busy writing and learned that the letters intended to go with the "Hooghly" must be handed in on the 5th. For this reason, I hope you will forgive me if I do not send you a complete response to your letter at this time, which I do not yet have with me.

Recently, I've started employing the natives on their section, and in 14 days, with 7 men, we've cleared and fenced almost 3 acres, during which they showed great skill and dedication. The reason for this was that the government sent me 600 pounds of flour for the natives, which I didn't think I could use better. I've also received a piece of land from Mr. Moorhouse, which borders the natives' section, on which I've already made arrangements for my house construction. If God wills, I hope to gather a few families around me and interact with them more closely, which my current location, so close to the police, has often prevented me from doing. From this point of view, dear brother! you'll forgive me for devoting my time to such minor matters, because so far, no one from the government has been appointed to handle these external matters, and this also gives us a good opportunity to learn their language.

I can best demonstrate to you how far I have progressed in learning the language by sending you my vocabulary list. I would have much more to share with you, but I must move on to more important matters.

Your advice, or rather order, laid down in our instruction to form a committee and not to take steps of some importance without joint consultation, has unfortunately been greatly neglected by us, but now the unpleasant consequences of Brother Teichelmann's unauthorized undertakings have particularly shown themselves. This

point has been the main subject of our rigorous deliberations, during which we have realized that we cannot handle the situation well, but in order to prevent further inconveniences for you at home and for the cause here, we have come to this decision: to share our views with you regarding Brother T.'s undertakings, as well as to write to you about how things could be more appropriately arranged for the future.

Brother T. has from the outset understood your purpose in purchasing land, as it appears to all of us, recognized by us - We assert that by purchasing the land, you intended to ease your expenses, namely, that the income from the land, after covering other expenses, should benefit the mission as a whole. We further assert that you only want and are only able to serve the poor heathens with the gospel, but not, as we saw it, to clothe and feed them. We still believe we have the right to remind the government of its duty from time to time regarding the civilization of the natives. (Yesterday, the governor stated without being prompted that he hoped to soon be able to spend more money on the natives). It seems to us that Brother T. has not only caused you unnecessary costs, but has also aroused some suspicion among individual members of the aid society, as this undertaking appears too worldly to them. Furthermore, M. has never promised to seek help from the government, as it will never occur to them to spend their money on foreign property. Brother T. might have been able to reach an agreement with the natives now, without causing you the slightest expense, if he had chosen a suitable location and then requested it from the government - as we wished and, praise God, succeeded - he might also have received food supplies to start with the natives, and in this way, he would have avoided any appearance of self-interest among the people.

Now, general experience has taught us that people who have to hire workers to farm cannot succeed with us, because the wages are still too high in relation to the cost of food and grain, and will remain so for a long time, as no workers are being sent out. Therefore, we decided that Brother T. should not continue to spend money on farming (which he would not have done anyway), and that it would be best for you, if you cannot find people willing to serve the mission with your work as you previously intended, to abandon the section in the future, because you can expect only minor benefits, but significant harm, from farming with servants. The section seems to be good for agriculture, but not for settling the natives, as the surrounding area is already too densely populated and the city is too close.

Brother T. now intends to continue the matter there with his salary for as long as possible, until he receives a definite response from you, and we, the undersigned, also ask you to please write to us whether Brother T. is suitable to represent your purposes, or whether we have better understood your purposes and thus acted correctly in reporting this to you.

H. A. E. Meyer,
C. W. Schürmann,
S. Klose

On this occasion, beloved brethren!, I am sending you 20 copies of my vocabulary book and ask you to send 1 to the friends in Greiz, 1 to Professor F. Rückert, and 2 to my parents. I would have gladly sent you more, if the printer had fulfilled his promise, but he only printed 250 out of 500. I'm also worried about not getting back the money I've invested.

Since I wanted to send some things to my parents, I would like to request that you send the value of three pounds sterling.

In a few hours, I will leave the city. Brother Schürmann will accompany me to baptize my little son, who was born on June 1st, into the covenant of the triune God on the upcoming Sunday.

If I had the time, I would decorate and organize this writing, but unfortunately, I have to ask for your indulgence.

Do not be discouraged, beloved brethren, by the various unpleasant experiences; remember us in love, far away; this is the plea of your loving one.

Meyer

To the Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission