

Hochkirch, Hamilton Victoria; Australia

August 14, 1863

My dear brother Cordes,

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to reply to your dear letter of June 9th with immediate post, as it first went to Adelaide due to the incorrect address (South Australia) and didn't reach me until the day of the postal steamer's departure from Melbourne, the 25th of each month.

As for your inquiry about whether it is advisable to visit the Australian colonies to encourage the friends of the Lutheran mission among the Tamuls, and to disarm the opponents, I must unfortunately say that the current time is definitely not favorable for the execution of your intention.

Indeed, a society, or an association, consisting of the congregations of our synod and the former Kaveltschen congregations, has been formed in South Australia with the aim of establishing a separate mission among the Australian indigenous people. As far as I know, the initial impetus for this came from Pastor Meischel, who, however, found a prepared field and the matter has already progressed so far that Lake Hope, located 400 miles north of Adelaide, has been identified as the seat of the mission, and I have been appointed as a missionary, in case I were to decline the call and request Pastor Harms for one or several missionaries. Since I have now declined the call for several compelling and important reasons, it is hoped that Pastor Harms will provide the necessary workers, so that they will be exclusively assigned to the Australian College.

Among other decisions or statutes of the association, it has also been agreed that all contributions, legacies, and the like from the aforementioned communities should go to the local mission. Thus, I believe that the legacy for India mentioned in your letter, which was envisaged by Pastor Meyer, will be lost. I don't know the details of the matter, but I suspect that the legacy will come from an old wealthy Wendish widow named Haupt. Whether she is still alive or has already died, I'm not sure either, but I will inquire further with the president of the Missionary Society, Pastor Oster.

So this is the situation, which pains me in every respect. Firstly, because the initial impulse for the enterprise did not seem entirely free from partisanship, as I can only judge from publicly published essays due to my distance from Adelaide. Secondly, the plan seems ill-considered and misguided to me. Ill-considered, because a successful mission here requires more resources than our communities can or are willing to raise. Misguided, because it seems advisable to leave a flourishing mission like yours to attempt an uncertain new one. Thirdly, because I feel deprived of the great joy of seeing you again in person. Would we recognize each other? Certainly at first glance. If I could paint, I would send you a picture of which you would say: This is the H. Cordes of the year 38, as he lived and breathed. Thicker or thinner, bald or not; crooked or wrinkled, we may have changed in every respect, yet I imagine I could recognize your distinctive features among thousands and I think you might be able to do the same with mine. Well, who knows if we might even be put to the test of

our recognition abilities.

I have no real connection to the Adelaide Mission Company. Opposing it would have been nonsense on my part or that of the late Meyer. At most, we would have exposed ourselves to the most severe misinterpretations. But times change and experience makes one wise, albeit often at a painfully high cost.

It's strange that you seem to be so unfamiliar with the local conditions here. I must conclude that your former colleagues Appelt and Meischel have broken off all correspondence with you. As for me, I never allowed myself to be misled from the beginning by the belief that the so-called 'caste opponents' were zealous but unwise, although it's difficult to make a judgment with our limited knowledge of the disputed issue. However, Appelt and Meischel have not had a smooth career here either. The former was supposed to become my colleague in Waldkirch, although it's only 150 miles from here, but he withdrew to poach the larger and closer parish from his predecessor Meischel, to which Meischel was appointed, but he's currently trying his luck in Adelaide, where he's more needed. After the death of our dear Meyer, Meischel was chosen from Bethanien, but he failed there, and it's said that he will become my colleague in Mount Gambier, 90 miles from here. —

Here in my parish, the devil has been haunting us with his rattling since the beginning, 54 years ago. In the year 60, it got to the point that I had resigned my position, but the Lord did not grant me the desired peace. The K. Collegium and the loyal majority of my parish would not let me go. Since Easter 1862, my former assistant pastor, Dr. Löffler, has been here, but the rattling spirits have treated him even more despicably than they did me before; after 8 weeks, they closed the church in his face. A third party, with whom he tried to cooperate, has now also become displeased with him, and he will probably go to Bethany to Meyer's or to Lobethal to replace Pastor Fritzsche, who wishes for a successor due to old age. I have often been very afraid here in my loneliness, but the dear Lord has always unexpectedly and gloriously provided advice. My opponent Löffler must now also perform a Balaam's service for me, and bless Israel, to whom he was called. He has united with our synod and the K. Collegium.

However, I don't need to make my letter too long and mention some household matters. There are 6 in my family, a wife and 5 children, 4 boys, aged from 16 to 7 years, and 1 girl aged 6. Our dearest, most faithful, pious Ernst was taken from us on the morning of Pentecost at the age of 11 and a half by a sudden death. Diphtheria, a throat disease unknown to us, killed him within 6 days. Before him, we had already buried 3, but they were younger. Ernst's death has left us with a wound that will take us a lifetime to heal. The eldest will enter a commercial business on New Year's Day, but who knows what will happen to the others. None of them will make it to university, firstly because Papa doesn't have the means, and secondly because the boys see the pastor's treatment of them every day, which makes them lose all desire for such a profession.

Now, my dear Cordes, I was pleased and ashamed to receive your letter, especially the latter, because I didn't write to you sooner. As long as Meyer was still with us, I sensed through you and your works that with his death, the connecting link might be severed. I wanted to write immediately after sending the 'Christian Messenger', but month after month passed without anything happening. Our Michaelis Church, inaugurated last Sunday, and Ernst's death have also contributed to this oversight.

We commemorate you and your work in the Lord with our weak intercession every month and more often. May the Lord continue to grant all of you faith and zeal, loyalty and perseverance in your duties, and bless you with many blessings.

Write again soon. I've been feeling quite lonely since Brother Meyer's death.

Your brother in the Lord sends his greetings to you and your family.

C.W. Schürmann

C. Hobusch has just finished making this ??? transcript of the ??? of your letter.