

where mother would let them smoke. I can well remember that when the party was over Father's study reeked with stale cigar smoke for weeks, and in fact the aroma was soon detected all thru the Manse, much to Mother's disgust! And what an amazing assortment of layer cakes were left behind. We lived on cake for weeks after a Donation Party...I could write a book almost on that Social Event! And how surprised Father always looked when Mr. Cook or Mr. Voorhees or Mr. Kline presented him with a white envelope toward the end of the evening,...I think Father and Mother and we boys looked forward to that event all thru the year, that and the thrilling Harvest Homes...the big crowds, the big supper, the big tent, the horses and carriages tied for miles almost in every direction, and above all the big bandstand and the band...and sometimes a speech by someone running for office in the fall."

Finally, in a recent letter from Maxine Den Herder Dievendorf, daughter of the Rev. Marinus Den Herder (1931-1932, Middlebush), who writes, "I would love to get back to Middlebush again. We did not get to live there very long, but those were the happiest and best years of my childhood and I remember them vividly. It was an ideal village made up of very special people." Her father's ministry was cut short by his sudden death at the age of 44 on November 23, 1932.

Stephen L. Mershon mentioned that his parents came to an "exceptionally large and commodious parsonage" when they arrived in Middlebush in 1869. The house had been much enlarged in the months prior to their coming - no doubt because of the large family it had to accommodate. Harold Thomson also mentioned the many rooms in the old Manse. That house, now numbered 37 South Middlebush Road, remained our Parsonage until 1927, when it was sold to A. Willard Totten. A new Parsonage was built in 1928 opposite the church on Amwell Road and is now occupied by the minister, Rev. Ronald Vanderbeek and his family.

When the Mershon family lived in East Hampton, Long Island, their Presbyterian Parsonage stood on the site immediately next to the colonial home of John Howard Payne, the inspiration for his well-loved song "Home Sweet Home". Thru the years many children, young people, and adults, have found the little village of Middlebush with the Reformed Church as its center, to be very close to their hearts, and "though far they might roam", it was always truly HOME, SWEET HOME.

Mission To Java - Part I

The Journal of Elihu Doty

Elihu Doty was born on May 28, 1810, the son of Stephen Doty. While his place of birth is unknown, we do know that he received his degree from Rutgers College in 1835 and finished his seminary training at New Brunswick in 1836. He was licensed by the Classis of Schoharie and desired to live the life of a missionary. It seems that Doty had received his call while still a youngster in Sunday School. Doty began his missionary career in Batavia in 1836. He next served in Borneo from 1839 to 1844 and then worked in Amoy, China from 1844 to 1864. He died on November 30, 1864 while enroute to the United States. He was only four days from port.

The journal which follows was kept by Doty during the years 1836 to 1845. It is as complete as he made it except for several pages which cover a part of his trip to Java in 1836. This journal offers some indication of the hardships and sacrifices of the missionary lifestyle. Far from home, he felt as a stranger in a strange land, unknown by all except his Lord.

1836 - Embarkation. Detained in Port...

June 7th After being detained for nearly a week by contrary winds and rain. This afternoon, we received directions to repair to the ship, which is to carry us from our native land to the field of our future labors. About 6 o'clock we left Varick Street New York, accompanied by a number of our friends, and between 7 & 8 o'clock slept on board ship and there bid farewell and parted with a dear Brother and others, who thus far attended us. On board we found all the missionary company composed of Brethern Ennis, Nevius, Youngblood, with their wives, and Miss Condit, and had the happiness for the first time to sit down in our cabin and take a cup of tea together. After an hours pleasant conversation, we enjoyed a season of refreshing communion with our adorable redeemer, committed ourselves to his care for the voyage, as well as for the night, and found our little cabin a bethel to our souls.

8th Still in the New York bay. Captain Gore has gone on shore for a pilot. Spent much of the day in writing letters. Brother Abeel, Mrs. Codwise, and Mrs. Washington came on board in the afternoon and had the privilege of once more uniting with dear Brother at the Throne of Grace, it may be the last time until our hearts and voice unite in ascriptions of praise to Him that loved us and gave Himself for us before the Throne of our Father and our God.

Our baggage. Cabin and State rooms arranged and everything indicates convenience and comfort. The Captain seems in every sense a gentleman and he with the other officers appear anxious to render our situation happy.

Departure. First Night At Sea.

9th Captain returned with a Pilot this morning and weighed anchor about 8 o'clock. About 12 o'clock we passed through the Narrows and lost sight of the City of New York, but in consequence of very slight and variable breezes did not pass the Hook until 6 o'clock P.M. Here the Pilot left the ship and by him we had once more the opportunity of forwarding letters to

friends scattered abroad in the land so near our hearts, but which we shall, probably, see no more.

In the evening a brisk breeze swelled our sails and speedily hurried us away from the shores of our native soil. But while, called thus to gaze for the last time upon scenes which we love so well, our hearts were far from being burdened with sorrow. Our spirits partook of the calm serenity of the world as it then seemed around us. The Missionaries assembled on deck and those that could sing united their voices in songs of praise to Him who had...

[Pages 3-18 of the journal are missing.

The entries continue on page 19.]

Gales. Sudden Calm & Gales, Squalls.
August 13th We have today experienced a severe gale. It commenced in the morning before daylight and has continued through the day. Towards evening it commenced showering with thunder and lightening. The scene has been truly sublime and awful. At a short distance from us another ship was plowing the deep. The waves ran so high, as frequently to interrupt the sight of her, now tossing our floating habitation upon their summit and then plunging her into an ocean of foam below. The lightening flashed, with livid glare, while the deep toned thunder spoke to us of Almighty Power. "These are but a part of His ways."

A few minutes after writing the above. The wind suddenly died away. We deeply felt the reality of the following:

"More the treacherous calm I dread
Than Tempest breaking O'er my head."

14th Sabbath. After a calm of two hours in the midst of a very heavy sea. The wind breezed up about 1 o'clock this morning and at six o'clock had freshened into more tremendous gale than yesterday. The dead lights have been closed during the day and our hours have passed by the lamp's dim light. No preaching. Prayer meeting morning and afternoon. In the evening read one of Chalmer's sermons.

15th Morning pleasant. P.M. heavy squalls. Sea was high.

Severe Tempest. Last Sabbath.

23rd Gales and squally weather almost constantly for the past week. On Saturday

evening we experienced a most tremendous tempest. The gloominess of the midnight storm at sea is indescribable. The tempest commenced about 8 o'clock and continued during night. Lightening in livid glare flashed in quick succession followed by the awful thunder clap. The winds drove through the ship's tackling with frightful roar. All sails were furled and the helm lashed, and our rocking, trembling, groaning ship, with naked spars, was committed to the mercy of the waves. The billows ran high, sporting with our floating habitation, now raising her to the heavens and then plunging her into the depths or broke with tremendous crash against her trembling sides or over her deck. About 2 o'clock a heavy sea came over the poop and quarter deck, deluged the cabin of the officers and leaking down into one state room soon expelled us from our berths and left us to seek shelter in some other place. Sabbath morning clear but strong winds. No preaching in consequence of the weariness of seamen from preceeding nights labors and rough weather. Saw a vessel, some of whose spars had been carried away in the storm. Prayer meeting morning and afternoon and sermon read in the evening. My soul barren and cold. Little joy. O how sensibly do I feel the weakness of my nature and depravity of heart that yields at once to external circumstances and sinks into inactivity and sluggishness even when both the terrors and goodness of the Lord are passing before me calling for ardent love and gratitude.

Seriousness Among the Sailors.

30th Rough, tempestuous weather with little intermission has continued during the past week. Last Sabbath like the two preceeding passes without preaching. Now we anticipate milder and less boisterous weather in as much as we are slowly approaching the equator. Today pleasant and sailing smooth, no comparison of what we have experienced.

Sept. 3rd Saturday evening. Another week has gone. In reviewing it I find much cause for self abasement, and also much for thanksgiving. Time, I think, is becoming increasingly precious, and yet I have to mourn over much mispent, and also

that I have exerted myself so little for the glory of God, especially in the salvation of the Sailors. Yet the Lord, we hope though with tremblings, has been pleased to show himself merciful and ready to save. The man before mentioned gives more clear evidence of a good work. Some others appear thoughtful. Feeling was manifested by three or four with whom I conversed this evening, warned to flee from the wrath to come.

Hardened Sailor. Preaching Again.

Yet others are very hard and insensible. One a few evenings since said "he didn't care what became of him after death," and seemed to think it would be unjust, that men should then suffer after this life of sorrows and afflictions. Without stopping to reason, I warned him from the bible to repent. This morning held in the cabin a prayer meeting, especially in behalf of the "ship's company."

Preaching Again.

4th Once more we have enjoyed the rich privilege of waiting upon God in His preached word. Brother Youngblood preached from "What shall it profit a man, etc." I have great reason for gratitude that I feel an increasing delight in spiritual exercises. My thirst for divine knowledge and growth in grace is sometimes very ardent. But I have to mourn over my natural sluggishness and sloth in these high and holy pursuits. Have today experienced some degree of yearning and melting of soul in both social and private worship, and felt that it is good to keep holy day. While musing upon the song of the redeemed in glory and angelic response mentioned in 7th of Revelation, my soul caught a spark, and longed to join the heavenly choir. Three months today we enjoyed the opportunity of commemorating Jesus' dying love, in His Last Supper, with dear Brethern and Sisters of the Middle Church, N.Y. Again they are surrounding the sacred board, while we are tossed upon the deep. My soul pants for the sanctuary of God and to feast upon the fat things full of marrow, and to drink of the river of His pleasures, and in the great congregation to keep holy day. Yet I need not mourn, for in this

desert the Lord spreads His table before us. And surely our dear Brethern, enjoying this heavenly blessing in rich profusion will not forget to enter a special plea in our behalf!

Last Sabbath on Board Ceylon.

11th Another week has passed. The good providence of God has been with us; and the winds as "his kind Angels" have been wafting us pleasantly towards our destined haven. This has been one of the most pleasant and joyful Sabbaths on board the Ceylon. Felt much solemnity during the latter part of the week in preparing for preaching today. And today have experienced sweet peace and much freedom and earnestness while urging the little company of sailors to choose the service of God. Text - Joshua 24:15, Choose you, etc. The reflection that this probably would be our last Sabbath spent with these impressed me with a deep sense of my responsible station. Good attention and manifestation of solemnity characterized my little congregation of immortals. The Captain not present. Read in the evening a sermon by A. Dickinson. Text, "Ought not Christ to have suffered, etc." - Luke 24:26.

First Land. Java Head.

12th After being imprisoned for 95 days upon the watery elements. This morning for the first time since our last gaze upon native shore, we were cheered with the distant view of land. Christmas Island in deep haze was visible with its irregular outline like some mountain peak drawn upon the horizon. A vessel is also near us, supposed by the Captain to be the Asia, with whom we fell in near the Equator in the Atlantic Ocean.

Spent the day in packing our goods preparatory to disembarkation. Tomorrow we anticipate the long desired pleasure of gazing upon the shore of Java.

Straits of Sunda.

13th The long desired view is now before us. Early this morning Java Head with both shore and mountainous peak hove in sight. About 9 o'clock we entered Princes Straits passing near Friar Rock. On our

right the high lands of Java are seen clad in never fading verdure, the fragrance of which most delightfully regaled us. In the distance on our left Sumatra, stained with the blood of brother missionaries, is distinctly visible. The wind was very favorable and we were soon swiftly beyond Princes Island, into the Straits of Sunda. After being so long cut off from mother earth the very sight has become thrilling. The scene while passing up the straits was peculiarly animating. During the day a number of islands were seen. One presented a spectacle of peculiar grandeur. Pulo Crockatoo or Parrot Island, evidently of volcanic formation, was seen in the haze of distance, emphatically, with a "cloud capt" peak. Upon its summit, a brilliant cloud rested, and from our position appeared like an active volcano, sending forth volumes of smoke. The coast of Java is mostly bold and mountainous here, with many high peaks. Off [] we saw natives in their boats, but none reached us on account of our speed. Here we were subject to a disappointment. We expected to have dropt letters for America, but had no opportunity. Passed Point St. Nicholas and entered Java Sea during the evening.

Arrival and At Anchor.

14th A great part of the day a most perfect calm. The ship has been lying a little west of the "Thousand Islands". At one time from the deck I counted 38 visible to the naked eye.

15th This morning at 10 o'clock the anchor was cast about 3 miles from Batavia. Brother Ennis and myself accompanied the Captain ashore, to make arrangements for the disembarkation of the missionary family. Thus after being prisoners of the ocean for near 100 days, we once more stepped upon "terra firma".

Kind Reception Missionaries. Emotions.

We met with a kind reception by the American Consel and Mr. Forrestier to whom we had letters. Thence we proceeded to the missionary residence of the London Missionary Society and received a most hearty welcome by Mr. Young and were much cheered by unexpectedly meeting with Mr. Lockwood

and Mr. Hanson of the Episcopal Church in America and Mr. Barnstein, the German missionary, who has visited the Dyaks of Borneo and has made a covenant of peace by blood. A most interesting account of whose tour was published in America the week before we sailed.

After having consulted and made such arrangements with these friends as we hope will result in means of at least temporary accommodations, with the promise of a visit to the ship by the missionary brethren, we return on board to await the result.

It is impossible to delineate my emotions produced upon the occasion. The first gaze upon the rich luxuriance of the island surpassing all former conception. The first feeling of depression from a sense of being among strangers in a strange and distant land. The first look upon multitudes of precious immortals sunk in heathenish degradation, or, the abject slaves of the Moslem delusion. The first thought of our errand, after landing upon pagan ground, feeling of responsibility, with the awful interests connected with our labors, made impressions not soon to be effaced.

Open Field.

The report of the resident brethren concerning prospects of usefulness is most cheering. The field is wide; the harvest white, even perishing, but where are the laborers! Java, Borneo, Sumatra, are open.

The evening was spent in social conference and prayer. The Lord I trust was

present, and our hearts filled with awe and solemnity.

Disembarkation. First Day.

16th At 8 o'clock the brethren Young, Hansen, and Barnstein with Miss Thornton, the female superintendant of the schools, came on board ship, and brought the intelligence that rooms for us had been taken at Monsieur Chauhan's Hotel. We prepared for going once to land, and about 1 o'clock took up a temporary residence as above. Thus, the Lord has brought us to the desired haven. Through the perils of the deep He has been with us, in the midst of the tempest He has been our Protector, though strangers, He has at once raised up friends manifesting a deep interest for our comfort and success in our work. Of these we have to mention the kind attentions of Mr. Forrestier in particular, who interested himself to procure a place of accommodation for us and this afternoon with Captain Gore called to enquire after our welfare and tender his services. Brethren Hansen and Lockwood called this evening and we enjoyed a season of cheering and refreshing conversation. Thus our first day upon heathen ground closes. O for a heart to praise the Lord. O for a soul so deeply imbued with the spirit of gratitude, that His mercies shall no longer lie neglected. Now may I be newly enabled to consecrate myself supremely to His service and cause. May the infinite interests of His kingdom, and worth of precious, dying souls around, keep me broad awake to my duty and the object for which I have come hither, for Christ's sake.

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The Journal of Elihu Doty

RESIDENCE IN BATAVIA

First Sabbath on Java.

Sept. 17th Spent the day at our lodgings, resting from the fatigues of the bustle and excitement of yesterday.

18th Our first Sabbath in this land of spiritual darkness and death. Passed the day with the mission family at Parapatan. A day long to be remembered, when with the people of God though few in number, we had the privilege of entering his courts. O how refreshing to the weary pilgrim is a resting place, so to me have the place of worship and privileges of the sanctuary proved today.

19th Disappointed in not being able to bring our baggage on shore. Dined and spent the evening at Mr. Roberts'.

20th Again disappointed from the same cause as yesterday. Spent most of the day at Parapatan.

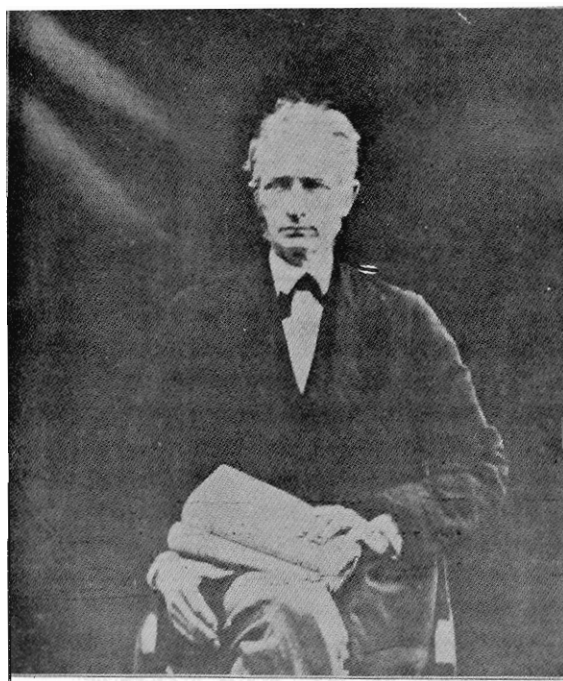
21st Succeeded today in landing our goods and securing them in a storehouse.

22nd Through the kindness of O. Roberts, Esquire, heard of a house to be let which he proposes we visit tomorrow morning. Thus the Lord is providing for us. O that I could more wholly commit myself to Him.

23rd Visited the house and find it convenient and large enough to accommodate two families. Upon consultation, it was decided to hire it, and it be occupied by Brother Nevins and myself.

Communion

25th Sabbath. A deeply interesting and solemn day. In the morning the holy supper was administered and in this land of darkness, a small number of the follower of Jesus sat down to His table and were refreshed by the rich provisions of his grace. Here members of six Christian denominations united in the feast of love. Thus on the second Sabbath upon heathen ground we had the opportunity of renewing our covenant vows and openly avouching Jehovah to be our God and we his servants. The four German brethren were with us probably for the last time upon so interesting an occasion. In a few days they are to leave us for what has



REV. ELIHU DOTY.

been the hostile shores of Borneo and now covered with dense darkness and much savage cruelty. To encourage us in our work, the Lord has been showing that labor for Him shall not be in vain.

Baptism of Native.

After the English Service worship was held in Malay when five male and one female converts from heathenism to Christianity were received into the visible church by baptism. To administer this ordinance was the last ministerial act of Brother Barnstien among us. It was to me a melting season. My feelings were so excited as almost to overpower me. O when shall I be able in their own language to communicate to these perishing thousands the wonderful work of God and point them to the bleeding Lamb.

26th Spent the day in purchasing furniture for house.

Missionaries Leave.

27th Removed our baggage to our intended dwelling. In order to do this, Brother Nevins and myself employed no less than 48 Coolies. To an American eye it would have been most amusing to have seen these, preparing, shouldering, and trudging off with boxes, trunks, kegs, etc. etc. in most

order and confusion.

Our dear German Brethern on their way to the ship called and bade us farewell. They are to proceed by ship to Surabeiyei and thence to their field of future labors. Thus we meet and part, indicating that here we have _____ no abiding place. Our home is in heaven and there we hope to meet to part no more.

Removal.

28th Left the Hotel and lodged for the first night in our own "hired house". A new era of my life now begins. Heretofore I have known nothing of domestic cares. With housekeeping they must commence. May it be the beginning of new life and joy to my soul and new and unreserved devotion to the cause of my adorable Redeemer.

29th & 30th Engaged in arranging etc. our goods and preparing for our work.

Commence the Malay Language.

The Malay teacher a native Haji came this afternoon of 30th and I took my first lesson; which consisted in saying the alphabet in the Arabic character. The Haji is very much of a natural gentleman in his manners. Though a decided, yet I cannot learn that he is a bigoted Mahomedan.

Oct. 1st Again the holy sabbath has saluted our waking eyes and again have we enjoyed the privileges of the sanctuary. Little spiritual enjoyment during the day. I deeply feel the deadening influence of secular engagements in which I have necessarily been immersed some days past. Oh how weak do I find my faith; how little deep rooted piety and heavenly mindedness. At times I have hoped that I was growing in the divine life, but, when circumstances favor worldliness—oh how little strength to resist or overcome do I possess.

2nd Our first monthly concert on heathen ground. My heart cold, my spirits desponding (in evening private worship), some little enjoyment.

Visit to a Chinese School.

5th This morning accompanied Brother Hansen to visit one of the Chinese schools connected with the mission. The teacher is a native Chinese, devoted to his idols. Others can-

not be obtained. In this school Christ and belial were emphatically brought in contact. The scholars, about 35 in number, were reading the Chinese New Testament and drinking in new ideas from the fountain of truth and life while the room in which they were assembled contained a complete apparatus for idolatrous worship, such as images, pictures, sandalwood, candles, etc., etc. After taking a dish of tea with the teacher we made our salam, and in returning took our way through an extensive Chinese campong. In this we passed a small temple with its altar and god, which has stood so long that a banyan tree had grown upon a part of its walls and the fibres of whose roots entwine around giving them support in their delapidated state.

Paid our respects to the governor general and met with an encouraging reception.

Preaching.

9th Preached this morning for the first time in the Mission Chapel. Text John 14:27. I found it refreshing to my soul to speak once more for my divine Master; but felt after the labor more of the exhausting influence of the climate than at any previous time. In accordance with my text we have lately been reminded that all things of earth instead of producing peace often become the occasion of destroying it and producing anxiety.

Robbery of House.

The apartment of Brother Nevins was entered last Thursday night and robbed of watch and clothing, etc. This circumstance has made us all feel that we have no security and need not look for abiding peace and serenity short of the heavenly source. O that I could without any reserve and with a perfect confidence cast all my cares upon Him who careth for us.

Native Character Dishonest.

11th Dismissed a servant whom we engaged upon our removal here on suspicions of a bad character. The more I see of the native Chinese character, the more I am convinced of the powerful influence of the Bible to makemen honest. Among all with whom we have had to deal, I think we have scarcely met

with an individual who would not have deceived us if they could. Deception, in trade appears to be the general if not the honest principle. It is one of our greatest trials and source of our greatest anxiety that we are surrounded with those in whom we can place no confidence. Such here is the case from the merchant to the household servant of native

Conference Meeting Resumed.

13th Recommened this evening our Thursday evening conference on the subject of our Christian experience. This exercise proved very profitable to myself on board ship, pray that it may prove here a constant means of growth in grace. On account of great fatigue and both bodily and mental exhaustion I did not enjoy the exercises of the evening. O how often have I to complain of the deadening influence of secular engagements and such has unavoidably been my situation for several days past. Domestic cares and preparing petition for residence and duties connected with this I feel to have proved injurious to spiritual life and heavenly mindedness!

Nov. 1st Nothing of special note has occurred since I last wrote. Of late, I think, I have had more enjoyment in religious duties, and devotional exercises than for some time previous. Yet I feel a barrenness in spiritual things, which often distresses my soul. I do long to be filled with all the fulness of God and still find great sluggishness approaching to lothfulness in pursuing the appointed means for its accomplishment.

Preaching on Original Sin.

6th Sabbath. Preached in the morning. Subject was original Sin, introductory to a series of discourses upon the Cross of Christ. It was refreshing once more to point lost and souls to the dear Redeemer. O that divine aid may enable me to make such an exhibition of Jesus and him crucified as the Holy Spirit will own to the edifying and salving of precious soul; so that while unable to point the heathen's wandering eye to the Lamb of God, others professedly Christian may be directed to that peace and consolation which flows alone from the Cross.

Arrival of Missionaries for Singapore.

After retiring to rest a knock at the door aroused us and we were rejoiced to meet Brother Hopi and hear of the safe arrival of Brethern and Sisters of the Singapore Mission whom, with anxiety we have been expecting the month past. Though not cheered with letters from friends as we anticipated, yet in this strange land, every from beloved country is animating.

7th The landing of the Missionary Brethern effected; and we feel ourselves happy in giving them a welcome to our abode. They are Rev. Mr. Travelle and Robins and ladies, Dr. Tracy and lady and Rev. Mr. Hopi unmarried.

8th Spent the day at the Custom House attempting to effect the landing of baggage but did not succeed except of some goods for Siam Mission.

Visit to a Chinese Temple and Burying Ground.

19th Rode with the Brethern here and those of Parapatan to visit a Chinese Temple and burying ground about four miles distant. The temple is a very old building and quite small for one so notorious. It is the scene of the irrational fire dance or passing of a number of the Chinese priests through a bed of charcoal in a state of perfect ignition, every year. In the temple we found a number of gods, some of wood and some of stone, and all small, the largest not exceeding 20 inches in height. A majority of these were placed in a niche in the wall which serves as a kind of sanctum sanctorum of these things of nought; while some three or four were placed upon stands or tables exposed in the open room, and one was suspended by a cord against one of the posts. Those of wood were of human form except the one suspended which was the form of a fish, six or eight inches in length. The stone were cut into hideous images resembling nothing I have seen or heard of "in heaven above or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth." And are such things the objects of the reverence and adoration of immortal and rational souls? Such is the fact. The tables in this house of idolatry which serve as altars, were covered with offerings to these imaginary dieties. This

consisted of curiously wrought trinkets of beaten brass, sandalwood, flowers, etc. A number were readily presented to us, which act a Chinaman afterwards said, showed that they loved us more than their gods. O how true that corrupt man has "changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things." Romans 1:23. The cause is evident. Men do not like to retain the knowledge of God in their minds.

The burying grounds of the Chinese present a singular spectacle to an American eye. The one visited today and another which we have before seen cover an immense tract of ground. I should judge from four to six hundred acres. Instead of allotting to the dead the little narrow house of 6 feet by 2, large cemeteries are constructed of massive though elegant mason work, indeed some specimens here exhibited, equal, if not exceed anything of the kind I ever saw. Very many of these sepulchres, for such they are, have cornish work of the most finished texture. The style of course is Chinese and hence peculiar. The Chinese hold their dead in the most profound veneration. And one way of showing their regard is by building and beautifying their tombs. Around these too they make annual offerings and here worship the spirits of the departed.

How vain will prove these massive stones and walls of brick when the trumpet of the Archangel shall sound. While walking among these dwellings of the dead my mind turned to the resurrection scene, and with delight dwelt upon the Christian hope of immortality through Him who is the resurrection and the life. But oh, the awful disappointment which awaits those thousands upon thousands when their dust again shall live, and these sealed tombs shall no longer retain their prisoners of death. These must awake to everlasting shame and contempt. And must their living brethren sleep with them with no brighter hope!

Departure of the Brethern.

24th The brethren and sisters this afternoon embarked on board of the English ship Ben-coolen for Singapore. Accompanied them to the wharf and bid them until our work is done here and account ordered before the throne

of God. Thanks to our heavenly Father for this season of brotherly and Christian communion and counsel and hope it may prove mutually profitable.

Distribution of Tracts.

29th This morning went into the market near us with a number of Chinese tracts for distribution. Before I had fairly entered the place and as soon as it was known that I had Chinese books they flocked around me in numbers so that I was unable to proceed until entirely released from my load. The avidity of the Chinese to obtain a printed tract of book is truly astonishing. The majority can read and with eagerness grasp at any thing to read. It is not because they are Christian books that they desire them, but because they are books which they can read, and would doubtless with as much eagerness, grasp at a work on any other subject as that of the religion of Jesus Christ. They will read and it is to be hoped that the truth thus brought in contact with their minds may find its way to the heart and with some, produce the peaceable and peaceful fruits of righteousness. This was my first attempt at distribution and oh that it may prove the beginning of much usefulness and good. So precious, the ignorant and perishing immortal souls.

Visit to the Chinese Campong.

Dec. 1st Rode this afternoon in company with brother Nevius and our families to visit the Chinese temple in the city of Batavia. Not knowing its precise location, we trusted to our drivers to take us to the place, who instead of proceeding to the "rumah sambahyang", took us into the heart of the Chinese campong to a "rumah wayang" or place for religious theatrical exhibitions. Here on the threshold of one of their sacred edifices or, rather, stages we stopt - and I took from my carriage a number of Chinese tracts which I had brought with me for distribution.

Eagerness of the Chinese for Books.

No sooner was it known by those near, that I had books than they, being first supplied with one, communicated the news to their

neighbors, so that in a very short time I was surrounded by a large multitude pressing upon those before and upon myself in order to obtain a book. The old man whose head was whitened with age and the stripling just ripening to manhood, were here seen with respectful, though earnest impotunity soliciting something to read. At one time the press was so great and the greediness to obtain a tract so intense that with difficulty I prevented their being, literally, taken from me. My stock was soon exhausted, and when I gave the last one I had to a young Chinese, he clasped it in both hands, and then rushed through the crowd bearing his trophy in triumph, in order to prevent its being taken from him. Many came from quite distant parts of the street and finding they could not come near enough to obtain, had to return without accomplishing their object. As soon as the books were gone the crowd dispersed and we then proceeded to the temple.

Chinese Temple of Buddha.

We soon found the object of our search, which was a massive pile of buildings, covering a plat of ground I think near one hundred feet square. From the street it appeared nothing more than a wall perhaps 15 feet high enclosing a yard, constructed of brick, plastered and whitened. The entrance was a small door which appeared the only opening, though we found others when in, which however did not lead directly into a public street. The plan of the interior is truly oriental and reminded me of the style of building among the Jews. Upon entering we met several Chinese, among whom were some priests known by not wearing the cue. These showed themselves very friendly accompanying us through the whole building and directing our attention to the more important objects worthy of notice. Immediately in contact with the outer wall are a series of rooms and open halls, alternately around the whole square. Some of these rooms appeared to be the residence of priests, while others were places for storing various articles employed in their worship or old implements thrown aside, which I could not determine. The halls or squares enclosed on three sides and entirely open in front or towards the interior court

have in each one or more idols of the smaller sizes, though some were two or more feet in height. In the centre of this square stands the main part of the temple and is a separate building. This is the "holy of holies", if the presence of a multitude of idols of huge size and hideous figures can make it such. The whole of our side of this building is occupied by images. This is separated from the main apartment by laticed wood work, curtains, etc. and is also itself divided into three apartments. By the invitation of a Chinese, who appeared connected with the temple, and by the approbation of a priest present, we entered this "sanctum sanctorum" of Buddha. In the left apartment are three gods, which have eyes but see not and placed upon a table of usual height, one of these was about three feet in length, and rather heavily proportioned of human form in a sitting posture. These deities were evidently objects of a degree of neglect in comparison of those in the next adjoining apartment. Here we found a rostrum or large stand with terraces or steps succeeding each other, extending from a height of three to nearly six feet. Upon these are placed idols of various size from a few inches in height to the three huge images of Buddha whose heads were towering ten or twelve feet from the floor. In the third apartment of this house of gods, is a solitary old looking deity who seems quite in his dotage and appears quite satisfied to rest neglected. We found him covered with dust and probably has only few admirers or devotees. In the outer apartment were also a number of objects of worship, some of them from their form and equipage seemed out of a very peaceful character while others appear to personify the Epicurean's god in a state of perpetual repose. Having taken the round through this scene of superstition and idolatry, we were invited to take some tea by an attending priest, and with some offerings which had been made to these works of men's hands as monuments of the foolish insanity of the human heart, not made wise by the truth as it is in Jesus, we took our leave.

Interesting Beggar and Disappointment.

Just as we were about to leave the temple, a young Chinaman, who had shown himself

very attentive, asked for a book. The expression of disappointment depicted in his countenance when he was informed that all had been given away was most striking. With a promise that I would bring him a book another day we departed.

4th Sabbath. Preached in the evening from John 17:16. This was my first attempt to extemporise upon the Island of Java. Enjoyed a good _____ of freedom and felt it a great privilege to speak for Jesus and urge sinners and Christians to make sure that they be not of the world. May I ever have grace to treasure up this truth in my own heart _____ are not of the world, and live with my affections set upon things above, and while here feel that I am a pilgrim whose home is above.

Distribution of Tracts.

5th Accompanied Brother Young on a distributing tour to the Chinese campong. We first proceeded to the temple to supply the young chinaman before noticed according to my promise but did not find him. The priest said he was then absent. We however gave away a few tracts even in this enclosure sacred to the worship of unknown gods, and when we departed left a priest of Buddha, purusing a Christian book while surrounded by a stupendous and imposing apparatus for the worship of idols and service of satan. I trust our prayer was that the truth might

reach his heart, and not only bring him a supplicant at the feet of Jesus, but also dethrone these gods made with hands and convert this temple into a place for the worship of the living and true God. From this we went through a principal part of the campong scattering the word of eternal life among those who could read it, trusting that it would not return void but accomplish the thing whereunto it was sent.

Commence the Chinese.

12th This morning took the first lesson in Chinese. Dark work truly and a herculean task is before me. Yet if the worldly for the sake of gain will go through any toil even be it the acquiring enough of this peculiar and difficult language to transact his business, then the missionary of the cross ought cheerfully to endure the toil, for the sake of proclaiming the salvation of Christ to perishing immortal souls and making known the way of eternal life to those who are sitting in the valley and shadow of death and who must without this gospel sink into interminable woe.

Our teacher is an interesting young chinaman, not more than 16 or 17 years old. He has been much under the instruction of the missionary at Parapatan, and knows something of the doctrines of the Bible, speaks a very little English, but the Malay with perhaps as much ease as the Chinese.

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Historical

Highlights

Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church in America

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Summer 1980

Mission To Borneo - Part III

New Year's Day.

Jan. 1st The holy Sabbath and New Year's day and a season which calls up to mind the goodness and faithfulness of my Heavenly Father. While reflecting upon the dealings of God with me during the past year my soul was excited to gratitude and praise. Constant health without scarcely a day of sickness has attended me. One year ago I was in my native land looking forward with a pleasurable anxiety to the time when I should take my departure for this field of labor. At that time all was uncertain whether I should have a partner and bosom friend and companion for life, to be a sharer of my joys and sorrows. But the Lord has done all things well and in a way which then I little anticipated. He has safely brought us across the mightly deep, given us a comfortable dwelling, and moved the hearts of those in authority to grant us the privilege of a residence here among those for whose benefit we have come, and is continually scattering in our way blessings innumerable. Here too He is furnishing work to our hands. Children flocking day by day to our dwelling to receive instruction and not unfrequently the parent has come to ask the privilege of having his or her son or daughter come and be taught to read. O what reason have I to call upon my soul and all that is within me to bless his holy name. Asked at the same time to

repent and humble myself before him because of my forgetfulness of his mercies and wanderings from him.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Around the Lord's table today. I have renewed my covenant engagements. Again have I avouched myself to be His and taken the Lord for my portion. I found it good to be there and my desire is that this year I may live according to the engagements which upon this first day of it I have made. The Lord hereto assist me and to his name be all the praise evermore. Amen.

First Public Exercise in Malay.

8th Sabbath. Preached in the morning from Gal. 6:14 "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." I have always found it refreshing to preach since my residence here. With benefit to myself have I thus far endeavored almost exclusively to dwell upon Christ and his cross love.

After English service attended that of the Malay congregation and administered the holy supper to this little church which has been gathered from the heathen and ignorant Mohammedans. This was the first time as a minister of the gospel

that I ever engaged in this solemn work. Though but very imperfectly acquainted with the language, hence with some difficulty, yet with a stammering tongue, I was enabled to say to this band of native Christians, "do this in remembrance of Him who died that you might live even until he comes." Thus the Lord has called me to enter upon the duties of an ordained minister of the gospel, emphatically as a missionary of the cross among the heathen. O that I may be enabled to live and labor faithfully as such until he shall call me home to glory or order otherwise.

Gambling a Universal Vice of Priests And People.

25th Some days since in company with Roberts, a baptist missionary lately arrived from America who intends to labor among the Chinese, visited again the Temple before described. The number of priests present were greater than I have seen at anytime before and were all engaged in gambling. Can we wonder at the universal prevalence of this vice among the Chinese, when their ministers of religion thus openly and seated before their objects of worship and in one of their most sacred precincts are in the constant practice of it? There is probably no one vice more common among this people and none more serious in its consequences except it be the smoking of opium. Often in a very short time many lose in this way all they have even staking at hazard their own children and wives. And then to retrieve their losses take to robbery and plunder.

Upon entering the temple I was immediately recognized by one of the priests who arose and gave us apparently a cordial welcome. I had with me a volume of the N. T. and several tracts which I had taken to ask them to accept, but were at once taken out of my hand. The priest knowing them to be for distribution. One gambling party was immediately broken up and the apparatus pushed aside while one of the priests commenced reading the gospel of Salvation. After visiting the different parts of the Temple and conversing with some of the inmates on folly of their worship of idols and endeavoring to direct their minds to the living and true God we took a dish of tea, Chinese hospitality and mark of respect, and then departed. Distributed a number of

the gospels and tracts which were generally received with thankfulness.

Visit to Another Temple of Idolatry.

A few days after the above Brother Roberts and myself walked to another Temple about 1½ miles from our dwelling. This is a very large old Dutch dwelling house fast going to decay. Its history as far as I could gather from a Chinese present was as follows. How long since it was built I could not learn but erected by a wealthy Dutchman who dwelt in it until his death. After this it sold at auction (...) purchased Chinese who dying and leaving no heirs devoted it to the purpose for which it is now occupied. This building is situated on the border of the burying ground of the Chinese previous to the great slaughter in 1740 by the Dutch on suspicion of a conspiracy. And may not this building have been a dwelling a Chinaman then massacred and since has been taken possession of by some of the refugees who may have escaped? This however is only conjecture. Only a part of the building is used as a Temple. The large centre hall and one of the side rooms. A family resides in another part while the second is a resort for birds.

Hindu Gods Among the Chinese.

Upon entering five large images of Buddha present themselves taking their perpetual rest upon a stand 5 feet high. They were placed in an open closet. Before them as is usual in all the temples I have seen were a profusion of offering consisting of toys of thinly plated cross sandalwood (...). The opposite side of the same structure is a similar closet in which were twelve images one or two of larger size, the others small some not more than 1½ inches in height. Here I noticed the only brass idol I have seen. This I think was an image of the bloody Sieva purely Hindu. In the side room are twenty gods of solid stone and readily recognized to be of Hindu origin. The style of sculpture exhibits a degree of skill superior to any thing I have ever seen of Chinese production. Of some the representation of the human features is fine connected with a good degree of symmetry and pro-

portion. There can be no doubt that these are relicts of the ancient religion of the Javanese and the same as now exists in the island of Bali. I have seen several idols in possession of some residents here and found them to be the same as those in the temple. These were brought from the eastern end of the island and found among the Javanese some of whom not very deeply imbued with veneration for the "prophet" practice to a degree the rites and superstitions of this ancient Hindu system of religion.

Attentive Listlessness of the Chinese.

While in the Temple I conversed sometime with a Chinese on the vanity and wickedness of worshipping idols and then in a stammering way tried to direct his thoughts to the only one true God and Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of Sinners. He listened and said but little. Indeed it seems to be a principle among the Chinese at least not oppose if not to acquiesce in everything said to them on the subject of religion. Yet he clung to his idols.

Chinaman Worshipping His Gods.

As soon as I had left the room and but out of his sight my attention was arrested by an audible voice proceeding from the room I had just left. Knowing there was no other person but the Chinese there I looked in, where I observed with severance addressing his gods of stone. Probably deprecating their wrath lest he should become subject to their displeasure for introducing one who disputed their claims to divinity.

However this may be so soon as he perceived that he was noticed he ceased from his devotions and manifested much confusion.

Sick Man and Christian Tract Discovered.

Near this temple there is another small in which there is a solitary idol of pretty large size fast falling to decay. Here are deposited a large number of family tablets with various Chinese inscriptions which on account of the death of those of whom they are records have become objects of religious veneration and before which offerings are made as to the images themselves.

In an apartment adjoining this latter

temple was found an old male emaciated with disease and evidently near his end. He was stretched upon a kind of Bamboo sitter with only a bark matting for his bed. By his side was lying a Christian tract open and evidently had been much read. He was too weak to talk much and spoke Malay so imperfectly that I could learn nothing as respect to his thoughts and feelings, in the near prospect of death.

Feb. 4th Two or three after the above in company with Brother Young went again to see the sick man but found him lying stiffened in the icy arms of death. The spirit had flown a few hours previous to the world of righteous retribution. The old man seemed to regard the little tract as a treasure and it may be found in the last day that its secret found their way to his heart and by the holy Spirit his soul has been made met for an inheritance with the blessed. The circumstances gives us encouragement to scatter the goodness of Eternal life and earnestly seek the waterings of the Spirit with an assurance that the word of God shall not return void but shall accomplish His purpose.

Chinese Funeral.

Feb. 20th This afternoon a funeral procession of Chinese passing our door and feeling a desire to witness the ceremony of burial I fell in with and followed to a burying ground about 1½ miles distant.

The first thing which attracts the attention of an American at a Chinese funeral is their mourning dress. This consists of a coarse cotton cloth a species of sack cloth and is white.

Want of Decorum.

There is none of that decorum and solemnity which such an occasion one would think must certainly produce. Indeed a Chinese funeral procession is more like a noisy rabble than a company of rational and immortal beings hastening to that existence upon which their brother has just entered, whose mortal remains they bear, to the narrow house of the dead. The most perfect want of sensibility characterizes the whole ceremony: and of all others those who carry the coffin appear most indifferent, except it be to hurry forward so as to be soon relieved of their

burden. It requires 20 or 25 men to discharge this office in consequence of the weight of the coffin. This appears to be fabricated from the solid log often two feet and more in diameter and of the heaviest kind of wood. The one today was painted black and ornaments on the ends, sides and top - with various figures etc. of tin foil or other white metal.

Feasting the Dead. Family Table.

The grave was not deep enough to let the coffin underground. The necessity of which is avoided by their erecting large mounds over their dead. Previous to depositing the coffin a few small pieces of copper money were placed in the grave. And also a mixture of various kinds of grain and pulse was scattered among the mourners who were very anxious to catch a few of the kernels. This act was accompanied with a repetition of short phrases. The meaning or design of which I did not learn. Immediately after the coffin was placed in the grave. One of the relatives of the deceased brought near a quantity of gilt paper and having read a short Chinese manuscript put fire to the whole which being burnt, they say, becomes money for the use of the dead in the future world. This done the grave was filled with mortar prepared for the purpose. This part of the labor was performed mostly by Malays while the ceremony of offering food to and worshipping the dead was going on. I counted forty one different dishes of food which were placed near the grave at the feet of the corpse independent of tea and its accompaniments. All the animal and vegetable kingdoms had been taxed for their portion of these edibles ostensibly to regale the dead but doubtless in reality to surfeit the living. This food having been properly arranged, the family tablet, a small board placed into a broadleaf, so as to stand upright with a few Chinese characters carved upon it was placed upon the back of a young man who appeared to be a chief mourner, I suppose a son of the deceased; when a person in an official dress the character of whose office I am ignorant consecrated the tablet by two or three dashes of a mixture at the same time reading the inscription or repeating a few Chinese phrases.

Worshipping the Dead.

Then commenced the worshipping of the deceased. This consisted in burning incense sticks, bowing, and prostrations. Each one of the male relatives came in his turn, presented his two burning sticks made alternately a bow and prostration with his face to the ground four times. Nothing was said by any of the worshippers and with one exception little feeling was manifested during these devotions. During the whole ceremony which lasted about two hours hired mourners all females kept up a most piteous howl but whose grief was not so deep but that they would have laughed him to come who would then have dared to say "He is not dead but sleepeth" and shall rise again from this house of clay. At the close of the scene another manuscript was read and burnt in connection with a second parcel of gilt paper.

The effect upon my mind was peculiarly solemn. I stood in the midst of a vast congregation of the and had before me a company of the dying. Those that were and are alike were enveloped in the gloom of heathenism. Never did I more desire the ability to point poor Chinamen to the Resurrection and the Life. O Lord how long before thou will appear how long thou Sun of righteousness before thou wilt arise and shine upon these benighted millions! Come Lord Jesus come quickly. See of the travail of thy soul and be satisfied.

New Year. Festivities.

During several days the festivities and noise of the Chinese New Year has been passing around. This season was introduced by firing enormous quantities of rockets and crackers which they say is to make God hear. As among other people so among the Chinese the new year is a time of mutual good wishing and festive rejoicing. And while they gorge themselves they do not forget their gods. The tables which are always placed before their idols have groaned being burdened with viands, fruits, and sweet-meats. And while thus supplied with the means of satiating appetite, flowers are profusely strewed around for regaling another sense.

Feast of Lanterns.

This is the season also of the feast of lanterns which is continued for fifteen days. These consist of processions carrying enormous images of every kind of beast and bird either in or out of the water not excepting their own likings, brilliantly illuminated and accompanied with the sonorous gong and other noisy implements not a few.

Images. Splendid Procession.

The hog, serpent, and dragon appear to be the favorites. In town the Chinese have two images of Serpents judged to be nearly sixty feet long. Dragons of hideous aspect representing in different parts beast, bird, and fish, and one I saw had even the cloven foot, horses, hogs, cows, geese, dogs, and monkeys, etc., etc., in numbers often filling up the house and thronging the side walks, are exhibited for sale.

One procession which passed our door presented as splendid and imposing aspect as anything I ever saw. A stage was built by a number of Coolies. Upon this was placed an artificial mound or rock glittering with spangles of gold or bronze. This was of a conical form upon the very apex a boy in very rich attire was standing apparently much at ease, and held in his right hand an umbrella at an angle of about thirty degrees from the horizon. A girl about twelve years old stood erect upon the end of the umbrellas furthest from the holder's hand and elevated probably twelve feet from the earth. She was also very richly dressed and continued fanning herself and appeared not unhappy in her elevated post. Though apparently there without support. This however must have been impossible. A procession of lights and a deafening clang of Chinese music lead the way. They proceeded from house to house which among the Chinese is considered a great compliment.

Mar. 13th Administered the ordinance of baptism to Mary Bethune daughter of Brother Nevius.

Orphan Asylum Anniversary.

31st Anniversary of the Parapattan Orphan Asylum. This most important institution has now been in successful operation about four years. Its object is to feed, clothe

and educate such orphans and other children of Christian parents as may be left destitute in this part of India. It now embraces thirty five interesting children, so some of whom give fair promise for usefulness, while others are too young to give indications of further character. The funds are raised entirely by voluntary subscription and contribution and thus far, from the liberality of its friends - Dutch, English, Americans, etc. it has not lacked means.

Although not a missionary establishment, yet it is very much under the influence of the missionaries at Parapattan. As missionaries we cannot but regard this institution with deepest interest. We do look to it as a little nursery and training up of future missionaries inured to the climate, acquainted with languages, manners, and customs which will render them peculiarly qualified for the work. And hence we anxiously feel the necessity of not only good instruction, but of the regenerating influences of the Spirit. And for this I trust prayers are constantly offered.

The Feast of the Tombs.

Apr. 5th The "Tsing Ming" season or feast of the tombs.

This is one of the occasions, which call together the Chinese in immense crowds, from their money making schemes. The object of the present assembling is to honor the departed.

About 9 o'clock proceeded in company with the brethren to one of the fields of the dead. To witness this scene of superstitious idolatry, prepared to scatter the word of life among the deluded multitudes. We entered this field of tombs near half a mile from the temple at which the principal ceremonies were performed. As far as the eye could reach great quantities of yellow paper were scattered over the graves. This the Chinese say becomes money which the shades of the departed take away for their use in the work of spirits.

Exhibitions of the Stage - Chinese Fondness for it.

Upon approaching the temple we had to urge our way through a dense crowd, some

of whom perhaps had come in sincerity to do honor to their departed friends, while doubtless the great majority had been attracted here by the amusements of stage, of which the Chinese are childishly fond. For gratifying this propensity a temporary stage had been erected in an open space, near the temple, about one hundred feet long, with apartments back in which the actors could retire, and where the musicians were placed.

The principal actors in these theatrical exhibitions are mostly female children from eight to twelve years old. At the present occasion I should judge there were forty engaged at the same times in different acts on various parts of the stage. Their costumes were truly brilliant, and the scenes performed, such as were well calculated to foster the depraved passions and predilections and superstitions of the admiring multitudes. But to any Christian heart, the scenes and circumstances connected with them could not be otherwise than painful. Here was in active operations one of the most enticing and yet powerful charms of the Arch Adversary by which he holds these multitudes in awful thralldom and leads them captive at his will. But to contemplate the interesting countenances of the actors with an insight of their present condition and future prospects, if not rescued by death or some other Angel of Mercy, must thrill the soul with tears of blood.

Deplorable Conditions of the Actors.

The most of these are orphan children who, by some means have fallen into the covetous grasp of Chinese whose love of lucre has steeled their hearts against the sight of woe, or even the orphans cry. These children are held as slaves. While too young for the nefarious purposes of their ultimate destination, they trained and hired out for such exhibitions as the present. At all religious festivals and public ceremonies of the Chinese, and also at the weddings of those who can bear the expense of both Chinese and Malays. They are always to be found. After the age of puberty their destiny is such that delicacy bids me leave in the shades of those deeds of darkness the precincts of which are too polluting to penetrate. They are sdots!!!

Chinese Tombs.

After having distributed all our tracts, several hundred, we repaired to two tombs near to witness the sacrificing of the dead. These tombs are the largest and most costly structures of the kind I have anywhere seen. They are however so peculiarly Chinese that an accurate description is out of the question. I should say they cover more than a quarter of an acre of ground. They are situated facing an artificial pond of water, made by removing the earth, to erect the mounds of these and other tombs. At present this pond presented a peculiarly beautiful appearance, being filled with the water filled, a kind I have seen but here with a very large pink colored and fragrant flower. The tombs are large oval mounds with an elegant structure of mason work in front and a fine pavement extending to the water's edge. Near to these tombs are erected small temples perhaps 5 feet square and four high for the residence of the patron god of the departed. In front of each tomb are erected two octagonal pillars of gray granite, about 10 inches in diameter and twelve feet covered with Chinese inscriptions in praise of the dead. And also two figures intended to represent lions are placed as watchers and guards of the way. One pair upon the tops of the pillars before one grave, and the other pair upon low pedestals near the pillars of the other grave. All Chinese tombs are of almost the same form, but vary much in the style of building, the size and appendages according to the wealth of the dead or of his relatives. None but the wealthy have the small temple, the pillars and lion-like figures appended to their dormitory of the dead.

The tombs at which we attended today, had a temporary roof erected to shield the worshippers from the heat of the sun, Before the tombs and also before the small temples were large tables, spread with every variety of food and dainty and various drinks as tea, wine, etc. with no sparing hand. These were professedly designed to regale the spirits of dead men and strange gods, but as we witnessed before leaving, in truth, was to cloy the living. Candles were lighted, gilt paper burning and incense stickes smoking. The worshippers made frequent bowing and

prostrations before the tombs, while consecrating their offerings and making their supplications.

During all this seeming regard for the dead, there was nothing indicative of those emotions which we would expect from the place, occasion and circumstances, to be produced. All was marked with a kind of formal preciseness to a stereotype form. Yet all was levity even by those engaged in these rites, while the great multitude around were far more engrossed with the sports of the stage and clangour of the gong, than in the worship of their gods, or discharge of "pious duties" towards their ancestors. I saw no sacrificing before any other of the thousands of tombs around. This may arise from the fact that most of the graves were of those who had died before the massacre of the Chinese in 1740 and have no descendents now to honor their memory. And the practice of annually scattering paper over these tombs to furnish these dead with money perhaps is a kind of charitable act.

Treading of the Fire.

7th Went to a temple about five miles distant to witness the ceremony of running through the fire. Here the collection of immortal souls was as numerous as at the feast of the tombs. We found enough to seize upon our books as fast as they could be conveniently given out.

How is it, that what heathenism was four thousand years ago, it still is? Literature and science, single handed, has no power to smooth in the least degree its hideous and forbidding features: nor produce so much refinement as to make the various systems savor of rationality, much less of morality.

Molochism.

The scene exhibited today is a most convincing proof of the preceding remark. Here were thousands of Chinese boasting of their intelligence and many of whom doubtless professing an acumen and skill in managing the ordinary affairs of no common order, mad upon their idols, worshipping their gods of wood and stone. They had assembled to witness or participate in a rite, more shocking than which it is dif-

ficult to conceive. It was Molochism in real life. About fifty yards from the temple was a bed of ignited coals, twelve feet in diameter and eight or ten inches deep, which sent forth a most sweltering heat far around. Previous to passing through this burning mass, a quantity of salt was scattered over it. Several of the Molochites were engaged in making strange and antick gestures around their hot bed. One, who appeared the "Chief Speaker" and actor, was armed with sword and trumpet, and arrayed in a fantastical garb. This one continued sometime to address the fire, while passing around it, accompanied with threatening gestures, brandishing his sword and several times plunged it into the ignited mass. This was done to awe the element into obedience to his commands not to injure those about to tempt its power. Then he rushed through, and was instantly followed by several others, some of whom passed and repassed three or four times. One man carried a child in his arms and most of the other carried idols taken from the temple. This rite is performed sometimes in fulfilment of vows, but generally as a test of moral character. The Chinese say, if those who go through the fire have "true hearts", the fire cannot harm them, and when they die, the fire of hell cannot hurt them. As regards the truth of this notion, the experience of those who have tried it witnesses most convincingly to their confusion and sorrow.

It is not unfrequently the case, that they are confined to their rooms and unable to walk or work for several months. Surely the righteousness of such men is a covering too short and narrow for them. And such is the heartless, chilling system of religion followed by near two-fifths of the human race either in one or another form. O that Christians of America, especially the young men and those in colleges and theological seminaries might witness such a scene as the present exhibited. And if their heart would not then burn within them and the bursting cry be wrung from them "Lord send me", and we will go and declare thy righteousness to the deluded multitudes perishing in their sin. It seems to me it would be because they profess little of the Apostolic Spirit, little of that benevolence which is the very essence of the religion of Jesus Christ.

Mission to Java — Part IV

Removal.

28th On account of the unpleasantness and some other circumstances connected with our present situation, this day we have removed to Parapattan and taken a room in the house of Mr. Young.

Preaching on Ship Board.

May 22nd Preached on board the "Missionary Ship Morrison". Had a very attractive company of hearers, composed of the ship's company and a few seamen from another American ship in port. This is first preaching on board ship since our arrival, occasioned by difficulties of dangers of going out by the Northerly Monsoon and refusal of Captain to afford the opportunity. The prospect of continued and regular labours for the seamen here is gloomy. Yet the Lord can open the way and furnish a floating chapel where he pleases His will be done.

Breakfast on the Morrison.

25th Breakfasted on board the Morrison. Our company consisted of all the missionaries here and ladies, Chinese teacher, etc., numbering 15. After our social repast, at the desire of the Captain Ingersol, we enjoyed a season of sweet communion with Him who is with us even to this end of the earth. On returning we visited a Chinese junk and left on board between twenty and thirty tracts, which were kindly received by the few on board who promised to share them with the neighboring junks when the men should come on board, most of whom at this time were on shore disposing their goods, etc.

Affairs With Government.

Sept. 14th Received this morning the answer of government to our petition of February last, for the privilege of travelling in order to select a suitable location for our mission. By this we are excluded from Java-Batavia except Celebes and the Moluccas, but Brother

Ennis and myself are permitted to settle on Borneo.

This decision of government is to us a mysterious providence, yet we trust and believe it will in the end turn but to the furtherance of the gospel. I cannot but contemplate this as an indication of the Lord, pointing us to our field of labor. And though the dark cloud seems to gather terrific blackness which now hangs over Java's millions and over the perishing of Celebes and of other islands, yet in the Lord's direction concerning us and our field, I desire to rejoice, and in dependence upon divine grace, strength, and guidance to go forward.

Tract Distribution.

Spent the forenoon in town distributing tracts and portions of scripture among the Chinese. The more the word of life is scattered among them, the more willing, yea anxious, often are they to receive. O for the Spirit of all grace, here to descend, and use his own sword to slay the enmity of the heart and to bring many subjects to willing and joyful obedience to Immanuel's reign. While Paul may plant and Apollos watered, it is God alone who must give the increase.

15th In accordance with the advice of Mr. Roberts our mission drafted another petition for the government requesting the privilege for Mr. Nevius and Mr. Youngblood to settle upon Borneo.

Anniversary of Our Landing.

One year ago this day we cast anchor in Batavia roads, and I for the first, slept upon Java, and, ().

16th One year ago today, we landed with our families upon these heathen and Moham-medan shores. In reviewing the past year, I find many things which call for gratitude and praise to our covenant and faithful God, and much too over which to repent and mourn.

Unceasing goodness and mercy have followed us everyday. Our lives and the lives of our Mission have been precious in his

sight. Our health with one exception and this is of a longstanding and constitutional disease has been preserved in a great degree. For though the Lord has been pleased to visit us, the rod of his affliction has been light and his fatherly chastisement has been of comparatively short duration. His assistance has been granted us in studies, so that now we can, though with a stammering tongue, communicate in some degree to those perishing the glad tidings of great joy which is for all people. We truly have not wanted for any good thing. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

But, oh, what reason for repentance with shame and self abasement do I find when I look at what I have or rather what I have not done in return for the Lord's goodness shown. How many opportunities have passed unimproved to profit in the divine life and to benefit the perishing among whom we now dwell. O how little anxiety have I felt for the heathen, how little have I watered my efforts with tears and the prayer of faith, how little have I labored and talked and exhorted as if in earnest and under a deep conviction that the souls of those among whom we have toiled a little were in danger of eternal death, how little have I acted under the conviction that nothing but the gospel, the blood of the Lamb of God, could chase them from sin and save them with an () salvation. O that henceforth I may live with an affecting sense of the perishing condition of the six hundred millions of my heathen brethren, and in earnest and diligent work while it is day, not counting life dear that I may win Christ and bring many souls to know him and his life.

Embarkation for Singapore.

Oct. 19th After the bustle and fatigue of a weeks preaching and preparation for leaving Batavia, we this afternoon embarked for Singapore, on board the English barque, Ann McAlpin, Mastar. Our accommodations are good and with one exception all things appear agreeable. It is not a temperance ship, and daily rations are dealt out to the "ship's company", and strong drinks used by the officers. On coming on board we found several of the men the worse for what they had drunk.

In the evening after sounding the captain's feelings on the subject of religion it was proposed to erect our family altar in the cabin, to which he readily assented and bowed the knee with us and Brother Youngblood led in our devotions. The Captain is a member of the church of Scotland, and appears very liberal in his religious feelings and opinions, and disposed to further any efforts to instruct and benefit his men.

Our object in going to Singapore is after leaving Mrs. D., thence to proceed to Borneo in search of an eligible location for our mission. Our way is in the Lord's hands and he will direct our steps.

Departure.

20th Set sail this morning about 7 o'clock. Light winds and little progress during the day, and until almost evening the shipping in Batavia roads were visible.

21st During the past night, heavy showers and head winds. We found ourselves not a little and unpleasantly affected by a head sea. Thus one years residence on land has converted us, though then quite old sailors, into real land lubbers.

In the afternoon, conversed with the Captain on the subject of preaching on board, tomorrow. He was willing or rather desirous, and the arrangements were made for a morning service.

Sabbath Preaching, Bibles, etc.

22nd Sabbath. Brother Youngblood preached from "What shall it profit a man, etc." The majority of the ship's company were present and quite attentive. After sermon distributed tracts among the men which were thankfully received, and found many who could read one. The first officer, who were destitute of the S. Scriptures. They were furnished with the Bibles and received it with many thanks. May the Holy Spirit own these feeble efforts and seal them to the salvation of some souls for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Sabbath Exercise on Ship Board.

29th Sabbath. Preached from John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, etc." Found it very pleasant and profitable to hold up the dear Saviour as an Atonement for sin.

Enjoyed much freedom in exhorting the "ship's company" to behold Him and live. The attention of the sailors was good and judging from the solemn seriousness of some, trust the truth may not come in vain to their souls. But how vain may even Paul plant and Apollos water, except God give the increase. O, it is the Holy Spirit in his reviving and quickening influence we need, yea must have, or we pray and preach and labor for nought either among nominal Christians or the poor, ignorant heathen.

Nov. 2nd After a passage of near 14 days we are now 2½ o'clock P.M. within a short distance of our destination. Our voyage has been very pleasant though slow, and the Lord has opened facilities for doing good on board ship. O may it not prove in vain that our lot has been thus cast, but may some soul have reason to bless the Lord, blest eternity and his shall be the glory. Amen and Amen.

Sick Man.

Conversed with one of the seamen, who is sick, on his preparation for death. He thinks himself dangerously ill, and yet has little apprehension of his state and fitness for the eternal world. He did pray, but it was not to be made meet for death and heaven. His desire was to be spared to reach port that he might be taken to a hospital and obtain medical aid. When seeing a fellow man tossed with pain and conscience ill at ease and yet too distracted to think of what alone can secure peace, O, how infinitely important does an early preparation to meet God appear to a serious mind! Prescribed what remedies were at hand and commended the case of the poor sufferer to our compassionate Father.

3rd Found the sick man more free from pain, but symptoms alarming. His disease is doubtless the Java fever and his prospect of recovery very faint.

Arrival at Singapore.

About 2 o'clock cast anchor in the port of Singapore. Brother Youngblood went on shore and returned with Brother North. We then left the ship and proceeded to the mission families, and had a happy meeting with our brethren, some

a happy meeting with our brethren, some of whom we had not previously seen. Found Mrs. Ennis here, who had this day arrived from Macao.

Service on Ship Continued.

4th Went on board ship with Brother North to look after baggage and made arrangements to continue preaching to the sailors. After conversing with the different brethren, our affairs appear more perplexed and our prospects of a speedy settlement appear more dark than ever. Yet I do rejoice that all is in the Lord's hands, and know that His ways and purpose are right, and His time and place for our prominent settlement will be the best.

5th Sabbath. Accompanied Brother Dickinson on board ship, who preached from the Saviour's invitation, "Come unto me, etc." The sailors were attentive and appeared somewhat solemn, at best one or two. The sick man had been removed to the hospital and not heard from since.

Sectarianism.

In the afternoon enjoyed the gospel privilege of uniting with the brethren in commemorating the dying love of the dear Redeemer. Thus I enjoyed the blessing of tying tight the bonds of our Christian oneness, the first sabbath spent here. O may it be a bond united in heavenly love which shall never never be severed on earth or in Eternity. The season was precious. But when, oh when, shall the shackles of sectarianism be so wholly broken asunder, that all Christians will feel it a duty and a high and holy privilege, to unite all together in this feast of love without regard to denominational distinction? One dear brother of the Siam Missionaries felt himself compelled to refrain from this holy feast, because the communing brethren did not agree with him on the mode and proper subjects for baptism. O when the watchmen of Zion see eye to eye, and the "shiboleths" of sect shall no more be known? The Lord forbid that the divisions among Christians should be the means of retarding the conversion of the perishing heathen.

Consultation With Reference to Borneo
As Our Field.

6th The brethren of the Singapore Mission met at our request to give us their advice as regards the course proper to be pursued by us. After prayerful deliberation they are inclined to the opinion that we had better delay going to Borneo to explore for the present, if not give it up altogether. This arises from the fact that Brother Robbins is here from Sambos and Brother Arnis is daily expected, who has returned from Borneo and is now gone to Batavia. It is probable that from these, with other sources of information at hand we can obtain a more accurate knowledge of the state of Borneo than from personal observation of a few days continuance.

The brethren rather advise that the subject of our going to Borneo should be referred to the "Rooms".

7th Brother Arnis arrived from Batavia. Brother Youngblood and myself had a long consultation with the Brothers Arnis and Robbins on the subject of our settlement on Borneo. They think the field divisible, but should be occupied by only one mission and propose that we should occupy the ground, while they will relinquish Sambas, and seek another sphere of labour.

Communications were received from the "Rooms" by the Mission here, which make our prospects of means to prosecute our work still more dark. The hope of aid from the brethren here, as we had anticipated, is now quite cut off. O when will the frown of our Father, which we and the church have so well deserved, pass by, and the smiles of his providence again rest upon our beloved country, upon Zion, and the cause of love and benevolence. O that my hard heart would melt into deep repentance under His just rebuke. May this trying dispensation wean us and all Christians from the world, and lead us to prize his gifts and blessings as the means of doing good and glorifying his name; and then good will flow out of this evil.

9th Attended the social meeting for prayer of the brethren, when the question was discussed, "What can be done for schools and for the spiritual benefits of the Malay population?" It was cheering to hear the brethren with one voice urge the Apostolical practice of going and preaching the gospel to them from house to house.

Received letters from Batavia and from friends in America.

11th The Mission again met on our behalf to whom we presented several questions for their opinion and further advice. It at present seems quite clear that we shall have to remain here for some time months at least; and in the meantime refer the subject of our settlement to the "Rooms".

12th Sabbath. Preached on board ship from Matt. 8:13-14, "Enter into, etc." A captain and part of his crew from another ship present. Strict and solemn attention paid by most of those present. The man taken to the hospital sick died the past week.

Studies.

13th Engaged a Chinese teacher and preparing to commence study. Reviewed several letters for America.

14th Recommended the study of the Chinese language. The first exercise with my new teacher convinces me that I have erred much to my detriment in the acquisition of the language by not engaging an experienced teacher whence I began to study it. No foreigner should think of acquiring the Chinese language if he desires his knowledge of it to prove of practical use, except under the tuition of the very best teachers to be obtained. The pronunciation is too peculiar and important and the idiomatic collocation and use of characters too singular for a novice to correct at home in them.

Preaching, etc.

Dec. 3rd Sabbath. Preached again on board the "Ann" from Josh. 24:15, "Choose you, etc." The company of seamen were attentive and solemn. The captain and some of the men present from another vessel. After service four men applied for Bibles.

Bible Distribution.

4th Went on board the "Ann" and supplied the applicants with Bibles. Among those who now wanted were one or two who had previously refused to receive the word of life, making some excuse for not taking it. May it be that the preaching of the gospel to them from sabbath to sabbath for some past weeks has so far affected

their hearts as to produce a change of views and feelings with regard to the Bible? The Lord grant that seed sown in weakness may be caused to spring up with power unto eternal life in their hearts.

13th Brother Arnis preparing to embark for America. Accompanied several of the brethren to the Governor Endicott, the vessel in which he will sail. Found among the men one of the regular attendants upon preaching on the "Ann". He made application for a Bible stating that he had lost his some time since having been wrecked on the coast of South America. Upon enquiry several others also were destituted and wished to obtain the Bible.

Preaching on Ship Board Frustrated.

14th Visited also the barque "Singapore" and made arrangements with the Master to have the Bethel Flag hoisted on sabbath next. The commander said he would prefer seeing it hoisted on another vessel, but would have service on his, rather than there should be none.

Supplied those who desired with the Bible on board the "Governor Endicott" of Salem. Distributed five Bibles and two Testaments. Visited also the "Ann" and bade farewell to the Master and crew as they will leave port today.

17th Forwarded the Bethel Flag to be hoisted on the "Singapore" for service tomorrow. After a few hours, it was returned with a note from the Master, stating that he had learned since his consent to have service on board his vessel, that the "Flag" would not be treated with so much respect as he could wish, and therefore he had returned it.

Thus ends our plans for continuing the seamen's chaplainship for the present as there are no other vessels in port manned with those understanding the

English language upon which there is any probability of obtaining the privilege of preaching.

Strange it is that men professing Christianity should be so much afraid of having the gospel exert an influence upon those under their command. Such often appears the fact with ship Masters. Jan. 1st Another year has closed: a year too full of mercy and goodness; yet not altogether free from afflictions, trials, and disappointments. By the uncertainty and instability of our affairs the Lord has been teaching us that our whole dependence is in Himself. At the commencement of '37 we anticipated ere this to have explored and selected some location in this "continent of islands" for the permanent operation of our Mission. Our plans however have been frustrated and instead of our having a permanent home and field of labour which we can contemplate as ours, we are now hedged in, not knowing where to turn. The Lord has broken "up our plans" and I trust it is "only that He may accomplish His own, which are infinitely better."

A comfortable share of health and strength continued to us during the year and a good measure of success in our studies call for gratitude and praise. The rich privileges of the gospel too have been abundant, and the season of intercourse with the "Beloved of our souls," both in the closet and in the enjoyment of the public ordinances, have often been refreshing and delightful.

Past mercies and the past faithfulness of our God lead me to look back from this point of time, as unto the hill Mirar, and to encourage myself in Him, and also under present embarrassments and exigencies, confidently to believe that even the valley of Achor will become a door of hope, nay more, of rejoicing.