

Aden, 23.01.1856

Reverend & Dear Sir,

We are going to embark this day in an American merchant vessel (Emily Wilder, Capt. Lambert), in which almost a free passage has been given us by Mr. Alley, the resident agent of a Boston merchant house, as we are only required to pay the small sum of 20 dollars to the captain who by taking us will be put to some personal inconvenience, the vessel being rather small. The principal reason for my directing these lines from here to you is to inform you that Mr. Alley will have a vessel here at Aden coming from & going to Zanzibar every month or at least every other month & has kindly promised to take charge of all our letters & parcels sent to his care. The Americans have lately increased their trading business with Zanzibar & Aden considerably & Mr. Alley will stay here for three years (he arrived here about 7 months ago) . Before therefore the Steam navigation will be established between here & the Mauritius (which is said to commence in Sept. next) all your letters & papers for E.A. ought to be sent to the care of J.H. Alley, esq., Aden. As to any expenses Mr. Alley might incur in behalf of our Mission, he told me, that we should pay them to Captain Mansfield, the agent of the same firm residing at Zanzibar. – The prospect of a better communication between E.A. + Europe thus opening before us is to me a great encouragement for the continuation of the E.A. Mission. As European & American influence increases, Arab power & influence will surely decrease. A great change might soon take place – I mean as soon as the present rulers, i.e. the Imam & H.B.M. Consul, for the latter seems to be more the actual ruler than the former) will be removed. May the Lord guide both you & your Missionaries in the right way & incline our hearts to know & to do His holy will –  
Commending ourselves to your Christian prayers & sympathy

I remain yours respectfully  
J. Rebmann

P.S. I trust you will immediately inform Dr. Krapf & Mr. Erhardt about the above mentioned opportunity for sending their letters to East Africa via Aden instead of via Bombay.