

Capetown, Apr. 21 1846

Dear Sir!

On Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock the 17th instant I arrived here under God's generous protection and blessing, and after a pleasant though somewhat prolonged passage. We left the Downs on a beautiful Sunday morning, the 1st of Febr[uary] and spent the whole week in tacking our way through the channels, the wind being contrary. When passing the Bay of Biscay, however, we had fair wind and mild weather, but afterwards we had again much contrary wind till we got the trade wind. On the whole we experienced neither long continued calms nor a single storm while the latter part of our voyage was favoured with a constant fair breeze. I was quite well and comfortable all the voyage, seasickness excepted and a certain benumbed but painless feeling of my head. On Sundays I always held divine services in the cabin and had the pleasure of seeing them, with little exception, well attended both by the captain and the sailors.

Having no special occasion for going on shore the same afternoon we had arrived, I remained in the vessel, which circumstance, as you will presently see, prepared me the way into a good and respectable family with whom I am now staying till the vessel is ready again for sailing.

The captain went, immediately after our arrival, on shore, together with the harbourmaster, from whom Mr. C.F. Juritz, a German apothecary and agent of the Moravian brethren but belonging to the Lutheran church of the Capetown, had heard, that a German missionary had arrived, when he immediately went to inquire after me. He invited me to stay with him; as Mr. Gordon however had given me some addresses for the Capetown (Rev. Dr. Adamson, belonging, as I afterwards understood, to the free church of Scotland and Rev. F.A. Blair, an English clergyman), I did not accept of [sic] his offering that evening, but promised to call on him the following morning. I went then first to Dr. Adamson who said (without me asking him for it) that he was not able to lodge me and thought that Mr. Blair was out of town at present, which was, however, not the case. So I accepted then the invitation of Mr. Juritz, as by so doing I could save money to the Society, which I should have spent had I engaged a lodging.

On Sunday I heard Mr. Blair preach. He invited me to read the Service for him in the evening; I said, in the way of relief to him I should be glad to do it, but otherwise I would rather be excused. He replied that it was no relief to him, as there was another clergyman who would do it. I attended also some dutch services in the Lutheran churches. The Rev. Mr Blair has in the mean time invited me to pay him a visit which I will do as soon as possible. – The vessel will stop here for about a week. That the visit of the Cape was a great refreshment, for which I am thankful to the Lord, I need scarcely mention. So far then the Lord has helped me; His name be praised for ever and ever, amen!

With deep respect to the Committee, I am, yours faithfully,

J. Rebmann

Apr. 24: As the vessel, by which I would dispatch this letter to you, did not sail on the day appointed, I will add some more particulars. On Wednesday, the 22th, I ascended that part of the promontory of Good Hope, which is called the Lion's Head, fully 3000' high. I found it more difficult to ascend than I had expected looking at it from a distance, but my troubles were surely compensated by the interesting, far extended view afforded to me on the top where I remained nearly a full hour. The weather was very beautiful and the horizon pretty clear. Full 6 hours had elapsed when I arrived at the house of my friends, and as I had not taken any thing with me, I enjoyed now my dinner very much. My host thought, that I would not proceed to the top of the mountain, and so did not provide me with anything, while I myself had fancied, that I should be back again after 3 hours.

Yesterday I went to call on the Revd. F.A. Blair, but learnt that he was not living at the place, I had been directed to. In the evening however I met him on the way to his chapel (an orphan house belonging to the Dutch; after a few months, the church, built for him, will be finished) when he was going to deliver an unwritten discourse. He again asked me to read the service for him, when I complied with his wish, but I declined speaking to the assembly. Afterwards he told me that his wife was confined of a son; so I was glad that I did not happen to call on him first.

Today I saw also the South African Institution, where Dr. Adamson is one of the appointed teachers.

The vessel will sail again on Sunday or more likely on Monday next, the 27th of April. As to the captain in particular he was always prompt in showing me kindness in every respect.

With the hope of being able soon to announce my safe arrival at Mombasa I remain, dear sir, yours respectfully

J. Rebmann