

On board an Arab Buglow [a high seas capable dhow] on our way to
Masalla, Febr. 13, 1852

Rev'd. & Dear Sir!

The feelings with which I am going to write this letter do not allow me to begin it with any other words but those of the Psalmist, when he says: Bless the Lord, o my soul, & all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, o my soul & forget not all His benefits. More clearly than ever was I made to see, that the Lord ordereth our steps & directs the events of our lives & amidst all our misgivings & backslidings displays the wonders of His grace, wherever He can see our hearts groaning under & mourning over them. He truly redeemeth our lives from destruction & crowneth us with loving kindness & tender mercies - & from realizing promises like these, I feel new strength & courage given to me for that sphere of labour, to which His hand has appointed me - to invite sinners to partake in the salvation of our God.

The locality this letter comes from has already told you that I am halfway again on my return to East Africa & as I have intimated to you in one of my last [letters] no more as a single man, but united with one whom I believe the Lord has specially prepared for that new & herculean post of Missionary labour & who is anxious to labour in the Lord's vineyard. We were married at the British Consulate on the 3rd of January, & after making preparations peculiarly necessary for that uncivilized part of the world we were going to, on the 16th of Jan. took leave of our dear friends, Mr. And Mrs. Lieder, to whose generous hospitality & disinterested kindness I felt myself greatly indebted. Mrs. Rebmann agreed with me to cross the Desert in the same way I had done in coming to Cairo, i.e. independently of the Transit Company, on donkeys & camels of our own, & thus we did not only in order to save expenses, but because by that mode of proceeding we expected to make the journey more comfortable to ourselves than otherwise. We took 4 days for the purpose, sleeping for the nights at the 3 Hotel-Stations, for which we had Tickets, procuring us the Right of Admission, but nothing more. We were accompanied by a Doctor & Mrs. Bather, who travelled by the same means as ourselves, & by a Mr. Smith, a Naval Officer in the E.I.Co. [= East India Company] service. One who just arrived from Europe is of course unable to manage his journey through the Desert in the same way.

We embarked on the Akibas (?) on the 20th of Jan. & had a very pleasant passage to Aden where we arrived in the evening of the 27th. By the kind interference of Mr. Smith, a donkey which was given to Mrs. Rebmann as a present by Mrs. Lieder was taken on board the Steamer free of all expense, except food, which of course we had previously to purchase for the animal ourselves. We slept for the night of the 27th at the Hotel, but early in the morning we were called on by Mr. Badger & invited to take lodgings with him in

the Camp immediately. While we rode on our donkeys it rained rather heavily, a circumstance of rare occurrence at Aden. Directly after our arrival I made inquiries for a Native boat to sail to East Africa. Several might have been procured if they had had only to answer the wants of a single man, but for a lady a little more accommodation was required. There was only one Native vessel at hand, which in a great measure actually met the wants of a European female, & that belonged to the Nakeeb of Masalla, with whom I had previously got acquainted on my way from Mombas to Aden. As the vessel was expected by the Nakeeb first to go back to Masalla, I could make no other agreement with the Captain of the Buglow, but for a passage from Aden to that place, but I have little doubt we shall get the vessel also for Mombas.

Febr. 18 P.S. We have safely arrived at Masalla on the 15th inst.. The Nakeeb has treated us with much respect & kindness & has agreed with us for a passage in his vessel to Mombas, for which we hope to sail tomorrow. Hitherto the Lord has helped us & we trust He will do so to our journey's end. Soliciting your kind sympathy & prayers on our behalf, we remain Dear Sir

Yours truly

J. Rebmann