

Cairo, Nov.18, 1855

Reverend & dear Sir,
after a perilous voyage owing to shipwreck (not far from Mombas) from which we were most mercifully saved, we arrived yesterday in Cairo,- & I have but just time to let you know the leading facts about our East African Mission, but my next will contain a fuller account.

1. The Masai have entirely disappeared & up to the time we left (Oct. 1) nothing more had been heard about them so that we were enabled to live at Kisuludini during the last half year as quietly as we have ever done before.

2. I should therefore not have left the Station at all – had it not been for the fact that to all the letters home I have written since about 2 years I had not received a single answer. It was this what determined me to go at least to Aden with the intention of returning to my Station in Dec. next – but finding no letter there & the distance for correspondence being still great – while the stay in Egypt during the winter months was desirable both for body & mind – I resolved on coming here.

3. In receiving a letter from you here – I expected to find at least an answer to the one great question: are we justified in continuing a Mission among a people who, from the false position the Missionary occupies between them & the Muhamedan Government, are incapable of understanding & still less of believing the great object of our coming – a mission, too, which has for its footing nothing better than the uncertain favour of an independent muhamedan ruler, whose jealousy & policy with regard to the African continent is sustained rather than put in question by the Christian Powers of Europe & America? Instead of removing at once the anxiety about the question which has so long harrassed both Mr. Erhardt and myself – you invite me to come to England.

4. I should consider your invitation as obligatory, were it not founded on the supposition that I have left the Station for good – while in fact I have left everything behind me & all the people expect me back in a few months- nor can I believe that a hurried visit would do the cause any good- in fact I could only repeat what we have stated in the document I sent you one year ago, an answer to which I so much want. Such is the state of things in E.A. , that the best consultations of Missionaries & Missionary Commitees will be of no avail whatever – until the British Government will by some means or other effectually open the continent – for it is not true that E.A. is open at present. I cannot think therefore of going to Europe now – but shall return to Kisuludini as soon as I shall have heard from you – for a visit to Europe I should want at least twelve months & I should be prepared for it before I leave the Station.

5. As to the moral effect produced in the Wanika by the terror of the Masai, Dr. Krapf is most sadly mistaken when he thinks it might have softened their heart etc. & all the plans built upon this belief will prove – as many others have done – to be nothing more than delusive day-dreams or castles in the air.

6. As to myself – if the entire absence of all desire offers instruction - & the ambiguous relation in which we stand to the Imam's Government – is no

objection to the Committee - & if you are content for present - with merely preparatory labour

I am perfectly willing, & so is my dear wife, to stay in E.A. as long as the lord will be pleased to make use of us in his great acre "the world", though it be not immediately for sowing the seed, but more in carrying away stones -

7. As a hopeful sign for a brighter future I would mention the communication by steam between Aden & the Mauritius, which is to be established by next year (monthly). The steamers of course will touch at Zanzibar, which is about midway - I would also allude to a probable change in the British Consulate (Colonel Hamerton's time of service being nearly expired - of both of these facts I was informed at Aden. Before a change of this kind has taken place, no fresh Missionary should be sent to E.A. .

Give our kindest regards to Mr. Erhardt and Dr. Krapf - they will hear from me by the next mail -

Commending ourselves to your Christian sympathy and prayer I remain

My dear Sir

Yours respectfully

J. Rebmann

P.S. I have received two letters here from Mr. Erhardt - if he should be appointed to West-Africa, - would it not be better if I sent his boxes round the Cape by a Hamburg vessel, which might touch at Lagos - Dr. Krapf should also let me know what he wants me to do with his boxes.

J.R.