

Kisuludini & Rabbai, April 21, 1852

Reverend & Dear Sir!

My last [report] was written from Masalla, South Arabia, dated. Febr. 23, where I have already informed you that we succeeded in getting a good & commodious launch from the Nakeeb of that place for to sail to the place of our destination, which took place in the night of Febr. 19. At Hammi, they anchored for taking in water, when we availed ourselves of the opportunity to spend the day on shore. In the afternoon we went to see the hot wells by the means of which the inhabitants of that village keep up some cultivation of date trees, Indian corn, onions & some other vegetables. We then sailed along the shore so far as Sekut, which is the usual route of Arab navigation in sailing down the East African coast. For about 10 days we made very little progress, as we were nearly becalmed, but as soon as we had reached Ras Gendaf (Gaas Dafai) we caught the N.E. wind, which drove us very fast down the coast. In the evening of the 17th of March we were only within a few hours' sail from Mombas & therefore fully expected to enter the port on the next morning, but to our great grief we found ourselves at daybreak a good distance beyond Mombas. I expostulated with the Captain for the disappointment of our anxious hopes, but he simply replied that such had been the command of God. We had however good reasons for suspecting the sincerity of his wish to bring us to Mombas, because he had not taken the proper precautions to prevent the vessel from passing Mombas during the night, while at the same time he intended at any rate to go to Zanzibar for his own purposes. But from men we soon diverted our eyes to God who overrules all for our best. At Zanzibar the house of the British Consul was immediately opened to us, as Major Hamerton had given orders to the Custommaster that whenever one of the Missionaries at Rabbai came to Zanzibar during his absence at Mascat he should be allowed to occupy his house as long as he stayed on the Island. We also experienced great kindness & hospitality from the German merchant Mr. Schmeißer & especially the French Consul & his Lady. Having hired another Baggalow [a traditional two-masted sailing vessel] we sailed back to Mombas by Pemba, where we spent a very happy day on shore. On March 28 we at last entered the desired haven, the Lord having mercifully protected us from all dangers that we had indeed fresh cause enough to praise His holy name. On the last day of March we went up to Kisuludini, Mrs. Rebmann herself walking on foot a distance of about 8 miles on a rough & sometimes rather steep footpath. We should have gone on our donkeys, but we could not get them at the time, the ebb not getting low enough to allow of their fording. The Wanika were glad to see me back again, & as to Mrs. Rebmann, crowds were coming to see her. We had much to do in arranging ourselves in our new home, which Mrs. Rebmann found much smaller than she had expected, & indeed it is not even large enough as to afford a comfortable lodging to any guest who might come to us. The

smallness of the rooms is now even admitted by Dr. Krapf, who once called the house a palace. Even our Servants have not yet got a proper place to live in, so that without farther building we are far from having sufficient. Be therefore not surprised if you should read again in our next account of expenses incurred in building. Remember that this country is far behind Abessinia in things belonging to the outward conditions of life. But I am tired to speak about this subject & therefore conclude with soliciting your increased sympathy & prayers for my dear partner in life, who since 6 days has been sick of fever & is now very weak, but not without hope for life, & for

Your humble & unworthy Missionary in Rabbai

J. Rebmann