

Further accounts of the circumstances of life of the Missionary  
F.S. Kayser after his departure from Halle.

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My late colleague had already proposed the Mission Candidate Kayser to the Society for promoting Christian knowledge, with which the Mission Administration here had been connected ever since its foundation, for the East Indian Missions, which had reached their first development, under German Missionaries, such as Schwarz and Gericke, and the still living Rottler. In the meantime however this Society had transferred the whole of its East Indian Missions to the 'Society for the spread of the Gospel among the heathen', for further supervision. Mr. Kayser was consequently introduced to this Society and at once accepted by it, and for this reason received instructions to proceed to London, which on his part he responded to in the most joyful confidence that by this means he would fulfil the vocation marked out for him by God. His letters shew a pious enthusiasm for his calling. On the 16th June 1826 he wrote to me from Hemburg:

"Hitherto the faithful God has helped! I arrived here on the 18th of this month shortly before a heavy thunderstorm, during which several places in Altona were struck by lightning though no fires were caused. If God will, I shall go on board the English ship "Crosby", Capt. Charles Pace, this evening, as the anchor is to be weighed tomorrow early at three o'clock. Oh how my soul rejoices, by God's gracious help, now again to come nearer to the goal for which my heart longs in peace and quiet. Well!

Be it as God, my Lord, has chosen  
I step away from the solid gates of land  
And place my foot on the light plank  
However it may sway.  
Thou, stormy sea, will be to me a firm wagon  
And soon carry me onwards in God's service.  
Thou and I are by eternal law  
Servants of the Most High.

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So must I sing to a pious man, at the approach of the joyful and not anxious moment in which with full trust in my beloved and faithful Master, I shall go on board of the fine new ship which is to carry me over the sea. She is rather differently built  
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from the others and has two seats."

"On my departure from Halle on the 7th of this month in the evening I was rejoiced to meet amongst the other passengers in the post wagon, a travelling companion to London, a born Irishman, who has served in the Austrian Military service as a Colonel. He is a dear old man of sixty years, fatherly disposed towards me, and of the greatest use to me on account of his knowledge of the English language. He drove into Halberstadt at about three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. As I had to pay some visits here I left the Express Mail conveyance and followed in the evening by another post-wagon. After a fine quiet night passed alternately waking and sleeping, morning broke; and with it came the glorious sight of the majestic range of mountains, of which the "Brocken" is the chief. At ten o'clock I arrived at beautiful Brunswick, where I again found my dear Colonel, with whom I then travelled farther in a hired conveyance, which was shared by a Jew. I spent two nights on the way, one in a Customs House and one at Laneberg. At Mittau I received a most friendly and kindly welcome from the dear Mr. van der Gnissen, and was also introduced by him to the Captain of the ship".

The departure only took place on the following day, and there were also several stoppages on the way. Mr. Kayser writes on the 4th July from London: -

"Since the 24th June, thanks to the Lord who brought me in safety, I have been in this great restless city, and can only today arrive at writing owing to the numberless matters and business connected with my affairs. I have described fully in my Diary/2 my various experiences/1, which I will send to my dear mother when I have left, that my brother may read it out to her for the strengthening of her faith and the consolation of her motherly heart, for I have been exposed to great danger, as we encountered a storm on our voyage which was so violent that our vessel was completely overwhelmed by the waves, and a good deal of baggage

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of complying with, as he still could not express himself as fluently in English as he would have wished to do. This was confirmed shortly afterwards by a letter from Dr. Hamilton, who declined acceptance of Mr. Kayser's services, as he was not suited for the East Indian Mission on account of insufficiently learned knowledge, according to the principles of the Church of England, and advised his being recalled to Germany. To that however the brave man who had realized his inner call to the Missionary field, not be persuaded. He found kind advisers in London. Two very worthy and eminent German ministers there, Dr. Schwabe and Dr. Steinkopff, as well as Dr. Uebele, kindly interested themselves in him. He also endeavoured to make the acquaintance of other Missionary Societies in order to arrive at his goal in some other way. And he succeeded! Through some sermons which he preached in the German Church in London he attracted the attention and obtained the approval of the congregations there. Several persons, who became more intimate with him, praised his simplicity, his pious disposition and his unshakable courage of faith, sustained by real trust in God. Also it was found, by some more serious scientific conversations, that his acquired knowledge was not so small as had been thought and he was in the position to pass several examinations which were taken in hand by the London Missionary Society, with most praiseworthy results. His frequent letters, during this time of distress for him, in which his resolution was put to the test, give evidence of true humility of heart and of joyful confidence. A correspondent of Dr. Knapp's of many years standing, also a German Minister, who at present lives a private life in London, Dr. Uebele, writes of him:- "Mr. Kayser was accepted after he had submitted himself to a third examination, by the Missionary society of 1797 (Usually called the London Missionary Society, for the southern districts of the Cape of Good Hope, and the East Indian Mission loses in him a thoughtful, earnest, valuable man, whose principles agree as far as I am able to judge in our times, with those of the late Ziegenbalg, Schweer, Gericke. Dr. Philipp, one of the Superintendents of the South African Missions, is still remaining in London, so that Mr Kayser will depart for his appointed work alone, in January. The Missionary Society will commission Dr. Steinkopff to ordain him there."

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propagation of the Gospel). I am living in the house of a Miss Moore, sister of the Minister Mr. Wilson, a teacher of the English language comes to me daily and my living expenses are being defrayed by the Society."

However Mr. Kayser notified on the 25th July that unexpected difficulties had presented themselves against his full acceptance on the part of the Society, and that they made demands with respect to his theological knowledge namely as regards acquaintance with the ancient languages and the doctrines of the English Episcopal Church, that he did not believe himself capable of complying with, as he still could not express himself as fluently in English as he would have wished to do. This was confirmed shortly afterwards by a letter from Dr. Hamilton, who declined acceptance of Mr. Kayser's services, as he was not suited for the East Indian Mission on account of insufficiently learned knowledge, according to the principles of the Church of England, and advised his being recalled to Germany. To that however the brave man who had realized his inner call to the missionary field, could not be persuaded. He found kind advisers in London. Two very worthy and eminent German ministers there, Dr. Schwabe and Dr. Steinkopff, as well as Dr. Uebels, kindly interested themselves in him. He also endeavoured to make the acquaintance of other Missionary Societies in order to arrive at his goal in some other way. And he succeeded! Through some sermons which he preached in the German Church in London he attracted the attention and obtained the approval of the congregations there. Several persons, who became more intimate with him, praised his simplicity, his pious disposition and his unshakable courage of faith, sustained by real trust in God. Also it was found, by some more serious scientific conversations, that his acquired knowledge was not so small as had been thought, and he was in the position to pass several examinations which were taken in hand by the London Missionary Society, with most praiseworthy results.

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This happy turn in his affairs and final decision of his fate was reported to me by Mr. Kayser himself on the 25th December of the last year - He writes:-

"I wonder and adore when I look upon the past and the present and realize how with the help and blessing of my God everything has ended in the best way for me. I have been accepted by the London Missionary Society, as missionary for South Africa, and Dr. Steinkopff is to receive the commission to ordain me. Truly the ways of the Lord are wonderful, and whoever considers them with faith, and childlike humility, finds much pleasure therein. I must this morning again in humility praise and extol Him and exclaim "Lord Thou has done great things for me Thy sinful servant, whereof I rejoice! I give thanks in humility for this joy, and still more for all the pain which was graciously allotted to me by the fatherly will of my God during my stay on this island, and I pray my God afresh that He will continue in this manner in future, and not hold the rod too far from me, that I

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"With joy I look forward to the path which lies before me, and

- yours -

yearn for my poor heathen brothers, for why should I fear dangers! The Saviour is my guide and protector, the pilot of my ship, my staff on toilsome ways! Also on the human side, a true friend of my Lord stands at my side, who faithfully considers my welfare, works with me in the fear of God. She was a teacher in the Girl's school of Dr. Steinkopf, her name is Miss Bohrer, and she was born at Frankfurt. She had resolved to devote her life to the conversion of the heathen before I made her acquaintance. It is the special wish of the Missionary Society, and also of the Superintendent Dr. Phillips, that the Missionaries should be married."

"Today the 14th December I learn from the Secretary Mr. Trudell, that there will already be an opportunity for the Cape on the 30th inst. In any case I shall not remain in London longer than at most the second week in January. By what means I shall be able to send my letters to you from Africa (I am going to Bethelsdorp, on the borders of Kaffir land) I do not know as yet. I should like to write more but time fails. Farewell to you, and kindly remember me to all who ask after me."

I have pleasure in quoting the following from a letter just received from the worthy Dr. Steinkopf dated 18th January:-

"As far as concerns Kayser, I became acquainted with him in December last year. Coming in contact with him, I soon had to come to the conclusion that he was wanting in a properly instructed training. At the same time I learnt so to value simply faith, his soul animated by the impulse of the love of Christ; his modest and unassuming disposition, and his willingness to practise any self-denial, that I resolved at the request of the London Missionary Society (which includes ministers and members of the Episcopal Church as well as several dissenting Church parties) to ordain him, with the concurrence of several colleagues, and this took place last Sunday. Also I can infer that the wife he has chosen is in my opinion and that of others, very suited to him, and that we all have reason to hope that he will be blessed through his marriage."

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