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The Journal of Jane Parsons (2) *

TUESDAY 29th Favourable winds are wafting us along with speed. It is a lovely day but the sea is still rough, so that we cannot walk out to enjoy the fine sea air. A large wave broke over the side of the vessel and nearly covered the lower deck, it is seldom dry when the sea is rough. The salt water makes our shoes very brown.

Wednesday 30th Today dear John had a little conversation with one of the sailors whom we have felt anxious to speak with for some time but could get no opportunity. We had heard of his being in the *Moira* when dear George and Sophia (John's brother and his wife—Ed.) went to Calcutta. Were called on deck a large whale being in sight, the man who first saw it, called out a wreck thinking it was a ship with the bottom upwards. I saw it distinctly three times.

Thursday October 1st Again this afternoon we were summoned on deck to see whales.

Friday 2nd This morning the sea is beautifully ornamented with foam and spray. The waves are sometimes a transparent green and throwing up spray to the height of 4 or 5 feet. There are also a great number of birds, albatrosses, Cape pigeons, stormy petrels, the latter are very pretty birds, resembling the dove, they fly swiftly and are seen in great numbers before a storm, therefore we do not welcome their approach.

Saturday 3rd Last evening as we were preparing for bed, we were much alarmed, Captain and Mr. Freckleton were awake from sleep, and with the mate were in the cuddy, we opened our door to enquire the cause, all were equally anxious but no one could tell, at last they concluded the vessel must have passed over a whale except Captain, who thought it was more likely to be the shock of an earthquake, as the noise continued longer than it would take to pass over a whale, he said he felt panic struck. It really felt as though the vessel was shaking to pieces accompanied with rumbling noise. I said to beloved John, we are going and he thought the same, but through mercy we are kept from harm and no injury is done to the ship—I trust we shall duly appreciate this kind interposition of Providence.

Sunday 4th Beloved friends our thoughts always recur to you on Sabbath days, more if possible than any others. We rejoice to view you in our minds, in your quiet homes, your undisturbed

* This entry concludes the transcript, Ed.

services, communing with dear Christian friends at the Lord's table, the Sunday school. We have enjoyed our private meetings today, but there has been much confusion on deck which prevented our public services. We met at half past seven and had two other meetings beside, at half past seven in the evening we met in brother Evan's cabin to commemorate the dying love of our blessed Lord, few in number upon the mighty ocean, I trust Jesus was in our midst, He has promised it if we meet in His name desiring blessings. Captain hopes by next Sunday to be in more settled weather. It is sad to see men working on the Sabbath, but sometimes it cannot be avoided.

Monday 5th The cause of confusion yesterday was, that about two in the morning a heavy squall came on suddenly and carried away the top parts of two masts, and the flying jib boom. The wreck is a serious one. We went on deck and were obliged to stay some time as they had commenced taking down the broken masts. It would have been dangerous to pass under. Today Mr. Evans and dear John have been much engaged pulling ropes, pushing capstan, etc., they say it is good exercise. Our dear friends spent the evening with us.

Tuesday 6th Last evening about eleven o'clock another very heavy squall came on which together with a head sea, caused the vessel to tremble and pitch so violently that I was obliged to lay down without undressing. It continued all night and prevented us from sleeping. Only those who have experienced it, can form any idea of the sensation produced by it. One of the sailors has sailed round the Cape 10 times and never had such weather before. We wear our cloth cloaks and boas and find them very comfortable but I feel the want of warm stockings. We are in 39° 14' South, 60° 15' East.

Wednesday 7th Captain took me this morning to see some little pigs, five in number and the prettiest I ever saw. Had a pleasant walk on the poop. The vessel stiller than for some time past. Mr. Freckleton caught two fine molimanks this afternoon, he spends much time in watching the bait.

Thursday 8th Quite becalmed but it has been a lovely day. We held a service in the cuddy this evening, the first for nearly a month, it was good to see the men once more assembled to hear the word of God. Dear John gave an address from 6 of Matthew 19th and following verse. Our friends closed the evening with us. I think we are as comfortable as possible on board ship. We have trials, but many more mercies, may we feel grateful for them it is more than we deserve.

Friday 9th Still calm but the vessel rolls very much. It is extremely cold with thick shauls on we cannot keep ourselves warm, that is Mrs. Evans and myself. We spend our evenings together and sometimes our afternoons.

Saturday 10th A fine day, At four we had a special prayer

meeting for our beloved relatives and friends and enjoyed it, dear John always prays so affectionately for you all especially the dear dear children. I often wish sweet little Henry could come to see Mitter Parsons as he used to call him. Many many kisses from us both my sweet boy.

Sunday 11th The sea was very squally this morning, nevertheless Captain allowed a short service to be held, and kept watch himself the while. About 12 the wind rose very high and still continues. We were able to have a prayer meeting in our cabin in the afternoon after which we talked of beloved friends in our native land. Mr. E. often speaks of Mr. Saunders he knows the family well. There is five hours difference in our time but we reckon on the time when you assemble together.

Monday 12th The wind continued high all night with a very high sea, which caused great motion of the vessel and prevented us from sleeping but today has been finer than any we have had for some time. Prayer in the cuddy, 11 of the men were present. Captain intends to have the services on the poop again as soon as the weather will allow, which will be more comfortable for all.

Tuesday 13th Walked on deck before breakfast. Captain often comes to the cabin and says you must not stay in so much or I shall have you both ill, but we cannot attend to everything of consequence on the poop, therefore we think it would be wasting time to be out oftener than we are. Oh dear friends if it were possible to spend a few hours with you, how would it relieve our minds, we feel very anxious to hear how all are, I have been thinking this evening of the dear Barnsbury friends, you one and all are more dear to us than ever, I wish to mention each but that is quite out of the question, still we can think and talk of everyone.

Wednesday 14th I forgot to mention that on Sunday we passed near two Islands, St. Paul and Amsterdam, but were too far south to have sight of them. The wind is rather contrary carrying us eastward. Captain says a fortnight would take us to Hobart Town, how delightful it would be to visit dear Rachel and James and their families, (an elder sister and her youngest brother, both apparently married with children—Ed.) it is painful to be so near and not see them after so long a separation.

Thursday 15th Very damp and hazy so that we have stayed in all day except a little after tea. Held our usual meeting in the cuddy, Brother Evans gave an address from the concluding part of Christ's sermon on the mount. It was an excellent discourse we enjoyed it much. My beloved husband is very poorly this evening with bilious attack. We have not come more than five or six miles today.

Friday 16th Still calm. Captain and Mr. Evans went out in a boat this morning, the object was to ascertain the cause of the ship making more water than it did when we first set out, but they could not find any leak, they only pumped once a day at first but

now every four hours. This afternoon Captain caught two Albatrosses; they are fine birds measuring 10 feet across the wings, another was caught by its head but got away and I fear much hurt as it was constantly bathing its head in the water. They are properly caught by the bill, with a hook. A breeze came on which we were all glad to see, and is carrying us direct to Calcutta.

Saturday 17th It has been a beautiful day, it reminds us of spring in our own dear native land. Mr. E. and myself sat on the poop at work in the middle of the day. At four we held a special prayer meeting to implore blessings on future labours, these are precious seasons dear friends and I trust God will condescend to answer the prayers then offered. We know and wish ever to keep in mind the truth that we must labour in vain unless God blesses us in our work.

Sunday 18th We have again been blessed with another comfortable quiet and I hope profitable sabbath day, both meetings in the cuddy and well attended. Bro. Evans in the morning, dear John in the afternoon. Our private meetings also have been sweet, our friends spent the evening with us, and listened to one of Simeon's Sermons, you will recollect they with two other books were given me by dear Mr. Fox. How many thoughts of past circumstances does it bring to mind when we take up a book or anything else given by valued friends such as we have left and it may be for ever in this world not our will but thine be done O God. We have thought much of you today beloved ones and talking of your engagements. It is sweet to think of and pray for each other when separated and cannot hear if all is well.

Monday 19th A very unpleasant day could not hold our prayer meeting in the cuddy; the constant and sudden changes in the weather have a great effect on our health. I have not been well for some days. Mr. and Mrs. E. are complaining but I am happy to say beloved John is quite well again. We often think of you dear friends at Colet Place accept our kind love keep your promise to write to me.

Tuesday 20th We are now in warm weather 93° 57' East, 24° 19' South. We have also the south east trade winds. The contrast to yesterday is surprising, it has been a most lovely day, but we feel the change affect our health. We are now in the tropics and have bid farewell to cold climates, now we are looking forward anxiously to the time when we hope to arrive at our destined port.

Wednesday 21st The wind is still favourable and wafting us on speedily. We shall now be obliged to take exercise early in the morning, the sun is so powerful in the day—you are looking for cold weather and I doubt not, find a fire comfortable, I well remember the happy hours we have spent together by our happy fireside but those days are gone by. Still I hope you will enjoy many such ones, and when thus engaged think of us, but I need not ask this, I know you do and pray also that we may be blessed.

We were much interested this morning with a sight of a great number of porpoises flying about the bows of the vessel. It is said they swim 40 miles an hour, sometimes they jumped two or three feet above the water. Their length is from six to seven feet and beautifully marked.

Thursday 22nd It has been exceedingly warm today, we feel it very much especially Mr. Evans. We have seen some tropical birds, they are light lavender colour having long tails consisting apparently of one feather. Lecture this evening and very good attendance.

Friday 23rd Busily engaged making a list of every article we have, we managed to complete about one half. Spent a pleasant evening with our dear friends.

Saturday 24th Passed a second time under the sun today. The heat is excessive. Thermometer is 85 in the cuddy 93½ in the sun. I felt quite ill this afternoon owing to the closeness of the cabin, I went on the poop when it got rather cool, and soon felt better. The change from cold to heat has been so very sudden that we feel it more than we otherwise should.

Sunday 25th Held our services on the poop today. Dear John preached in the morning and brother E. in the afternoon we had some conversation after morning service with the mates and Mr. Freckleton on the way of Salvation, I trust it may not be altogether in vain. It is painful to hear then endeavouring to justify themselves.

Monday 26th Yesterday a booby alighted on the stern of the vessel which the mate caught and made it a prisoner till today, it seemed tired and quite tame, but if teased will bite sharply. It has much the appearance of a duck, excepting the wings which are larger and the beak much sharper and more pointed. This afternoon we passed, and spoke with an American vessel. Prayer meeting this evening and we much enjoyed it. Oh, beloved friends these are delightful season to us, we always remember you.

Tuesday 27th A very busy day. The men are putting up new top gallons mast. The poop has been varnished and the sun shining on it makes it very unpleasant to walk. This afternoon there was a fine shark caught, it measured 6½ feet, Mr. F. claims it and intends to send home the jawbone. There were five sucking fish on it, two dropped as it was drawn up the other three are preserved.

Wednesday 28th Through mercy I am much better than for the last week. Till today I have scarcely been free from headache for several days. Dear John is quite well. I found this morning some of the dirty clothes quite mildew. I think it must be the damp from the perspiration, though we are careful not to put by any till they have been taken off some time. The thermometer today is 85 in the cuddy. We are sorry we omitted to bring one for our own use.

Thursday 29th We have been becalmed or nearly so, for three

days past. The sails are flapping against and rather taking us backward than otherwise. The weather is fine but excessively warm. I never saw the sun set so beautifully in England as it does here, the clouds also at sunrise are very grand. We walk before breakfast when the sun is not so powerful.

Friday 30th We have been interested this afternoon in listening to the life of Franklen. We have just had a storm of which has made the air rather cooler. I changed my dress this morning I found the colour had gone from the bow and half up the sleeves with the perspiration and if I put a clean collar on in the morning it is wet through in an hour. This will give you some idea what the heat is here. Be we are both quite well for which we desire to feel thankful. Dear John has a shower bath every morning and I think it does him much good.

Saturday 31st Beloved friends you are I doubt not feeling inconveniences from how often we speak of the difference in our circumstances in this particular. Whilst you are wrapt in cloaks, furs, etc., we are glad to throw off as much as we prudently can. The thermometer was 87 today. We are nearly becalmed still.

Sunday November 1st Walked this morning till half past seven. It seemed like the sabbath, everything so quiet and the sea so still that we could not perceive any motion in the vessel, it has been a blessed sabbath we much enjoyed our services especially the one at seven in the evening which would be one o'clock with you. We met to commemorate the dying of our blessed Saviour. We thought of the thousands who were then assembled for the same delightful purpose in our own dear native land. Beloved John and myself sat till late talking of you all who are more endeared more to us than words can express.

Monday 2nd Yesterday morning we crossed the line again. We are now looking forward anxiously to the time when we shall enter on our labours. It is very stormy. Heavy showers of rain fall frequently and the air is very damp. We have had more wind so that we have come 100 miles in 24 hours.

Tuesday 3rd Yesterday a sweet little bird came close to our window, it was a lovely colour brown about the size of a canary. There was also a hawk seen on deck. We are 100 miles from land so that these little strangers had some distance to return. It is exceedingly damp today, our morning dresses feel as though they were half dry after washing, which together with perspiration is very uncomfortable. Captain has kindly promised to take us to Serampore and the Botanical Gardens, in a very pretty new boat that he has with him. When we walk on deck our thoughts are often directed to the north west where our beloved ones dwell.

Wednesday 4th I suffer much with severe headaches again, the heat of our cabin is very oppressive at night which we think is partly the cause. We rise at six o'clock and take a walk before breakfast, sometimes it relieves the pain, at other times it con-

tinues the whole day. It is a great mercy dear John is so well he says he feels as well as when at home.

Thursday 5th We have now entered the Bay of Bengal, and are about 800 miles from the place where pilots generally meet vessels. If the wind continues favourable Captain expects to arrive at Calcutta in a week but he says we must not depend on it. The vessel rolls very much today. Dear John gave the lecture this evening a good number were present and appeared attentive, they were warned against the temptations they would soon be exposed to, may the remarks be blessed and be the means of keeping them from sin. I have thought much of the beloved children today, it is an interesting one to them, please to give each a dozen kisses for us, you dear Sophia and cousin Henry will be able to read Aunt Jane's journal. (Both presumably her sister Eliza's children, "cousin" being used by her in place of "nephew"—Ed.)

Friday 6th Today has been very squally accompanied with thunder and lightning. The motion of the vessel made us feel sick but we soon overcame it. Spent the evening with our dear friends, Mr. Evans read his journal to us. The wind is unfavourable but no doubt all is wisely arranged by our Heavenly Father who is ever watching us for good.

Saturday 7th Captain discovered land this morning about 30 miles distant, it is one of the Andaman Islands. If you examine the map you will see our position in $11^{\circ} 25'$ North, $92^{\circ} 10'$ East. On the chart which Captain allowed me to look at this morning I traced the course to Calcutta. We shall be exposed to much danger entering and going up the river Hoogly, but why should we fear our God has preserved us hitherto and will still, if we are not too faithless to confide in his Almighty power. Oh for grace to trust in Him at all times, both of trouble and joy. We walked on the poop till 11 o'clock with Mr. and Mrs. E. and Captain, we felt rather low especially Captain, since four this afternoon it has been discovered that the vessel makes very much more water.

Sunday 8th Held our usual services today but were obliged to shorten them on account of the extra pumping. It has been a sweet sabbath and I hope a profitable one. I thought this morning much of dear little George who is now in Glory. We rejoice to think of departed friends and hope that when our work is done we all shall meet in that blessed world where Jesus reigns.

Monday 9th With a fair wind we hope to reach Calcutta in a few days. We have seen three trunks of trees which have been washed up by the roots. The moon was so bright this evening that we could see to read by it. Prayer meeting in the cuddy at seven o'clock.

Tuesday 10th Our course today is not good which obliged them to tack and therefore lost some little time. Dear John has got his hand blistered assisting at the pump. He also helped watch with Captain till 12 o'clock, the first mate being ill, we all intended to

join but were too tired. Today we saw the ship that passed us 14 days ago.

Wednesday 11th A homeward bound ship passed us this morning but at too great a distance to speak with her or we should have sent you a few words. The sea has now quite a different appearance as we get near land. The water is green instead of a beautiful blue as it sometimes used to be. It is a great mercy our voyage is nearly closed as the ship makes so much water, it is now obliged to be pumped every hour and a half for a length of time.

Thursday 12th The wind is unfavourable so that by going 150 miles we only get 30 toward our port, but no doubt it is for our good; it may be we have been too anxious. Brother Evans addressed us this evening from 103 Psalm.

Friday 13th Getting on slowly. We all complain of sleepiness and languor. Spent the afternoon on the poop and found the air very refreshing. This evening we enjoyed with our friends in the next cabin. Brother E. had the painful sight of a dead body floating down the river apparently tied to a branch of a tree. I trust ere long the poor hindoos will have more tender feelings and bury their friends in a proper way. We are today in $19^{\circ} 38'N$ — $87^{\circ} 33'E$, thermometer 81.

Saturday 14th We are now looking anxiously for a pilot boat and have been on the poop all the evening hoping to see the light ship after some time we saw a blue light which is thrown up every hour, in order to guide ships the right way at night. Captain intends to stay up all night.

Sunday 15th We have been very anxious all night as we are just at the sand heads, and have put a signal for the pilot. Arose at five and walked on deck till time for early prayer meeting. Quite unable to hold a public service. Soon after breakfast we discovered a pilot brig; it shortly after came toward us; it was indeed an overwhelming sight. When they drew near enough to let down the boat, we could see them all very distinctly, the most were natives, some with long robes, others only with a scarf about them, I looked on them with pity, to think of their being most likely all idolaters was very touching. The pilot and his servant or kitmutger were rowed by 12 natives to our ship. In the afternoon wet met in Brother Evans cabin and enjoyed it much after the excitement of the morning, thus a kind and generous Providence has watched over us. Mrs. Evans is very unwell today.

Monday 16th After a very good nights rest we arose quite well; walked on deck before breakfast, found a vessel had passed us during the night. The Maidston from London; it was in sight all day and we are at anchor near together. This morning two homeward bound ships passed us at a short distance, Captain signalised one which is going to Liverpool and asked him to report our vessel. Whilst sitting at dinner I observed natives coming through the portholes, I was at first surprised, but soon heard they had been

attracted by a signal which is put up when they want assistance. In the afternoon they were joined by others and worked well at the pumps. When we anchored they returned to their boats and were fastened to the stern of the vessel. Some of them have interesting faces. Tea was delayed on account of a boat coming to take the letters that they may arrive at Calcutta a few days earlier; they brought with them a few pineapples and oranges. We bought two pines for sixpence and four oranges for a penny. Our pilot is the same that took dear George and Sophia up the river he is a very agreeable man and is willing to give us any information he can. On returning to our cabins we found the native boats had disappeared. Captain was vexed as he wished them to assist the sailors till we got to our port. The pilot thinks they were afraid of being worked too much. We have had a good view of Sawyor Island since the morning and are now at anchor just off it.

Thursday 17th This morning very early a boat with provisions such as fruit, eggs, etc., drew near our vessel but the tide being strong it was borne away before a purchase could be made or we should have had some eggs for breakfast. Our spirits are sadly broken since the morning. At tea time the post boat came to bring letters. There was one from beloved George and Sophia. I cannot describe the joy we felt on seeing it, but how soon our joy turned into sorrow when we read the contents. It is dated the 8th of October and then dear George had been a sufferer 13 weeks, and the doctor had told him it must be at least four months before he may resume his labours. Beloved Sophia said her heart was full and wished us not stay in Calcutta longer than we could help. But this painful intelligence is not all, in a note to Mr. Evans dated November 9th which was a month later, from one of the Brethren he writes Mr. and Mrs. Parsons have just come to Calcutta in order to sail for England as soon as possible. I will leave you to judge beloved ones what our feelings are, till now we have been full of hope and joy at the thought of soon meeting them. How mysterious are the ways of Providence. May we be kept from repining at thy will O God.

Wednesday 18th We are both very low today. The painful tidings of yesterday have cast a shade over our future prospects. We had anticipated much joy in labouring with our beloved brother and sister in the cause of Christ. But God has said no, you must labour alone, and trust alone in me, I alone can prosper your way. Lord help us to acquiesce in thy holy will.

Thursday 19th I scarcely know what to write today beloved ones. We are drawing near our port, but with what feelings is impossible to tell you. A note was handed to us this morning from good Mr. Thomas, containing an account of the departure of our precious Brother but not to England, no but to a far country even an Heavenly, he had expressed a desire to die in India; and God has granted that request, (and as Mr. Thomas writes may we not

say he has entered the promised land). Our loss is gain to his happy spirit, my heart aches for dear Sophia she has lost her best earthly friend. May we be enabled under the direction of our Heavenly Father to soothe her sorrow, and in some measure heal the wound. We are kindly invited to Mr. Biss's, where dear beloved George finished his earthly course, and where dear widowed Sophia is now staying.

Friday 20th A little before 10 this morning we arrived in Calcutta. Two of the missionary brethren came to meet us. They welcomed us kindly, from the vessel we proceeded to the Mission House, where Mr. Thomas resides, there we saw dear children, but no mother to take care of them. It is an affecting circumstance. Mr. Thomas lost his dear wife in September. He is left with seven little children, two are under 12 months old. A note was sent to beloved Sophia to say we had come, soon after Mr. Thomas took us to Mr. Biss's house. The note had prepared dear Sophia for the interview. She is wonderfully supported and looks on her affliction as from the hand of a kind and gracious Father.

Saturday 21st The friends at whose house we are staying have been exceedingly kind to dear Sophia, and are so to us; we have a large room on the ground floor. On one side are two glass doors with venetians opening into a large veranda. Two on the other side which opens into the compound, just outside is a tank enclosed with stonework from which the natives get water for the use of the house. Dear John and myself took a walk round it this morning before breakfast. At a short distance in the compound lives a native Christian woman whom Mr. Biss supports. She often comes to the window and looks with pitying eye at dear Sophia as much as to say; has your dearest earthly friend left you. Beloved George's spirit departed from the room we now occupy for the mansion prepared for him in his Father's Kingdom above. When I listen to beloved Sophia's account of his piety, his entire submission to the will of God, I wonder not that such a spotless character is taken from us. He was ripe for Glory. Oh! that grace may be given us to follow his holy example.

Sunday 22nd We meet for family prayer at eight o'clock. Public worship at 10. This morning I stayed at home with dear Sophia she did not feel equal to going out twice. We all went in the evening to Circular Road Chapel at which the family attends, Mr. Biss is one of the deacons. A sermon was preached by Mr. Yates, on the applications of the Mission in India. Three have died within the last eight months. Mr. Pearce, Mrs. Thomas and our beloved brother. The text was (Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth). Dear Sophia was mercifully supported.

Monday 23rd It is the custom in this country to sit in your own room till the evening except at meal times which is very comfortable. Dear Sophia I am happy to say has made up her mind to return with us to Monghyr. We went to the prayer meeting this

evening at seven o'clock.

Tuesday 24th A meeting of the brethren was held at the Mission House to settle about Mr. and Mrs. E. and ourselves. We were fearful the friends would wish us to stay here for the present as they are so much in want of help, but not anything was said about it then, and we felt thankful because Monghyr seems to have a greater claim than ever on our exertions. Dear Sophia is better today.

Wednesday 25th We rose at five and took a walk and ride with Mr. Biss and his son, it was star light when we first set off. The syce always runs by the side of the buggy and Gharre which I do not like to see. There are a good number of servants kept, we have five or six at table every day. There are two little girls one six the other two years old. They both talk Hindoostanee and English, after breakfast Dear John went to the Benevolent Institution with Mr. Evans.

Thursday 26th We dined today with Mr. Ellis at Entally, under whose care the Native Christian Boarding School is. We were much interested, first we saw the native Chapel in which some of the elder young men preach, we then visited the school, and bungalow where the children live. I felt the power of the sun although we had umbrellas over us. It is very hot in the middle of the day but cool morning and evening. It seems very strange not to walk but since he embraced christianity is quite a castaway from them. Mussulman who lives in their compound, he is of a high family, from place to place but we are not allowed, a gharre is sent with us at any time, except before sunrise. After dinner we visited a He spoke English and begged we would pray for his wife who made her escape and lives with him, but is still a heathen. She is an interesting woman about 19 years of age, her husband is about 30.

Friday 27th We have been writing most of today. Beloved Sophia sits with us. I am thankful we arrived so soon after the trying day, for it is a comfort to her so she says. Dear John drank tea at the Mission House this afternoon.

Saturday 28th We intended to spend a long day in writing but have had many friends call to see us which takes up much time. Went this evening for a ride. We have family worship soon after tea which custom we like very much.

Sunday 29th All went to Chapel this morning beloved John preached from Luke 14-15 to 24 verse. In the afternoon we went with Mrs. Pearce to the native Chapel. We could not understand but were much interested. Suju Tali preached his manner is very impressive and his sable congregation seemed to listen attentively. We returned to the Mission House to be near the Chapel for the evening. We were pleased to meet Captain there. All went together to Circular Road Chapel.

Monday 30th The weather is generally fine after sunrise till

the evening when it becomes very damp and sticky; it reminds me of the London fogs. The natives seem to feel the cold, we frequently see a circle of them sitting round a kind of bowl in which they have a fire and the smoke ascending from the midst. They appear to do everything by the road side. I have seen them cutting hair, washing themselves, making baskets, and many other things. I suppose the cause must be that their houses are so small, without floors, made of matting with thatched roof supported by rough pillars. Went to Circular Road this evening dear John presided, dear sister Sophia is better in health but she feels acutely.

Tuesday December 1st Dear John and myself suffer much from mosquito bites, our hands and feet, above shoe are covered with blisters much inflamed, and sting quite as much as nettles, they are much swollen that it is pain to write, and it keeps us awake at night. The last few evenings I have been obliged to wear kid gloves for they will bite through any others, stockings are no hindrance to them. Mr. and Mrs. Evans spent the evening here, they feel disappointed we cannot accompany them with Captain to the Botanical Gardens and Serampore, but our pleasure now is to stay with beloved Sophia. It is sweet though painful to hear her talk of the excellence of beloved George.

Wednesday 2nd We dined today at the Mission House, Mr. Thomas was (word missing—Ed.) all the Missionaries should meet together before we leave, poor Mr. Tucker could stay but a short time with us, he is very ill. Mr. Thomas took us over the printing office before dinner, all are natives who are employed with the exception of three or four. They have a type foundry also which we were much pleased with.

Thursday 3rd Intended to stay at home today but Mr. and Mrs. Tucker wished us to spend a few hours at their house. They leave for England the 15th of the month. The Church at Circular Road are much distressed that his health will not permit him to remain amongst them. They are now quite destitute of a settled minister, my dear husband preached there this evening, dear Sophia accompanied us to Mr. Tuckers. I trust her spirits will not sink when we return to the spot where she spent such happy days with beloved George.

Friday 4th This afternoon Mrs. Biss took us to the City to procure things necessary for the voyage up to Monghyr. We hope to set off on Monday. Dear John as well as myself suffers exceedingly still from mosquito bites; each spot becomes inflamed and swells to the size of a shilling and very painful for a day or two after which, they begin to sting, it is almost impossible to keep from rubbing them continually.

Saturday 5th We are now looking forward to a length of time on the river again, we go in boats and expect to be three weeks or a month I will write as soon as we arrive.

Sunday 6th This morning we went to breakfast with Mr.

Thomas after which we went to Bow Bazaar dear John preached and Mr. Thomas administered the Lords Supper. It was an interesting sight to see a number of christian natives assembled together with Europeans around the table of the Lord, a number of them came to shake hands with us but some of them could not speak English I do feel it very much not being able to talk to them, but I hope it will not be long before I shall understand the language. Three were received into the Chuch, two young men and one native woman 19 years of age. We have thought much of you all today, do continue to pray earnestly for us we need your prayers especially now that we are about to enter on our important work. I trust the Lord will bless us. We go tomorrow.

Farewell beloved ones, Farewell.

(For general editorial introduction to the Parsons' journal see previous issue.)

Harvest of the Years: the autobiography of Wilfred Winterton, 1969, Templar Press, Birmingham, 112 pp. 15s.

Associated from his early days with Melbourne Hall, Leicester, Wilfred Winterton played a prominent part in the political and Free Church life of the city for many years. This autobiography also provides an interesting account of many aspects of the temperance movement of which the author has been a tireless champion for over half a century. Mr. Winterton describes the campaign for the introduction of breathalizer tests as a means of reducing road casualties. The recent legislation owed much to the initiative he took over thirty years ago through the United Kingdom Alliance to which he continues to give devoted service.

J. HOUGH

Correction. In the April issue, Vol. XXIII No. 6, p. 280 (twice) Ben Street should read Ber Street.