

work in which I was engaged while in it. But I cannot describe my feelings on account of my mental and physical debility. Having for several days been somewhat excited—exposed to intense heat, unable to obtain my accustomed sleep—and in a word exposed night and day, I became subject to *severe* headache, and a *complete* prostration of both mental and physical system, i. e., an attack of fever and ague.

"I will only add, many are the pages of divine instruction which I have scattered over this new country. May God grant his blessing to accompany them. May they bear fruit when I am far distant. Such has been and will be my prayer."

The following from the few notes he was able to record during his sickness, will show the miserable condition to which he was reduced :

"May 24th.—My situation is truly miserable in continual excitement on account of the character of the passengers, and the subjects of conversation—which are the burning of Lawrence, the intention of the South to defend the institution of slavery, and to suppress all opposition to it, &c. My head almost bursting with the fever, these exciting controversies were like hot irons piercing my head.

"26th.—I feel some improvement in health. At 12 noon arrived in St. Louis. Seems like getting home. During my stay here I could do but little, and it is a pain to me to write.

"28th.—Rose at half past five A. M. So weak that I fainted once while dressing myself. There is no one to administer to my wants. I sometimes feel that if I had a friend to sympathize with me, it would be a comfort—even if it were but to lay the affectionate hand of sympathy on my burning brow. But such friends are far off. But God sees and compassionates me, and why should I complain. At 7 o'clock, A. M., left St. Louis for home. Whether I reach home or not is little concern to me now. Farewell to this city in which I have spent so many wearisome hours. May God keep me under the shade of his wings, and from all harm, and bring me safely to my father's house."

A few weeks after he reached his father's house somewhat recruited, but so much altered in appearance, that some of his most intimate friends did not recognize him. For a few months after the heats and chills of the fever lingered about him, but by rest among his friends and the invigorating air of Nova Scotia, he entirely recovered his health, so that on the following summer, he was in as good health as he had ever been.

On his return home he was received by the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, as a candidate for the foreign field, and urged to prosecute his studies with all diligence. He accordingly attended the hall of that Church the following autumn, and the Free Church College in Halifax during the succeeding winter, where he describes the Professors as very attentive to him, and showing him all that respect and kindness he could wish. While in Halifax he also employed his time in attending to such mechanical arts, as were likely to prove useful to him in the Mission field. In particular, he acquired the art of printing in the office of the *Presbyterian Witness*, and printed a small pamphlet on Missions as a specimen of his skill. He also availed himself of such opportunities as were within his reach of acquiring medical knowledge.

The following winter (1858) he spent in Philadelphia, attending the medical classes there. Of his employment there, he thus writes to his parents on the 15th of January.

"It is now some time since I have written to you, my time and attention being so much occupied with my various studies. My health is good, and I continue to prosecute my studies with much pleasure, and I trust with not a small degree of success and profit. I consider the opportunities for study and instruction, which I enjoy this winter, as among the most valuable privileges which I have hitherto