

of it amongst them, which were received with much avidity. The surgeon having intimated his intention to conduct worship during the voyage, several suitable sermons (chiefly Burder's) were given to him for that purpose; and a Library belonging to the Edinburgh and Leith Seaman's friend Society, and a number of tracts, were committed to his care for the use of the emigrants. After singing the second paraphrase, and commending all on board to the guardian care of the Shepherd of Israel, my friend and I bade them farewell. This visit took place on Friday, 3rd May. It was then intended that the vessel should sail on the following afternoon, or early on Sabbath morning; and, consequently, Mr. Thomson and I left under the impression that we should see their faces no more on this side of the grave.

The vessel did not set sail so early as was anticipated; and with great zeal Mr. Thorburn exerted himself, along with Mr. Thomson, to make arrangements for having service on board on Sabbath.

Mr. Thomson agreed to take the forenoon service. On Sabbath morning, however, the wind blew so high, that although the boat was lowered from the stern, it was found impossible to allow it to leave the vessel. Between sermons my friend came to me deeply mortified on account of the disappointment he had experienced. But as both of us felt equally anxious, if possible, to embrace the opportunity of addressing the emigrants, we resolved to apply for the use of a small steamboat, belonging to the Dock Commissioners, which is employed in tugging vessels out of the harbor.—At three o'clock in the afternoon we left the harbor, and shortly after reached the vessel, to the great delight of the passengers, who had been expecting us, but who had begun to despair of our being able to accomplish our visit.

Arrangements were immediately made for worship, and a congregation of about 200 souls met between decks. Mr. Thomson began the service with praise and prayer; and I preached from the following passage of Scripture—Heb. xi. 13–16.

From the commencement I was listened to with profound attention. As I proceeded in my exposition, and adverted to the feelings with which the pilgrim fathers of former generations must have bid a long and lasting adieu to the friends, the scenes, and the homes of their youth, and taken their departure for a land of which they were entirely ignorant, under the mingled emotions of hope and anxiety, which must have swelled their breasts,—a large proportion were deeply affected; and ere I had advanced far, many were dissolved in tears.

I never preached in more affecting circumstances, or under feelings of deeper awe. The scene remains vividly before me; and whilst memory retains its place, I must ever think

with peculiar interest, of the appearance presented by the various groups of families by whom I was surrounded:—some standing—some sitting—some leaning on their parents—some seated by their sides—others on their knees—others at their feet,—all listening with fixed attention, and many with ill-suppressed emotion, whilst I spoke to them of the land they were leaving, of that to which they were proceeding, and of the better country to which I hoped they were journeying, where all the faithful followers of Christ "shall meet to part no more;" and entreated them so to live, as that God should not be ashamed to be called their God, and they might be found amongst the number of those for whom he hath prepared a city. The appearance presented by many seemed to indicate, that something more than merely natural feeling was at work; and I fondly hope that impressions were then produced which will not soon, or ever, be effaced.

After concluding the service in the usual manner, Mr. Thomson and I, along with several friends who had accompanied us, took our departure. The whole of the passengers and crew assembled on deck, and, when the steamboat left, in silence they lifted and waved their hats, bidding us a respectful adieu. In silence we returned their salutations, and parted, never to meet again till "time shall be no more!"

The second vessel which I visited, also in company with Mr. Thomson, was the *Indus*, which sailed in the month of September last. There were about thirty or forty passengers on board, most of whom belonged to a better class in society. I was much gratified by finding that all were possessed of copies of the Scriptures, with the exception of a female servant. Several families, however, as in the former case, were not sufficiently provided, and gladly embraced the opportunity of obtaining a larger supply.

After the distribution of the Scriptures, the passengers and crew were assembled on deck, and I addressed to them a few words, suitable to the circumstances in which they were placed. Though the day was cold and blowy, many of them remained uncovered during the whole of the service; and all listened apparently with a deep feeling of interest and respect to the message delivered. After praise and prayer, copies of the Committee's Address were distributed, and very cordially received by all.

From the manner in which I was received in these visits, and from the obvious interest taken in the exercises engaged in, I feel deeply impressed with the importance of some arrangement being made whereby such opportunities may be regularly improved; and I take leave to suggest, through you, to the Colonial Committee, the propriety of their appointing a small sub-committee at each of the ports from which vessels with emigrants usually sail, whose duty it shall be, to ascertain that all the passengers are provided with copies of the Scriptures, to