

power and the presence of God were so manifested in all that has taken place, that our hearts have been filled with joy. All seemed to have caught the holy enthusiasm of the missionary cause. God gave it favor on every hand. For the money accommodations of our banking company there was no charge. Our missionaries and their wives were carried hence to Liverpool, without price, through the generosity of the steamboat proprietors; and in short, all who make any profession of regard for the truth seemed anxious to bear some part of the duty, while the enemies of our common christianity appear astonished and confounded.

On Saturday last, the 29th of August, our brethren sailed hence for Liverpool, after a deeply impressive service on board the steamer, where many were assembled to testify their sympathy and love, and take an affectionate farewell of their beloved friends. They are now in Liverpool, waiting the hour of their departure by the *Wave*, the vessel that has been engaged to carry them to Bombay. At Bombay Dr. Wilson waits their arrival, and their instructions are, to seek his counsel, to co-operate with the mission of the Church of Scotland so far as may be practicable, to become acquainted with their plans and operations, and imitate them as closely as they can, and as the peculiarities of their situation may allow.

“Whatever may be the future influence of our mission, unspeakable good has already been effected at home. Our Churches have been awakened and roused to a spirit of sympathy far beyond what could have been anticipated. The Lord has already given us a token for good, in the liberality, the earnestness, and the prayerfulness of the people. Previous to the departure of our brethren, notice was given of a meeting for prayer in Belfast, and one of our largest churches was filled to overflowing, while the people poured out their hearts in supplication for our missionaries and their work.—When God commanded Jeremiah to proclaim his judgments, he gave him for a sign ‘a rod of an almond tree,’ which is explained to signify, ‘I will hasten my word to perform it’. The almond tree bloomed early and speedily, emblem of a speedy accomplishment of the Word of the Lord. And surely we, too, have had our sign—a token for good—an earnest in the spirit which God has given his people at home, that he will prosper and bless their work abroad—that he will hasten his word of mercy and of promise to perform it.”

The embarkation of the missionaries took place, it will be seen, on the 29th August. The following is the description of that affecting scene, given by an eye-witness. May the Lord abundantly bless these devoted men and the Church, by whose missionary zeal they are sent forth:—

*Belfast, Saturday, Aug. 29, 1840.*

**The missionaries to India are just gone.—**

\* \* \* \* About half an hour before sailing, a considerable number met in the cabin of the steamboat, which was kindly granted for the occasion, when the Rev. Mr. McNeely of Ballymacarrett read a portion of that beautiful and appropriate chapter, the twentieth of the Acts, and afterwards Dr. Cooke joined in prayer, consigning the brethren, and tender but devoted sisters, to the care of him whom the winds obey. Never shall I forget the scene, in the steamboat on that day. Often had I read, and had endeavoured to realize the whole of that touching event in Paul's history, which is here recorded in the Acts, and have felt that it was one which was calculated to make his, perhaps few and lonely followers, to weep when they thought they would see him no more; but to see now palpably before me almost a similar scene re-enacted, brought home to my feelings the event of the apostle's departure, clothed in all the vividness of experienced reality. And here were we now, like them of old, parting with our beloved friends, in circumstances almost completely similar. The very similarity of the scene made the departure of our friends even more tender and more affecting—so much so, that I believe there was not one in that cabin, during Dr. Cooke's beautiful prayer, who did not shed tears; nay, I have heard it said since, by some gentlemen who were there, that they thought before this that there was no earthly circumstance could make them weep, and yet they found they were unable to restrain their tears. A short time after this the boat sailed. In order to be with these dear brethren as long as possible, there was a party of six of us who went down the lough in the vessel with them, and after leaving, we returned in a boat which we had brought along for the purpose of conducting us back. We gazed after the vessel, and we thought of the precious burden which it was the means of wafting away to another part of the world. There were none of us superstitious; but when we looked up and saw such a delightful day, and looked around and saw the hills waving with the luxuriance of harvest, and when we remembered that our friends were departing on such a day, and amid a scene betokening such beauty, perhaps it was weak on our part, but we were struck with the omen. We thought with ourselves, that perhaps that vessel, as we watched at last its very smoke receding from our view, was laden with the germs of the subsequent evangelization of India; and the remote consequences of this scene might equal, perhaps surpass the ardency of that hope in which, for the time being, it pleased us to indulge. At all events, we felt rejoiced at the thought that our brethren were borne away on the prayers of the good and zealous through the churches of our own province, and remembered in the petitions of the friends of this good cause throughout the world.