

early breakfast on shore, and then hastened to the Queen's dock to embark in the vessel which was to be our home for some months. The *Fearnought* answers her formidable name, and is a substantial looking ship of 1300 tons burthen. It is well that she is so, for her strength has been severely tested by the storms which we have encountered during our voyage.

We were comparative strangers in Liverpool, but christian sympathy found us out. A number of persons known and unknown met us at the wharf to bid us an affectionate farewell. It was not personal attachment, but an interest in the cause of our Divine Master that brought them there. Oh blessed gospel which makes strangers one in Christ, and excites in the heart every pure and benevolent and generous feeling. Among the friends who came to see us off were the Rev. Dr. Graham, W. Taylor, Esq., of Birkenhead, J. B. Crow, Esq., formerly of Nova Scotia, and Mrs. Bullen, the widow of an excellent missionary in whose house we found a comfortable and happy home in Samoa nearly twenty years ago. The kindness of these and other christian friends will be noticed by him whose promise is that a cup of cold water given to a disciple, because he is a disciple, shall not lose its reward.

Our ship was towed out to sea by a steamer, which remained with us until the afternoon. All hands were busy during the day in clearing the decks, caulking the hatches, and making other necessary preparations for our long voyage. As soon as the steamer left us every sail was unfurled to the wind, and the land soon faded from our view in the distance.

The captain of our ship is named Jones, and he is an excellent man. He is a professor of religion, and encourages everything that is good. He has been very kind to us during the voyage, and does all in his power to promote our comfort. It is no ordinary privilege to make a voyage with such a man. Our fellow passengers are the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McCosh, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McNair, Rev. Mr. Neilson, and three mercantile gentlemen. There are a few passengers in the steerage also. Our society is small but agreeable, and the greatest harmony prevails among us.

Our religious privileges are all that we could reasonably expect in our circumstances. We have worship in our cabin every evening at 8 o'clock. On the Sabbath day there is a morning and evening service in the saloon, at which most of the crew and passengers attend. We have also a meeting with the sailors in the fore-castle twice every week. These meetings have been observed during the voyage, except when interrupted by stormy weather. May God

bless the efforts made for the good of our fellow voyagers.

Our voyage has been an unusually severe one. We encountered bad weather after our departure, and the last half of our voyage has been in high southern latitudes where we have encountered a succession of storms accompanied by rain, hail and snow. We sailed far south for the two-fold purpose of getting strong westerly gales, and reducing our distance. The degrees of longitude diminish in distance as you recede from the equator towards the poles.—In the parallel in which we sailed the degree is only about 43 nautical miles.—This is called great-circle sailing. Our ship is overloaded, which makes her more uncomfortable than she would otherwise have been. The captain and officers say that she had 500 tons more cargo than she ought to have for a winter voyage to Australia. She is over 21 feet below water and scarcely 5 feet above it. The consequence is that she makes "bad weather" as the seamen say, and ships very heavy seas.—The sailors are never dry when the weather is at all rough, and several of them have been laid aside from duty by their constant exposure.

The only pleasant part of our voyage was within the tropics where the trade winds prevail. We met the north-east trades in Lat. 28° N. and carried them to Lat. 4° N., and the south-east trades in Lat. 2° S. and carried them to Lat. 30° S. These winds blow with great uniformity, and we sailed at the rate of six or seven miles an hour before them. There is a belt of calms at the equator of variable width between the two trade winds. We were becalmed a fortnight here which has prolonged our voyage. The great heat and excessive rain in this region of calms makes the weather unpleasant and unhealthy. It is difficult to remain on deck, and the atmosphere in the cabin is very oppressive.—A general languor prevails, and it is a relief to escape to more genial and bracing latitudes.

The monotony of our voyage has been agreeably relieved by various incidents.—We met many ships during the first two months of our voyage and exchanged signals with them. One of these, the *St. Bede* of London, sent a boat on board of us near the equator. She was short of provisions, and was supplied with beef, biscuit and tobacco. This vessel was homeward bound, and we sent letters by her. The last half of our voyage has not been without its pleasures also though we have been sailing in stormy regions. Some of our passengers relish the excitement of cape weather, others are fascinated with the celestial scenery of the southern hemisphere, and its new orders of constellations, which have no