

## NEARING AFRICA.

On Midocean, April 5th, 1921.

Dear Brother and Sister Baker:

Just one month ago today since we left the homeland. It has seemed a long month and yet we are both well and enjoying the trip. We enjoyed your nice letters very much. Were so glad to get the home letters. There were five of them, and they were sent in a registered package to this boat, which we received after the boat had left the dock although we inquired as soon as we got on board.

There are a lot of people on board but a large number are landing at Cape Town, and a few landed at Madeira Island.

We went ashore there. We went down steps from the upper deck into a large motor boat and then to the shore. The island is so pretty, our first sight of a real tropical land. There were palm trees, and many other lovely trees, beautiful flowers, and sweet sounding birds, and a number of fruits, sugar cane, etc. The natives are Portuguese. The island is graded or sloping with small houses all around. There is a fine post office, church, hospital and hotels, etc. I should judge the island would be twenty miles in length.

The natives come out to the steamer in motor boats with wicker chairs, tables, fancy table covers, etc., and ready-made dresses and waists for women and children, fruits and vegetables, and get aboard of the boat with them to make sales. Then when the boat is leaving or just before she sails men and boys come out prepared to dive for money and the passengers throw silver pieces overboard and they dive and always bring it up in their fingers, and sometimes between their toes. It was fun to watch them.

April 1st was the hottest day we had. We were nearing the Equator, passed it on Sunday night. It was pretty hot all those days, but we had heavy rains and lightning for two nights which of course cooled the air some. We found our cabin pretty hot, especially at nights, but we made out all right. We could get an electric fan for the sum of \$5. Oh yes the ocean was like a lake for two days when we were nearing the Equator. One could hardly believe it could be so calm. Of course, there are lots of card playing, dancing and sports of all kinds going on, but what I mind most of all is the smoking all around us on the decks, ladies as well as the men.

I thank the Lord for salvation full and free, especially when I see the worldliness around me. There are some more missionaries on board bound for Africa. A Welshman and his wife and two children, who surely need the rod of correction. How hurtful and unbecoming it is for christians to allow their small children to rule the home and rule their parents abroad. There is also a man from Switzerland going as a missionary, and an English girl as well. These all are Pentecostal people, not the awful ones that have the spells, but they claim to have spoken in tongues when they received the Holy Ghost, and I imagine they think we have not received the Holy Ghost because we have not spoken in tongues.

We don't have any services on board but the captain has a Church of England service every Sunday at 10.30 in the first

saloon. We have attended both Sundays for the looks of it, but really it is only a form. Sunday is really observed here on the ship and the people are really quiet, thank the Lord. The Welshman was invited to take the service the first Sunday night in the steerage for the Salvation Army man, but did not ask him again. As he spoke too strong for him. There was a Portuguese christian worker came from Cambridge, Mass., on the boat. I liked him very much. He got off at Madeira to visit his father. He will have a chance to do some home missionary work. We expect to get in Capetown next Monday, the 11th, where we will mail this. We will mail another letter when we get to Durban. The boat will probably stop at Capetown for a couple of days; then she stops at Algoa and East London before she reaches Durban.

We have gone 4301 miles since we left Southampton, which is twelve days. We have made as high as 380 miles in twenty-four hours. We are writing on deck and the wind is blowing, so please excuse writing, as it is rather difficult.

April 8th, Friday, 5 p. m.

Will add a few more lines. We have nothing new to write only up to the present time we have gone 5363 miles. We are both well as usual. We get plenty to eat, real nice food. Have no complaints to be made. We thank the Lord for salvation.

Yours in Christian love,

HELEN M. STERRITT.

## ON THE WAY TO AFRICA.

S. S. Kenilworth Castle,  
Atlantic Ocean,

April 9th, 1921.

Dear Homeland Friends:

We are glad to tell you that all is well with us this beautiful morning. The Lord has favored us with delightful weather and we have not been at all seasick, except a little discomfort our first day out—Good Friday. We can say with the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" and we do praise Him for His goodness to us. We pray that we may be faithful during the testings and hard places that are before us.

We are expected to reach Cape Town tomorrow (Sunday) so we are nearing land again. The greater part of the passengers disembark there, so it is a busy day for many, packing, getting their immigration papers through, etc. There is a large passenger list. With many it is a speculation trip, others are returning to their homes in different towns and cities of South Africa. We are not the only missionaries on board, for there are several going to Cape Town. They are Pentecostal people (not Nazarenes) and among them is a very humble, spiritual Swiss.

We are told that it is often rough at this part of the trip for sometimes they encounter Cape "Rollers," but this is a glorious morning, cloudless sky, cool breeze and the ocean beautiful, blue and tranquil as a lake.

Our intensely hot weather was from March 31st to April 5th. The hottest day was April 1st, but we had electrical showers, that and the following night, which helped to cool the atmosphere. We crossed the Equator Saturday night, April 2nd,

and now we are in a much cooler atmosphere. We were favored with ice cream for dessert while in the tropics, which we appreciated very much. We are getting quite used to English fare now and enjoy our meals. We are enjoying our sweets from the dear home friends yet. How we do appreciate these and all other tokens of love. We know that prayers are offered for us daily and God is surely answering, and we do praise Him.

This morning we met a freight steamer. It looked like an Elder-Dempster and we wondered if it were going to St. John.

We have seen flying fish and passed a school of dolphins several times which look so peculiar, flopping around in the water like persons bathing.

When we were four days from England, anchor was cast early Monday morning off Madeira Island, which is surely a vision of loveliness. I wish I could picture to you its mountains, ravines, green sloping hillsides dotted all over with hundreds of white cottages, its rugged bluffs and the wonderful trees and vines. It certainly was different from any place we have ever seen. Our first sight of southern life was by no means disappointing. The natives (Portuguese) were on board before we were up, displaying their wares on the deck. Fruit, flowers, beaded and embroidered goods, wicker chairs, post cards, etc., were on sale and there was a great confusion of voices. It was very interesting. After breakfast we went ashore with some others in a motor boat which we boarded by descending steps lowered at the side of our ships. A seven minutes ride brought us to the stone steps leading up to the pier. We spent about an hour and a half viewing some of the beauties of this delightful island of the sea. We should have enjoyed a whole day there, but had to be back at 11 o'clock.

The gardens were wonderful. Beautiful flowers of all kinds on all sides and their fragrance filled the air. We made use of our camera here, which was a great pleasure, and we hope the pictures will be good. Bananas, cocoanuts and sugar cane grow here and we saw many fine palms.

From a beautiful hillside balcony we looked out for miles over the ocean and different parts of the island. We should have loved to go further up the mountain, but had not time. Some of the passengers left the boat early and took a trip to the summit by train, had breakfast at the hotel and returned down the mountain by toboggan. It is quite an expensive trip, but very wonderful, they said. Toboggans are fixed up as carriages and drawn by mules. They look very quaint and are very comfortable to ride in. When we came back to our ship the natives were swimming around diving for money thrown from the decks. They did not miss a coin. Everyone certainly enjoyed the trip to Madeira and I could not but think of heaven when I saw its loveliness. We have been sailing steadily on since then and every day the ocean has had a different beauty. It is never alike two days and we are not yet tired of our voyage, but are getting rested. The Lord is with us and we do love Him and are glad we are in His will. There is an Episcopal service Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

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