

ation was to be sent to Grahamstown to try to remove difficulties & report.

It was a great pleasure to meet the most of the brethren in the field & a great surprise to see sitting opposite me at dinner Mr. Welsh once a fellow student in Calderwood's class & Mr. Stirling Missionary in Rose Street.

Here I again met Mr. A. Murray & heard him address a meeting of workers in the afternoon of 8th Jan & a meeting in the evening ~~when he preached~~

On my return to King Williams Town I saw more of it & will then speak of it more particularly.

Erugwali

Mr. & Mrs. Stirling very kindly invited me to accompany them home & remain for a few days. On Friday morning Mr. Cumming, Mr. & Mrs. Stirling, Mr. Sidwood & Mr. Welsh & I started for Dohne by train. At Blaney we changed carriages, the main train going to E. London

Mr. Leslie was Missionary at Tutura but had to flee to Congwali for safety during the Seabeke war of 1877-8.

Through a hilly country we passed causing the Railway to wind in great circles. Peltton the chief educational centre of the London Missionary Society was passed. Mr. Birt & Mrs. Sturrock are in charge. At Dohne Station we left the train & found horses waiting. Mr. Welsh rode & the others were taken in two conveyances.

The hills & fields are exceedingly bare around ^{there} with few trees and all parched like in appearance. In hollows by the river sides the mimosa Cape Calurnum & aloes flourish.

In the afternoon of my arrival I visited the graveyard by the river side. Mr. Leslie Mr. Burnside a brother of Mrs. Sozas. Mrs. Chalmers & a few others sleep there. The chief purpose of our going so soon was to see a little fresh grave. On New Year's Day Mr. Stirling's second & only child died suddenly. Near a jessamine tree with a wreath of everlastings on her breast she sleeps in a foreign land.

When the first child died Mr. St. was at Mbulu. ~~The day she died~~ No one being near the parents had to make the coffin themselves & alone laid it in its little grave. Such are some of the trials of life in the Mission Field. It was not easy to keep the eyes dry when such things were told. Some leaves of the mimosa tree I got at Mbulu to take home to Mr. St.'s mother.

In the evening several of us sat under the shade of some fig trees & had a pleasant chat about the old country & the work going on in Caffraia.

On Sabbath 11th Jan I preached in the forenoon in Lemquali Church from the Rev. Ligo Soga's pulpit. For an account of his labours at this place see his life by Chalmers. About 250 were present. Mr. C. St. Mr. C. St. Rev. Daniel Gerani, etc. among others in the audience. Many of the people were well dressed. One elder I saw

was dressed scarcely equal to a beggar at home yet he might be worth 20 oxen & a hundred sheep & goats.

I spoke on the Marriage Supper of the King. The attention was good & they seemed to feel the word.

The church built under the superintendence of Soga & from money mostly raised by himself is a plain structure with large windows. A porch with a door at each side stands at the front entrance.

The inside is evidently needing repair which I was glad to hear was in prospect. The pulpit is hexagonal with a cornice round the base. It is so deep as almost to compel a little man to have a chair to make a respectable appearance. On a framework outside the bell is hung a most indispensable article where clocks are a rarity.

At the opposite end of the church is Mr. Stirling's house which is made up of two rooms. A bed room & another that has to serve for parlour-dining room.

& study. It is not commodious but certainly preferable to a Kafir hut. Fully a year ago during a storm the roof was carried off the one end & left them nothing but the bedroom for all purposes. The church had to be made use of for a time during the exposure.

A few yards from the church is the original school now used for boys only. I found William Soga a frank intelligent looking young man the teacher. He is the nephew of Tije Sogas. He said he had a great desire to visit Scotland.

Among a clump of gum trees is the house of Mr. Cumming, Senior Missionary. It is one story & with eaves & thatch roof. Under the verandah I saw Mr. C. - often sitting talking with the people who came for advice & medicine. My bedroom was once the study of Soga. In spirit I sometimes felt I saw the good man pondering his Bible & praying for his benighted countrymen.

It was with feelings of sacredness that I went about the garden & grounds looking at the trees planted by Sogai hands & sat under the shade of a willow said to be his favourite seat.

About 100 yards further on is the Girls School for boarders & day scholars. The building is one of the best finished places I have seen in the mission field, perhaps too good for the purpose. From Kafir huts to that home must be a great change for the girls. The holidays were going on during my visit & consequently I saw neither teachers nor scholars. The board I think is £8 per year. Miss MacRitchie has charge but being absent in Scotland. Miss Birkenhead is at present the head teacher. She I believe is to be married soon to Mr. Fergusson of East London.

During my stay I wandered over the place on horseback & on foot. seeing oenalic pits, anthraps. By the

side of a waterfarrow I observed the greenness of the grass & thought of the 23rd Psalm. "The green pastures & still waters."

In Mr. & Mrs. Stirling's Company I rode to "Lambani" an orchard 7 miles distant to visit the Pringle family related to Pringle the poet. There I saw an orange grove for the first time. Two hundred trees with their dark green leaves was a beautiful sight. Some of the golden fruit were still hanging on the trees which we were loaded with. Peaches & apples with exquisite hues hung in abundance. With water & slight attention what will this land not yield. It is another Canaan.

I met the woman who cleans the Church Mina Beva & spoke a little to her. She is considered one of the best women on the Station. "Before the missionary came she said she was bound, but now she is free. With tears in her eyes she spoke of the

precisionness of Jesus.

One day a Mr. Le Donet Toke Ebu-dayi the evangelist. While still a heathen he stole three horses & was not discovered. He afterwards came to hear Mr. Chalmers father of Mr. Ch. of Brahamstown. preach. His text was "Thou shalt not steal". So great was the impression made that he returned the horses & became a candidate & was shortly after converted. For 45 years he has been doing evangelistic work on the this & other stations. By an accident & rheumatic pains he is now very lame & scarcely able to go out on his rounds.

Many pleasant chats I had with my good friends Mr. & Mrs. Stirling.

She spoke to me of the need there is for prayer on behalf of missionaries & their families. How they do yearn for the stimulus of home circles.

To Mr. Carstairs she said "I never think of my losses I think of my gains"

With Mr. C & S. I walked to a Kraal near to visit Sutu the great wife of Baiha. As we approached the hut there was nothing to indicate royalty. Her hut is a plain as others scarcely so good I think as some I saw near. The inside was also anything but royal like.

The roof is supported by 5 uprights resting on a floor made of antheaps & cleaned with cowdung. A small hollow in the centre of the floor serves for the fireplace. The articles of furniture were, a few mats of straw, two stools, two chests, some blankets & pillows. At one side sat old Sutu withered & feeble; but the hands of a lady. It was easy to see that they had never been soiled with work.

By her side sat the second wife who is supposed to be her servant. On the other side two daughters.

She said she greeted heartily those who sent the missionaries & said her wish was to remain where the word of God is.

From her hut we went next to No-
 cutus the mother of Tiyo Soga whom
 I found nearly blind. Her hut was much
 the same as the other, if anything
 more comfortable. Here I found a table
 & some dishes & the hut with a win-
 dow about 8 in square. A dozen
 children & grandchildren were clus-
 tered round her one having the name
 David Livingstone. Her husband
 never became a Christian & she had
 to leave him very early in her married
 life. For interesting notes about her
 see Soga's life. Miss Ogilvie, she
 wished to be greeted heartily.

Before leaving Mr. C. showed me
 a Bible he got from the Glasgow Miss-
 ionary Society when he left for
 Africa. In the English Channel
 he was wrecked & all he saved was
 his Bible in a portmanteau. He
 very kindly gave me a Kafir Tes-
 tament as a keepsake.