

Yutura.

Circumstances were not favourable for remaining at Blythwood at that time owing to son having been born the day of my arrival. Mr. Eirdwood U.P. Missionary was staying there & offered the use of a horse to take me round the Stations south of Blythwood.

On Wednesday morning 21<sup>st</sup> Jan I started about 6.20 in the company of Mr. Eirdwood. Mr. Brown Carpenter this boy for Yutura. Wishing to get on somewhat intimate terms with my horse dark brown with some grey spots. I asked the his name & was told - "Sicpence". His cut ear told only too truly that he was of Kafir breeding. We had not been many minutes on the way, when going round the slope of a hill, the horse stumbles & the saddle slipped round throwing me somewhat sharply to the ground. Sicpence at once stood evidently understanding the situation

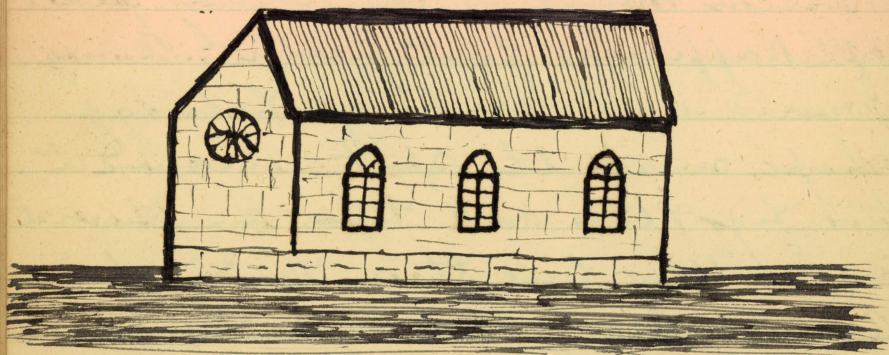
The ride was over a fine stretch of country affording splendid pasturage for cattle & sheep. Flocks of storks & locust birds were frequently passed. As we approached Butterworth rich valleys covered with mealies & Kafu corn & fields of as green grass as I saw in the Colony lay on each side. About breakfast time we reached Butterworth a new town on the borders of Fingo & Sealekaland. Scattered over a flat piece of ground with heights rising all round are several buildings that promise a goodly town in the near future.

At a good hotel we enjoyed a substantial breakfast after our morning ride. From the veranda I noticed an English & Wesleyan Church, a school, Magistrate's house & office. On the height to the west there is a native church conducted by Wesleyans who have the hold of this district.

After resting our horses we started

again & just outside the town crossed the river, at a ford that must be dangerous in flood. At Captain Blyth's residence Adhambé we rested a few minutes. I was introduced to him & joked about my South African experience. Again we pushed on over long flats & reached Tutura after 11 o'clock.

That day a meeting was to be held to introduce Mr. Sindwood to the congregation there. Being rather early I asked Mr. Lundie to show me the Rev. Tijo Soga's grave which was close by. At the corner of the garden close by the Mission House is the resting place of Kaffaria's first pastor. A mound covered with bricks of half egg shape marks the spot. Around it two figs & two oak trees, an Australian willow lend their kindly shade. A few straggly rose trees & a granium grow beside the mound. The surroundings are in much need



of care & it was welcome news to heart that soon something is to done to mark the spot in a worthy manner.

After Soga left Enquali he laboured at Futura until his death. Mr. Leslie succeeded him & remained until the war of 1878 when he had to flee to Enquali for safety.

The Church Mission House & traders shop were all burned. Since then Futura was conducted as an out-station of Colunha. Lately the Foreign Missions Board of the U. P. Church resolved to make it a separate station & Mr. Eridwood to be missionary.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan the meeting took place & was attended by large number of natives & a few Europeans. The church not being quite finished the gathering was held outside under the shade of Australian willows.

Seats were brought for the white people & the natives squatted on the grass. Mr. Auld presided & read the 67<sup>th</sup>

Ps., then prayed in English & Kafir. In a few words he introduced Mr. S. to whom he handed the roll of members. Mr. S. replied & spoke first in English then fluently in Kafir.

Mr. Lundie Mr. Macdonald F.C. & Capt. Blyth made remarks. The latter's remarks were somewhat as follows—

"The devil & heathenism had a victory when the mission house & church were burned. Where are they now who did this. They are scattered over the country. They have not returned, but the missionaries have. The work of God cannot be put down. Christianity is not the worse for it, but the better.

The more missionaries & schools the better for the country. I say this as a magistrate. These things bring peace & home protection." Several natives afterwards spoke & thanked the people at home for restoring the mission.

After the meeting I had a talk with Lasi Soga, Lijo's brother. He is a tall intelligent good looking man.

He took me to his hut & gave me a drink of amasi.

The old mission house stands about 200 yards from the church & is completely in ruins. A new house will be built but not on the same site. Meanwhile Mr. S. & family are living in a mud hut & tents with much dis-comfort. It is only just to state here that from Mr. S. a complete stranger I received the greatest kindness. He put a horse at my disposal for a week or more so as to be able to visit the other stations. He impressed me as the greatest man in the U. P. staff. & I was glad to hear he is held in the highest esteem by the natives.

Columba. U. P.

After the meeting at Tutura was over Mr. Auld, Mr. Lundie & I rode to Columba & arrived about 6.30 p.m. For a time while we were on the main road <sup>Mr. L. & I</sup> ~~we~~ rode hard & left Auld behind who is considered a fast rider. At the top of a hill where we got a glimpse of