

LETTER FROM RUTH WATKINS,

New York, Wednesday, August 10, 1829.

Tuesday, June 9, 1829. Took my leave of the Dear Friends in Tunstall Circuit—and was accompanied by Brothers Hugh and James Bourne to Liverpool.

Wednesday 10. Was much edified while Brother Hugh Bourne expounded part of Rev. xxi. The light and glory of heaven streamed down, and the scripture opened in an unusual manner, and I felt much encouraged.

Sunday 14. Spoke at Liverpool. A hard time.

Tuesday 16. Parted with Brother James Bourne, perhaps never to meet again in this world. I hope God will reward him for all his trouble and kindness manifested to us in our preparation for America.

Friday, June 19, 1829. Embarked for New York. About eleven o'clock in the morning, we hove out of the Prince's Dock, Liverpool, and bade farewell to our native shore. The Lord blessed us with a favourable wind, and we sailed at the rate of ten miles an hour. In the afternoon I was violently attacked with sickness, so that I was obliged to return to my birth, (below deck.) The last glance of land I had, was the rugged ends of the Welch Mountains; and I was informed I should see land no more until I saw America.

I felt much affected with the thought, (which appeared probable to me, of seeing my native land, my dear relations, and the scores of friends which I feel my soul closely united to, no more in this world. But notwithstanding this, and the violent sickness, (for life appeared almost at a close,) I could drink of this cordial, I was suffering for Christ's sake, And, bless the Lord, he raised us up friends, even in the ship; great kindness was manifested towards us by the stewards.

20, Confined to my bed. all day with sickness, 21. With great difficulty I got on decks the sea ran mountains high, Monday 22. Better of my sickness, A calm sea.

Wednesday, June 24. Felt much depressed in spirit, when meditating on the important work which lay before me—and my own weakness. I opened my mind to friend Knowles; and while he spoke of the mystery of faith, and held forth the promises of God— "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts, &c." the glory of the Lord beamed, the temptation gave way, and my soul enjoyed a happy deliverance. Glory be to God

Saturday 27. Asked the captain liberty for preaching to which he willingly consented.

Sunday, June 28, 1829, Heard Brother Summersides preach in the morning, and Brother Morris in the evening. Great attention was given by rich and poor; and I hope good was done.

Monday 29. A rough sea. Seized again with sickness.

Sunday July 5th. Spoke in the morning to an attentive audience. I hope the fruits will be seen in eternity.

Monday 6th. A rough sea, and a head wind.

Tuesday 7. Rose at four o'clock in the morning. What with the rocking of the vessel, and the roaring of the sea, I had not a wink of sleep all night. When I went on deck every thing wore a gloomy aspect. I found almost every sail taken in; the wind blowing tremendous; the sea rolling mountains high; and the waves dashing over the deck. I could not remain on deck, it was dangerous; and being so very ill, I did not know where to remove for ease. One of the officers handed me into a delightful little place fitted up on deck for the accommodation cabin passengers.

In bringing myself to examination, I found I had peace with God. It would have been all well (even) if I had gone to the bottom. Praise God.

Friday 11. Head wind, and driven very much to the north, The captain expressed his surprise at the roughness of the weather, and said he had crossed the Atlantic fifteen times in that ship, but never experienced such a voyage at that season of the year.

Sunday 12. Last night I took very little rest, was much agitated in mind,—called to friend Knowles and his wife — to assist in prayer in behalf of the wind. He rose about one o'clock, and pleaded with God a considerable time; and in a few hours the wind changed, and became favourable.

I heard in the morning that we had a very narrow escape from going down. A circumstance took place which was very unusual, the ship turned right about, although the man was at the helm. This was very alarming.

Sunday, July 26. Spoke on deck. Monday 27. Very calm. But a few miles from the gulf — — — . When we sailed near the banks of Newfoundland, for about twenty-four hours, we were in danger of ice-bergs.

Thursday, July 30. About eleven o'clock, LAND was seen from the mast head. About three, land was perceptible from the deck. This caused joy and gladness. From Sandy Hook, a little island about twenty-five miles from New York, we had a splendid prospect in sailing: the lovely vallies, and rising hills, the woods with towering trees, all dressed in green; the fertility of the land, together with the delightful perfumes which saluted us from the shore; and the beautiful entrance into New York. It was a picture surpassing all I ever beheld.

About six o'clock they cast anchor a little distance from the shore. I cannot well express my feelings when I saw numbers flocking on board, with expressions of joy in their countenances, and congratulating the arrival of their friends on the American shore.

But to me all were strange—the land was strange—the habits new—the features unknown. These things, with the temptations of Satan, and the great work which lay before me, caused a throbbing heart, and a streaming eye. Surely I never needed the prayers of the church, and the grace of God more than at this time.

We, the Missionaries, assembled together, and tried to comfort each other, Brother Morris told me I should have the honour of suffering with Christ. We remained on board all night.

Friday, July 31, 1829. About eleven o'clock, I stepped, for the first time, on the American shore, The climate is very hot.

Sunday, August 2. Preached in a chapel belonging to a people called the Reformers; a party who separated from the old Methodists. The congregation was large, many tears were shed, and I trust good was done.

Monday 3, Attended a prayer meeting.

Tuesday 4. Seized with a slight touch of the cholera morbus; a disease very prevalent in this country.

Thursday 6. Preached in Mr. Stitwell's chapel. A stated minister, who was originally an old Methodist preacher. This opened my way in different families,

Sunday, August 9. Preached in a large room which we have taken about the center of the city. The people very attentive, many tears were shed. A man of colour shouted aloud. But the heat was very oppressive. I felt as though my blood almost boiled in my veins. After preaching I was taken ill; but took a little cooling medicine, and soon got better. Sister Knowles preached in the evening, and gave great satisfaction.

Tuesday 11. Assisted Brother Knowles in holding a meeting out of doors. The congregation was large and attentive. Oh that God would open our way, and send prosperity. Bless God, I am encouraged to believe that the Lord of hosts will be with us, and crown our labours with success; and that a noble army will arise, and call him blessed.

On the Continent of America, our church government takes with the people in general.

Our portraits have had a good effect in opening our way.

Brethren pray for us,

RUTH WATKINS

Reference

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1829/381