

Foreign Correspondence.

CHINA.

Arrival of Elder Findlay and emigrating Saints at Hong Kong—Baptisms.

Hong Kong, China, June 26, 1855.

To President F. D. Richards.

Beloved Brother—I feel to drop you a few items from this place, for the benefit specially of those who may follow in the same track Zion-ward—information which we would have highly prized ere we left Bombay.

Our little company of eight souls left the latter place on the 16th of March, on board the *Mary Spencer*, of Whitehaven, England, arriving in Hong Kong, after a very pleasant though lengthy voyage, on the 8th of the month. We paid about £16 each adult for a comfortable second cabin accommodation. This is, however, in the absence of any stipulated rate, as one can make agreement, governed considerably by the number of ships for the port, and state of freightage at the time, neither of which favoured us much; at the same time I must be permitted to make honourable mention of Capt. Fisher, of the *Mary Spencer*, who granted every indulgence, and showed us every kindness while on board, and, to swell the gratitude already awakened in our bosoms, returned thirty pounds sterling on arriving at this place. This boon was rendered more manifestly the gift of our Father in Heaven by the fact that, by misrepresentation at Bombay, we should have been short of means to leave this place. We had been led to believe that, at most, twenty-five dollars each would have sufficed from hence to California, but, on arriving, we found that forty-five dollars, and ration ourselves, was the lowest mark. At some seasons a passage may be had as low as thirty dollars, but it would not be safe for any party to trust to this. From the beginning of March to the end of May are the best months for California ships. There seems to be no traffic direct from this to San Diego.

Hong Kong is, moreover, no place for an empty pocket. Its inhabitants principally live upon the stranger, and all eyes are on the alert to rob him. We could not possess a room for less than a promise of ten dollars for any period not ex-

ceeding one month; though since, the proprietor has granted ours gratis.

We have arranged with Captain Grove, of the *Live Yankee*, for a passage to San Francisco, at forty-five dollars each adult, children free—but to provision ourselves, and expect to sail in a day or two. Salt beef rates at twenty-four dollars per barrel (200 lbs.); biscuit of first China flour, six cents per lb.; the same flour about three cents per lb.

I may not neglect to mention that we have consecrated the waters of Hong Kong, in the baptism of a young female of our party, which I presume is the first baptism here for many centuries, if ever there was one before. It would have been much more gratifying however had it been a resident, native or foreigner, as a sort of omen or first fruits of the place; but there seems to exist a considerable amount of prejudice against "Mormonism;" and the general spirit of the people is pretty much akin to that in the other parts of Asia we have visited. The Lord, and His service, under any form, have very little place in their hearts, and are not at all in harmony with their actions.

We were informed, on our arrival, of a person on the island who could not get a passage to California on any terms, on account of his being a "Mormon," and whom we naturally concluded to be one of the Elders of some of the Eastern Missions; but, as we have been unable to trace him out, we conclude that he *must* have left.

I rejoice to say that we are all well, and rejoicing in the good spirit of the Gospel of Peace, also glad in the anticipation of soon mingling with our brethren in Zion.

I enclose the first of a bill of exchange, drawn at this place, in my name, for six pounds, four shillings, and eight pence, being the value of sixty-two rupees, five annas, and eight pie, due by me to the Calcutta Book Agency, and which you will please put down to their credit. I have chosen this method to save after exchanges, which are expensive; and have apprized Elder Skelton, of Calcutta, of it.

I will send the second from San Francisco.

Yours in the Gospel,
HUGH FINDLAY.