

Colombo on the Isle of Ceylon June 21. 1816

My dear Parents, Brothers, & Sisters

I have just time enough to write you a hasty letter, I cannot let it pass without improving it-- Before this reaches you, I hope you will have received my journal on the voyage, with a short account of our landing & of the pleasing reception we received from our then unknown friends here-- The Lord then favoured us exceedingly & he has not since been ^{his} kind towards us--

We have been here almost three ^{months} now three or four of us are making preparations to settle in Jaffna, district, the north part of this Island where the providence ^{of} seems most evidently to lead us-- Brother Bardwell is to go to Bombay to join the brethren there-- He is selected to go there because he is a printer & the brethren wish him to come & take the charge of a printing press which they are about to set up to print the word of Life into the Marhatta language, which is the language of the natives among whom they dwell-- It is really a matter for rejoicing that they are able so soon to prepare the precious "Books of Books" which contains the words of eternal life, for the poor heathens around them--

They write us they preach, & instruct the natives, every day, & are instructing, & overseeing three schools which I think contain between one & two hundred children-- All this looks as though God did smile upon them & bless them--

The language I & my brethren, who go with me to Jaffna, ^{will learn,} is the Tamil or Malabar-- I am just beginning to look at the alphabet which contains a large number of very crooked ugly shaped letters such as these ၂ ၃ ၄ ၅ ၆ ၇ ၈ ၉ ၁၀ ၁၁ & some so very very crooked that I cannot make them-- for this day for the first, I began to commit the alphabet-- Since we landed we have been attending to a corrupted Portuguese language

which is a mixture of Portuguese, with the Dutch, ~~English~~, English,
& Malabar; but which is spoken by a vast number of ~~English~~
& Malabar natives on the borders of the Island, where Europeans
are settled - servants almost all speak this language. It is very
easily learned, & when acquired one can preach to a larger con-
gregation, ^{in this & many of the principal towns,} that can understand him, than in English - I began
to speak it soon, altho' I have attended to it but very little during
six weeks. - In the district of Jaffna we shall not have much
use for this language, or any other but Tamil - I long to be
teaching these ignorant heathen the interesting truths of
the holy Bible, & pointing them to "the Lamb of God, that
taketh away the sins of the world", since we have been
here we have all preached once & twice a week in English
I have been able to take my turn ever since the second
week after landing. My health & lungs are quite good -

Occasionally we go out & preach by interpreters to the
English - We preach in English for our very kind friends, the Rev.
J. Baker Baptist, & the Rev. & Mrs. Howard & Clough Methodists,
Missionaries. Our brother Chater & Lady have been very kind to
us, & so have the Methodists, tho' we live at some distance from
them. God has raised us up many valuable friends here -
The Governour, Genl. Brownrigg, treats us in the kindest
manner. He has granted us permission, with the assurance
of his protection, & assistance to go to Jaffna & enjoy every
privilege we asked of him. Sir Alex^{ndr}. Johnston ^{tho' justly} has shown
us particular attention - The Hon^{ble} & Rev. W. Sturleton senior Chaplain
he has been our most active friend, & the Rev. G. Bisset junior
Chaplain has offered to show us every assistance in his power.

They all feel very desirous that we should settle in the
Island - I mention these acts of kindness to show how far
we have been favoured above our brethren who went out
before us - They were opposed at every step by Governments
& obliged to fight their way through; but we have been com-
mended by Government & desired to stay & instruct the ignorant
natives of this Island - While we rejoice in view of the distinguishing