

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Brief der Pfarrerversammlung, u.a. William Giles und William Smillie, an das Komitee der ev.-luth. Missionsgesellschaft Dresden.

Giles, William

Adelaide, 18.06.1842

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18th June 1842.P. 1843.
No. 33.

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Gentlemen,

We do ourselves the honor to address you, transmitting herewith, copy of a series of Resolutions which were adopted with great cordiality, at the largest Public Meeting ever held for any Religious purpose in this Province. From these Resolutions you will be gratified to find, on the one hand, that the zealous and faithful exertions of your Missionaries to the Aborigines of this Land, are duly appreciated by the British Public here, while on the other hand, we do not doubt, that you will hear with regret, that these truly worthy Ministers are at present in a situation requiring the sympathy and support of Christians here and at home, to enable ^{them} to continue in the work.

From the financial state of this Province certain advantages which were enjoyed by the Missionaries under the Local Government have been interrupted, and, while the remittances from the Parent ^{Society} ~~Country~~ have not amounted to the expected sum, and indeed have been inadequate to their decent subsistence here, they have been obliged to defray out of these limited funds, various sums on account of necessary personal expenditure, travelling expenses, and reparation of dwellings; so that their pecuniary resources, are in a very embarrassing situation indeed.

Impressed with a deep sense of the merits of these Missionaries, after nearly four years experience, the whole of the Resident Ministers, and many of the principal inhabitants have met, to testify their approbation and sympathy, and to constitute a Society, in aid of the Mission. All that can be done here by collecting subscriptions, and by personal co-operation with the Missionaries, will be attempted, to encourage them in the good work. The Society feel however, that far from superseding the Patronage of the Dresden Institution, that Society must continue chiefly to be looked to, as the principal source of the Missionaries' dependence. And our object in now addressing you is, while assuring you of our friendly co-operation, to request most earnestly on behalf of the Missionaries, even a more efficient and constant support than in times past.

Viewing the sources of expense to which the Missionaries are subjected here, the Society are of opinion, that the lowest sum, adequate to their decent and fit subsistence is One hundred pounds per

^{sent}
annum, free of all household ~~personal~~ and travelling expenses; and they would respectfully urge therefore this consideration on the Parent Society, that their remittances should reach this amount, besides the extra expenses, according to the accounts delivered by the Missionaries. And we should recommend that these remittances should be made to the Missionaries themselves directly, to prevent the inconveniences contingent on any irregularity. Even after these sums, there will be sufficient employment for any subscriptions which our Society may be enabled to collect here, in being applied to arrangements calculated to ensure the greater efficiency of the Mission. -

For the results of the valuable labours of these indefatigable servants of Christ, we feel that it is better to refer to their own reports, which have principally been published, than to embody them at great length in such a letter as the present. We cannot avoid however expressing our belief, that valuable as are these results, they might have been more extensive, had the time and attention of the Missionaries not been divested at frequent intervals from the cause in which they are engaged, by the necessity of many irksome and incompatible duties necessary for their personal wants. -

Commanding this good work to the exertions of our Christian friends in Germany, and let Divine Providence.

We subscribe ourselves
Gentlemen

Yours faithful servants

To the
Committee of the
Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society
at Dresden
Germany.

Wm. Hillis Adorate General
Chairman

William Giles
James Garrett
Robt Haining

Sam Allen
A. Hambro
Wm. Anshut
Wm. Barthol
Wm. Peacock
A. L. Older

Moved by the Rev. G. B. Howard, seconded by Anthony Forster Esq., and carried unanimously.

1st That this meeting, comprising the resident ministers of the gospel, and many of the principal inhabitants of South Australia, cordially unite in expressing their sympathy with the exertions of the German missionaries to the aborigines, which have in view, with the divine assistance, to communicate to that benighted people the truths of the gospel of Christ, and all the inestimable blessings which accompany and flow from them.

Moved by the Rev. James Farrell, seconded by Mr. Alderman Peacock, and carried unanimously.

2nd That this meeting also cordially bear testimony to the unobtrusive zeal, energy, and fidelity, with which, under many difficulties and discouragements, these ends have been followed out by the missionaries, Mess^{rs} Treichelmann, Schurman, Klose, and Meyer, whose exclusive devotion to the field of labour assigned to them, has been most exemplary, and deserves the best thanks of this community, as well as the support of their brethren at home.

Moved by the Rev. R. Haining, seconded by William Giles Esq., and carried unanimously.

3rd That this meeting, therefore, learn with regret, that while these devoted missionaries have been, by their duties, cut off from all ordinary means of support, the resources, on which they have hitherto been depending, have been so far withdrawn, as to leave them in a condition of considerable pecuniary embarrassment, they being necessitated to defray unusual expenditure, from their own limited means, which are scarcely adequate to their personal maintenance.

Moved by the Rev. J. Z. How, seconded by William Bartley Esq., and carried unanimously.

4th That entertaining these sentiments of respect for the missionaries themselves, confidence in the ability of the work in which they are engaged, this meeting, in view of not only of improving strongly their claims on the parent society for a more vigorous support, but also of contributing that portion which is due by this community now constitutes itself into a society, for corresponding with the Evangelical Missionary Society of Dresden, and for collecting and applying subscriptions on the spot, for the benefit of the mission.

Moved by the Rev. J. Eggleston, seconded by A. S. Elder Esq. and carried unanimously.

5th That, the opinion of this meeting, the German missionaries ought to receive not less than £100 per annum each, in order to their fit subsistence here; and therefore the meeting appoint, that the subscriptions be applied in the first place to the missionaries personally, till such a sum be obtained as the committee may deem adequate: and that, if by the remittances from the parent society or otherwise, a surplus shall have been obtained, it be applied under the direction of the committee, to such other proper objects connected with the mission as may tend to its greater efficiency and success.

Moved by the Rev. J. Prior, seconded by James Allen Esq., and passed unanimously.

6th That the society now constituted be called "The South Australian Missionary Society" in aid of the German mission to the aborigines, and that the following gentlemen be the committee and office bearers of the society, viz. - Honorary secretaries, Rev. James Farrell and Anthony Forster Esq.; honorary treasurer, Edward Stephens Esq.; committee, Rev. Mess^{rs} Howard, Haining, How, Eggleston, Drummond, and Priest; Mess^{rs} Gouger, Hon. William Millie, Alderman Peacock, Mess^{rs} W. Giles, Sen., M. Moorhouse, Henry Sicking, William Bartley, James Allen, Thomas Gilbert, A. Macdonnell, Joseph Ward, A. S. Elder, George Young, and George Binline, with power to add to their number - five being a quorum - to hold monthly meetings, and at such other times as they may be convened by the secretaries, and to report to meetings of the subscribers annually.

by G. Young, Esq., seconded by G. Ward, and carried
unanimously.

7th That the thanks of the meeting are due to the Rev. Mr. Eggleston and the
Wesleyan congregation, for their kind allowance of the chapel for the
purposes of the meeting.

True Copy W. Smith's Advocate General
Chairman

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The Congregation of
Wesleyan Methodists
Street, Meriden
Germany

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