

# Diary of August Georg Michaelis

Translated from the German by son, Oscar Edward Michaelis

In order to provide my children and others with a brief sketch of my life, I will state at the outset that when I first began to take notice of the realities of life, I was living with my parents in the city of Berlin, the capital of Prussia, where I was practically raised and where I received my early education.

My parents both hailed from the dukedom of Anhalt-Coethen, where, in the village of Kruechern, my paternal grandfather owned and operated the village hotel while in the Reside Costhen my maternal grandfather was engaged as master carpenter. Both grandfathers, however, had been dead some time, also the grandmother on my mother's side. But the grandmother on my father's side was still living, when my father and my mother learned to know each other. I remember having visited my father's mother with him when we lived in Berlin, even after my mother had been dead for some time. His mother had been married the second time, while he was learning the baker's trade in Berlin.

After my father had learned his trade, he started out as a journeyman baker, in accordance with the custom of the times, and his travels took him all the way over into Hungary, near the Turkish border. After returning from his wanderings he was induced to purchase a building and go into business for himself as master baker in the city of Calbe-ander-Saale. However, he had not owned it very long when he discovered it to be sadly in need of repairs and these cost him so much he was obliged to go into debt.

It was during this time that he became acquainted with my mother, whose maiden name was Lecius, with a handsome little fortune, whom he married. The property which she brought my father, however, did not seem to be sufficient to cover their indebtedness, and as they both began to realize it, it is easy to see how disappointing the situation was to my mother. I saw for myself in later years, when she spoke of it to me, how the bitter tears would flow from her eyes and trickle down her cheeks.

Under such circumstances, then, I was born at Cal-beander-Saale on September 17, 1821, and thereafter on September 30<sup>th</sup> was baptized in the St. Stephani church and christened with the name: "August Georg Heinrich."

Here my parents also received a little daughter, who was given the name "Henriette."

When my father found it impossible under pressing conditions to continue his bakery business, he returned to Berlin where he had learned his trade, to secure any kind of work whereby he could support his family honorably. It was in 1824, when I was not yet three years of age, that my mother and we children followed him.

Soon thereafter, on the morning of February 5, 1825, my little sister, Henriette, died there.

Another little daughter was born to my parents in Berlin, who was named "Pauline, but she also died in infancy."

The Lord God, however, so blessed the labors of my dear, quiet, church-loving, industrious parents in Berlin that they were able to provide the means for me to attend from my sixth year not only

the city schools of Herr Superintendent Mink in the Hospital Strasse, but also afterwards the school of Herr Superintendent Henning in the Armienburger Strasse, where French and Latin were taught. They were even able to deposit a handsome sum of money on interest in the Royal Bank.

But in 1835, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, at six o'clock in the evening, my dearly beloved mother died, after a long and wearisome siege of throat and lung affection.

I then began attending catechetical classes conducted by Superintendent Schulz, at the Sophia church, where on March 15, 1836; I was confirmed by him and admitted to Communion of the Lord's Supper. Now was the time for me to earnestly consider my life's calling. I had already a long time since, from childhood up, desired to become a preacher and this I still had inclination to do. My father, therefore, took me to the local gymnasium in the Grey Cloister and paid the tuition fees for me quarterly. However, during the next year, when the cholera broke out in Berlin again and demanded its victims, my father also became ill and although medical aid was immediately furnished, the sickness would not leave him. Upon my request, as I knelt beside his bedside, he bestowed upon me his paternal blessing and passed away, out of this frail and expectant, into the eternal and blessed life, on September 1, 1837, at 11 o'clock a.m.

So then stood I there, humanly speaking, all alone, beside the corpse of my kindly disposed and by my dearly beloved father, a full-fledged orphan, materially speaking, without father, without mother, without sister or brother, apparently forsaken by all mankind. By the Triune God, in whose name I was baptized and in whose name my dying father blessed me and of when it is written, Hebrews 15:5, "He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," has never yet forsaken me; but through his bountiful grace and mercy has always bent his promise. So also this time, He cared for me.

I had a cousin in Berlin, (son or stepson of my father's sister), whom my father had helped to get into the cooperage business and who had not long since begun to conduct business for himself and who occasionally visited us. He came and helped me bury my father in a proper manner. It was then impossible for me, on account of the health regulations, to remain any longer in the home where my father had died, and so, as a matter of precaution, I took the valuable papers my father had left into my own possession, a thing, which I soon could see, I should not have done, as my cousin soon asked, and looked for these, before anyone else had been present, but I did not show them to him. Then he took me to his house and because I knew no one else to whom I could go for assistance or advice, I quit attending school at the gymnasium and sought to find a position where I might earn an honest living.

At the time I would have preferred carriage trimming or harness making, but my cousin did not encourage me in that, as I could see, but rather would interest me in his own business and also at the same time became my guardian. After I had been with him a while I got the itch, presumably from him. He was still unmarried and his household was conducted by a young unmarried woman whose conduct toward him seemed very suspicious. Both of them perhaps gradually began to notice on me that I not only held them in great suspicion, but that I would finally be in a position to expose them and their licentious conduct, for the girl slandered me so viciously to a neighbor that he told me he could have knocked me down with his shoe hammer.

Under these circumstances it happened that I left my guardian and went into the employ of another man in the cooperage business, where I made wine chests and had much to do in a large syndicate business of manufacturing chests and casks. However, during the first few days of my new employment I still slept at my guardian's house, for I had my own bed there. As I came home to go to

bed one evening, I discovered that my watch, which had been a very valuable present to me from my father during my school-days, was missing and they told me that they did not know where it could be. So it was stolen. Nor did the mother of the girl hesitate to buy from me, a minor, previously, for a ridiculously small sum, some feather ticks which I had inherited from my parents.

After the theft of my watch I told others of the affair and so after a while I came into court where I produced my valuable papers and got another man for guardian, while my cousin was obliged to supply me with another, though much inferior, watch. After this I did not have much to do with my cousin.

Some time later, when circumstances no longer compelled me to remain in Berlin, I followed my long cherished inclination and in the year 1841 I left that city. My journey took me over Wittenberg to Anhalt, where I visited my relatives, then to my birth-place, Calbe-an-der-Saale, through numerous German coast cities, until finally I found a second home in the Wupperthal, at Bormen, where the Rheinische Missionshaus is located, where missionaries to the heathen and to the ministry in North America are prepared. Here, after securing employment in the vicinity, I put in my application to be received as a student. Inasmuch, however, as not all applicants at that time could be received, special opportunities were offered those young men then in Elberfeld who had love and desire for various kinds of activities in the kingdom of Feldner and others, to prepare themselves for such work.

Of these opportunities I availed myself during several years and succeeded in being employed in the Rescue Station at Duesselthal, under the supervision of the director George, as Brother and Assistant-Instructor of the "boy-family," by means of which the director trained a number of us in the studies of exegesis and pedagogy, and where I remained until October 18, 1848.

From April 1, 1849, until October 1, 1850, I served as assistant teacher and trainer in the Orphans and Rescue Institute at Unter-Bormen; and thereafter as assistant teacher in the local elementary school on the Neusnteich at Elberfeld, where I remained until I left for North America.

Supplied with recommendation from August Frickenhaus, of the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Society for Protestant Germans in North America, testifying as to my activities in the kingdom of God, dated March 26, 1851; also a testimonial from my last school superintendent, Pastor Feldner, with the wish expressed that I might find in North America the sphere of work I most desired, I left Elberfeld on March 30, 1851.

During the first night of my departure from Elberfeld I met in the hotel where I lodged in the Dortmund the Reverend Ringsdorf, who was just about to go to Berlin to see the king in behalf of a favor for some of his church members. In Magdeburg we became so separated from each other that I was not even able to bid him good-bye, as I took the train there to go to Anhalt-Coethen to visit my relatives once more. Having arrived there I cut my visit short, so that on April 11, I was able to leave and to reach Bremen the same evening at 9 o'clock.

In Bremen I stopped at the Hotel Concordia, which had been recommended to me by some of my Christian friends but the landlord, Heier, told me that he expected several missionaries of the North German Missionary Society and therefore had no room for me at the time. However, he offered to take me to a hotel where I would be comfortably lodged and conducted me to the Hotel California, No. 18 Geoven Street, whose landlord was C. Wellmann.

When I made inquiries about the ship's-broker Schroeder, Meier told me he was no ship's-broker at all, but that he would have to get his tickets from other ship's brokers, that he, Meier, himself, had two tickets left, as he happened to be on the same comptoir of ship's brokers as Schroeder. These tickets were to be had, although he did not wish himself to be understood as undermining Schroeder. He further stated that the two tickets were for passage for one of the best ships traveling, that the merchant owning the vessel was named Vitor and had the reputation of fitting out his vessels the best of any. I must say right here, however, that the captain showed us very little of the good things I was led to expect.

I asked Meier what the passage would cost and he said Forty Dollars, saying that he could not do otherwise than deal in a business-like way. He promised, however, that he would confer with the man above him and see if he would not let me have passage for a little less. That did not amount to anything; however, as I had to pay the forty dollars just the same, and later I found that others had been given passage of a whole lot less money.

Until April 16<sup>th</sup> I remained in Bremen and had my trunk which had been shipped from Elberfeld by way of the Synditour, brought up to the hotel so I could take things out and pack things in again. As the weather was pleasant, I and another young man who was going to America, in company with Meier, visited the Bremen Court House and inspected the wonders of the same. We viewed the newly arranged hall for public gatherings, the ancient and beautifully stained windows, the statuary and the oil painting in the building and the big whale which some time before was said to have been captured in the waters at Bremen.

Then Meier led us into the Baths-Keller where he called our attention to the acoustic arrangements, whereby a word spoken in one corner could be heard in the opposite corner without being perceived by a person in the center of the room. After inspecting the many huge wine oaks we let ourselves down into a sub-cellar where we sampled the contents of the casks and had what was known as a glass of "Liebfrauenmilch" (Sweetheart-Milk, wine grown at Worms).

From thence we went to the dome, inspected its interior which was very beautifully decorated, then into the lead cellar of the dome, where numerous non-decomposed corpses were shown us. Their color was gray and the flesh like leather.

Meier, whom I had asked about the advisability of purchasing some food for the voyage, advised me against it, so I gave it up largely, a thing which I had many reasons afterward to regret, as our ship's fare, while plentiful enough, was scarcely palatable for me, except when we were just about to land it suddenly began to get better. The ship was called the Hermine, the captain's name Raschen.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> I had my trunk placed on a boat designated by the merchant vessel, which was to take our luggage from Bremerhafen to the sea vessel. I could have gone along, but Meier thought I had better follow along the next day on the steamer, which I did.

Having arrived there with the straw-tick I had purchased, I hurried on to the Hermine where they were still sawing and pounding away between decks, getting the berths in readiness for the passengers that were still to come on board.

The Hermine was a trim three-master and was said to be 135 feet long, 28 feet wide and from deck to keel 22 feet deep. The entire main deck was surrounded by a heavy wooden railing, five feet

high. The fore-deck or bow is provided with a reclining mast, called the bow-sprit. Underneath this was fastened the figure of a woman who, with her left hand, was holding her dress and with her right a wreath extended. On each side of the bow there hangs a colossal anchor, which after being lowered, is brought up again by means of a mechanical arrangement which winds up and operated a good deal like the pump of a fire engine.

The three masts, the middle one of which reaches 105 feet above the main deck, are fastened together on all sides by strong rigging. From each mast are suspended cross-beams, called yards. On these the sails are fastened. On the first mast there were seven of these sails, on the second five and on the third four. From the bow-sprit to the first or fore-mast there were three from the fore-mast to the main-mast two sails. There could have been more put on, but not all could be used at one time, as in that case one sail would take the wind out of the other. At the top of the main mast there waived a dark blue flag with a white cross through it. At the stern of the vessel hung the Bremen white and red flag. These flags could be removed.

At the stern is found the rudder which is operated by means of a windless and a wheel. In front of the stern is the cabin or deck-house which is brilliantly arranged and the resort of the captain and the cabin passengers. Upon the cabin there is an iron railing and seats, and along the railing two boats which in case of emergency are used for rescue work. In front of the cabin is the stairway leading between-decks and in front the hatchway stands a huge boat in the center of between decks, in which there are stall for cattle. For we had taken from Bremen harbor the following live stock: One goat, 1 calf, 5 hogs, 17 geese, many ducks, pigeons and chickens. In front of this boat is the kitchen, divided into two parts, one for the cabin and the other for the between-decks passengers. In front of the kitchen is the entrance to the steerage, where I had my abode for forty dollars in gold, which in many respects was arranged even worse than the real between-decks, being located in the bow of the vessel where the motion was so much more noticeable and where sea-sickness is more liable to occur. The steerage was also the store chamber for the cordage, the carpenter-shop, and the storage for the potatoes, of which, also, we had very little to eat but on account of which we had to put up with the rough talk of the sailors when they came among us to get some.

The steerage was separated from between decks by boards nailed up lengthwise above each other to prevent passage from one part to the other, and for these advantages I was obliged to pay five dollars in gold additional.

In traveling between decks it was advisable to secure a berth as near as possible to the main mast near the hatchway, as the air is purer and the motion of the vessel less perceptible. Our between decks had a height of eight feet and contained forty-six berths which were placed on both sides, one above another, each berth arranged for four persons. The rest of the space between decks was for the baggage of the passengers which was placed in the center, so as to leave passage ways on both sides for walking or climbing. Under the floor of between decks there is a space for the ship's ballast, drinking water casks, and merchandise. A pump leads out of this space onto the main deck, by means of which the water which has seeped in could from time to time be pumped out.

In order to ascertain the speed of the voyage, (which the seaman called logging), they use a cord with knots in it, placed at stated intervals, wound on a roll the outside end of which is provided with a small three corned board which is thrown into the sea, and the cord unwinds itself as rapidly as the ship is traveling. As the time of throwing the board in a sailor begins turning a sand clock designed for the

purpose. As soon as the sand is run through the cord is held fast and according to the distance run off it will be estimated how far the vessel has traveled in a period of four hours.

Accordingly on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1851, I arrived at the Hermine at Bremerhafen and got on board with my straw-tick under my arm. This I placed in the vacant berth, a place I soon sought after looking the ship over and taking a stroll around the harbor, throwing myself down to spend the first night of my life on board an ocean going vessel. Of course I did not dream here that I repose upon the mossy beds of dewy green among the roses of the garden, for in the first place my straw-tick was narrow and round, splendidly designed for rolling off, and in the second place the fresh odor of tar completely filled my nostrils. Never-the-less weariness somehow overtook me and in spite of everything, I know not how, I slept.

In the morning I crawled out of my berth and as the time for breakfast came, I took my pot to get some coffee from the kitchen of the Emigrant House, which everyone had to do for himself, unless he can or always wants to dig down into his purse or has other service. At first I was naturally a little timid, being to a certain extent ashamed to carry my coffee pot and bread and butter openly across the street, as I was not accustomed to be gazed upon by people in this attitude. However, this sense of shame was soon lost, because that was a very common custom in the harbor and on the vessel. The same way one also washes his own dishes, if he wants them clean. Mornings, noons and evenings one gets his victuals, the butter wrapped in paper, in and with it neatly cut a thick piece of black bread, carried in the hand, handkerchief or other receptacle, on to the ship, and called "Ship's board."

On Maundy Thursday, I attended divine worship in the Emigrant House and on Good Friday I there partook of the Lord's Supper, which was evidently to be my last celebration of the sacrament in the Fatherland.

On the First Easter Day we sailed out of the harbor which did not please me very well, and arrived at the Rhode. The captain had himself one more taken back to the harbor in a small board and while he was gone during the evening a carpenter belonging to the Herrnhuter or Brethren church, who was on our ship, threw himself into the water, but was drawn out and saved from drowning by the people who were returning from the harbor in a little boat. Next morning I saw him on deck and went to him and talked with him and found him in a very melancholy mood. I called attention to his sinful deed and directed him to the merciful hand of God. Upon my request he got out his prayer-book, from which I read him the lesson of the day. Also a kindly disposed Christian lady addressed herself to him (she was on the way to meet her bride-groom who was supposed to be a preacher in Buffalo, both having been engaged in the Elberfeld Orphanage) for he continued to stare over the railing into the water, as if looking for a new opportunity to cast himself in again, and gave altogether unreasonable grounds as cause for his unrest. We tried as much as possible to dissuade him from his apparent purpose and also had the pleasure to know that he came all the way to New York with us. After he had quieted down somewhat, following this incident, he gave me as a reason for his life's disappointment that he had excommunicated himself from the Brethren church and had, in order to drown his sorrows, taken to drinking brandy, which drove him to this rash deed. Now, however, he was much worried, for fear his mother, still living, might learn of his escapade.

On the Second Easter Day nearly all on board showed first symptoms of sea-sickness.

April 22. We have passed the light-boats of the Weser and are now in the North Sea. The pilot has left us. It is windy and rainy. I am not well.

April 23. Beautiful weather, little wind. Everything seems well. We see a ship nearby.

April 24. We are crossing the North Sea and we receive for the first time hard-tack and vinegar.

April 25. We sight many ships. A wild duck permits itself to be carried along on the waves.

April 26. We are near the narrows of Calais.

April 27. In the morning we sighted in the far distance a dark streak along the horizon. It was the coast of England. It is said the white points on the hills are light-houses. We see the first light-boats on the ocean; on a sandbank a cross as a sign to show that several ships had been wrecked there. Toward noon we pass through the narrows into the Channel. The view of land from the sea makes a peculiar impression upon one, causing one to feel a longing for the land. The white chalk hills on the English coast are before our eyes; on these hills are green fields. Down among the hills lies Dover. Of that we only see the harbor and a few houses. To our left we see in the great distance the coast of France. On both sides of the Channel are ships designed especially for these waters, as guides for the voyagers to keep the right track and the proper course. A very handsome light tower is situated on the English side. Towards evening we espied a high fish, puffing furiously and leaping out of the water, battling with the waves.

April 28. We see no more land and are crossing from one side of the Channel to the other on account of so-called "bad winds."

April 29. During the past night we heard the sudden call: "Passengers, on deck!" We were frightened. The ship swayed forcibly to and fro, the wind raged within the sail and a hail storm followed. But we kept on, thank God, without mishap. Today many are sea-sick and are vomiting, but I am still free from it.

April 30. We are still zig-zagging in the Channel the ship is rocking badly; now the bow is high in the air, then the water lashes the deck.

May 1. Same as yesterday. At 10 a.m. a pilot came aboard ship to take letters over to the English coast. In the evening we came to the light-house of Stadpein which has a movable light. Previous to that, storm and rainbow.

May 2. We are coming out of the Channel into the ocean.

May 3. The water here again looks as dark as in the North Sea.

May 4. Sunday. During the past night the wind turned favorable for us, so that we made six miles in four hours. The sight of the foaming billows is grand. The entire sea is like unto a field of hills and mountains that are brought into existence by the coming together of the waves. The foam passing over them is as white as snow, which as quickly as it is sprayed into the air, is gone again. We noticed at one time six or seven fishes, 3 or 4 feet long. A passenger dangled a bottle on the end of a long cord in the water and amused himself at their antics in jumping about on the water. We also saw a sea-gull. That is some sport on so tiresome a voyage.

May 5. The wind is still favorable.

May 6. A very pleasant day on the ocean.

May 7. Great swinging of the vessel, so that the water is thrown over the bowsprit by contrary winds.

May 8. We have a sort of storm.

May 9. Still more storm. During the past night we slept very little on account of the swaying of the vessel. Heard several say many wish they had not undertaken the voyage, had they know of this before. Today I also had to vomit for the first time.

May 10. The storm is letting up some.

May 11. Sunday. Glorious weather. The prettiest day so far on the entire voyage. The sun shines so warm that everybody is on deck. A fish.

May 12. Today the boat is rocking a good deal again. Towards evening a strong wind and rain set in. One of the sails fastened at the bow of the ship, (called the great jib), was torn.

May 13. Calm. Several large fish are seen. The ship is hardly moving at all.

May 14. Last evening we got wind again. Today is a beautifully day. Confession and prayer-day in Prussia.

May 15. This morning we saw a great many big fishes tumbling and playfully moving about in the water, for which reason they are called "tumblers." We have quite a favorable wind.

May 16. A very pleasant day.

May 17. A very good breeze. A dead whale is said to have been seen. Among the passengers one has disguised himself as an organ-grinder and another as his leader. Lice are making their appearance.

May 18. Sunday. Beautiful weather. Today a sailor rebelled against the captain. He is said to have received a cuff on the ear. We met the wreck of a boat floating near us. For that reason a boat was sent out from our ship for an investigation. As they did not find it worth while, they returned empty handed.

May 19. During the past night it was very cold, so that I nearly froze. In the morning we saw ice-bergs in the water and bounding fishes. The helmsman wants to do some harpooning. Also sea-swallows are seen, called "sailors' souls" by the sea-men.

May 20. We can see the ice-bergs plainer and it is colder than yesterday. The helmsman says when the ice-bergs are 100 feet above water, then they are 200 feet beneath the water. In the evening we saw whales in the distance. The sinker was dropped. We find ourselves in the banks of New Foundland. Many sea-gulls.



May 21. During the past night many passengers stayed awake on account of the ice. The weather is nice and warmer, too. A calf was slaughtered for the cabin. My boots are all mouldy. We are passing by the wreck of a considerable sized vessel, through which the water is flowing from one side to the other. On its deck was an anchor that still seemed of some value.

May 22. Since last evening and till noon today a heavy rain and swaying of the vessel. A water bottle was lowered with the sounding-lead and it brought water up four degrees colder.

May 23. A beautiful, warm day and with favorable wind we travel 10 miles in 4 hours. The masts are being newly painted. Today I saw the ocean light up.

May 24. Unfavorable wind. A carpenter was wounded in the head with a whiskey bottle.

May 25. Sunday. This morning I saw the rising of the sun. I fried hard-tack in butter. Have glorious weather today. In the evening the sailors danced.

May 26. During the night a child (an infant) dies and about 9 in the evening the body was sunk in the ocean. We see many ships, but have unfavorable wind. It is said the pilot is coming tomorrow. I see the sea lighten up again.

May 27. I was up early again to fry and saw the sun rise. Sailor's boots stuffed with wood and fancy rags were drawn up.

May 28. A strong breeze from the west. We have to ply windward and still have 107 miles to New York. We were asked if we, as the wind was favorable in the direction of Boston, desired to disembark there. The captain asked me this evening about our meals and I handed him the real truth. I do not know but that he did it as a matter of policy, as we were very near America and on the last days of our voyage; previous to that he had not been so condescending nor as communicative toward me. The food now became better, for up to this time we had not received the fare as we should have had it according to our agreement at Bremen. The ship was well enough fitted out with food in the raw state, if it had only been more palatably prepared, or the passengers had been allowed to do their own cooking, for aside from the cabin passengers no one received better food than the sailors. The coffee was like licorice juice. The dinner with its black-brown tar-tasting fatty-meat gravy was so repellent and nauseating that only a very hungry or hardened stomach could receive it and retain it. Prunes were also mentioned in the list of articles we were to receive and there was a large barrel of them in the supply chamber, but all that the between-decks passengers got of them was perhaps ten prunes or so each week in each one's barley-soup. Pea-soup consisted mostly of hulls and occasionally a few solid peas. Cooked rice with heavy dough dumplings was very often thrown over-board. Beans, although somewhat hard, were also somewhat better and the sauer-kraut could also be eaten. Of potatoes we received very few. The salted beef and pork I could scarcely eat, so I ate of that which I had either bought in Bremen on the side or from others on the vessel. Only regarding the hard-tack, butter, herring, vinegar and water I had no reason to complain. Medical supplies, however, should have been provided and concerning this an aged teacher named Koehler who had his family with him and who had been in school work under Pastor Minden, but was now on the way to his brother in America, complained to me that his sick child had received very little attention from the captain.

May 29. Ascension Day. During the past night we got a favorable breeze. I saw the run rise again. A glorious day, though real cold. Whole flocks of small grey birds cover the water, swimming and flying, also many sea-gulls. Towards evening almost calm. A swallow, perhaps sick, sat upon the rigging.

May 30. Rain. Quite favorable breeze. A sail is torn. I saw logs and many swallows. At noon a very good breeze. Every four hours 10 ½ miles.

May 31. Today the pilot came on board to take us into the harbor of New York. Towards noon calm. At 3 p.m. land is seen. Oh, what joy! On board folks were now getting their hair out, shaved, their clothing and shoes put in order. Towards evening we came real close to the American coast and sailed in the twilight until the darkest evening hour into the harbor of Long Island, where our boat cast anchor. My breast was filled with joy and my heart with thanksgiving, while with an enraptured feeling I had until late into the night upon our new home which welcomed us through the thousands of shimmering lights from the City of New York. In a late hour we retired to our berths, which for the last time I entered that night.

June 1. Sunday. To describe this day correctly I do not feel competent. It is next to impossible for my pen to convey the impressions received. In one word, how magical the surroundings of New York from the Long Island side seemed to me. The handsomest fortification and the most beautiful parks, gardens, theatres, churches and so forth, with the gay mixture of moving banner bedecked and unbedecked vessels of the most varied forms and classes stood here at once before my eyes. Yes, one would have to see for himself to get a true conception of the impressions received under such circumstances.

In the morning a boat brought the medical inspector to us, who after he had been in the captain's cabin and had seen and counted us, pronounced the ship's population sound. Then, after he had left our vessel, we sailed into the harbor of New York. While we were going in, several small boats with people from New York came to us and climbed up the sides of our boat, seeking to make our acquaintance, inviting us to visit their hotels and the like. But I did not take much stock in them, having been warned of such in advance.

After the vessel had landed at the wharf in New York I made efforts to locate a certain printer, named Germann, to whom I had been recommended and who was employed by the Tract Society, but as it was Sunday, I found the house of this society closed. Then with several other acquaintances from the ship I sought the hotel "Die Schweitzer Halle," No. 109 Greenwich Street, securing lodging there and had them direct me to the place of the German Lutheran divine services for emigrants, at No. 134 Greenwich Street, which I attended and where I had a short interview with Pastor Brandt, who conducted the same.

On the following day I had my baggage transferred from the vessel to my hotel, "Die Schweitzer Halle," and then visited Germann in the Tract Building. I then had my baggage taken from the hotel onto the steamer for Albany, where I also met the much traveled teacher, Moehler, and his family. So we left New York City on the day after our arrival there.

June 3. In the morning we reached Albany and I had my baggage taken immediately from the steamer to John Wachter's National Hotel, No. 266 Broadway, and after having breakfast I called upon Pastor Schmidt and showed him my credentials, whereupon he told me with regret that I had come too

late to fill the vacancy for which he had sent a request to Germany, and advised me to go farther west. On his invitation I remained with him over night.

June 4. In the afternoon I went by rail to Buffalo, but had to pay one dollar extra for excess baggage.

June 5. When we arrived in Buffalo we found that the cars carrying our baggage were delayed and we were obliged to wait over until the following day. During our stay I remained at the "Pfalzer Hof," conducted by Matthew Moser, No. 4, Marvin Block, Water Street.

June 6. Our baggage had arrived and at evening I left via steamer for Sandusky. During the night I was aroused from my slumbers by a powerful jerk or jolt of the vessel and heard a great rattling of the anchor as it was being lowered into the water. Quickly I sprang out of my berth onto the stairway to reach the deck and found it to be a stormy, rainy night, with the ship's folks active on the deck, where under the circumstances I did not dare to venture. I closed the hatchway and waited until morning. As soon as night was over I went up on deck and saw to my great horror two large holes in our ship, the bow of the vessel tied together with ropes, on the deck lay broken beams, two large crusted tin turpentine cans and many splinters of painted woodwork. One of the workmen on the boat whom I asked and who could speak German told me that during the night our vessel had collided with another vessel that had no light, from which articles were thrown on our vessel. Whether it was luck or not he did not know, nor was any sound heard from the other vessel. This happened on Lake Erie.

June 7. Towards evening we came to Sandusky. There I took supper with a German host and afterwards left there by rail for Cincinnati, arriving there thoroughly shaken up, about noon on the first Pentecost Day. My baggage I had taken to Carl Brazler's hotel on Front Street and in the afternoon attended German divine services. After it was over I went to the preacher's house to make his acquaintance and at the same time to get his advice as to my chances. When I showed him the addresses that had been given me he remarked that I had been recommended to "pietists" and that I would doubtless have to "sell myself" off to the "Old Lutherans" in St. Louis. So I had all I wanted to him for the time being and, making it short, I bade him good-bye.

In Cincinnati I inquired further as to how best to go to St. Louis, when I was advised by one who had just come from there not to go there now, as the cholera had just broken out in New Orleans and that the new emigrants were being held up in quarantine on an island outside of St. Louis, where the well and the sick, the living and the dead were so near each other that one could get the cholera easier there than elsewhere. As it was not exactly necessary for me to go to St. Louis, but still had other recommendations, while the climate of Cincinnati was hot enough for me, I decided finally to go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This decision I then sought to carry out with God's help, traveled back again to Sandusky and thence by steamer to Detroit. On this trip the Methodist preacher Nast, who is said to have been their first German preacher here, made himself acquainted with me, and I also told him who I was, where-upon he expressed himself further that the Methodists would rather have a preacher taken from the plow than one who had studied theology in school, and advised me to look up the German Methodist preacher in Milwaukee. He also brought me before his wife, an English dame, and introduced me to her, she having also been aboard ship. In Detroit he was met by another Methodist worker who greeted him at the landing place, and who, at my request helped me to get a delivery man to take my baggage to the railroad depot to be forwarded to Milwaukee, to which place I continued my journey.

Having arrived in Milwaukee I took lodging at the hotel of Joseph Koph on Huron Street, from which place I went out to visit Pastor Dulitz, Mahlhauser and later on Lochner and others. During my stay there the then very small Wisconsin Synod was being held in Pastor Muhlhäuser's prayer room, where I met as preachers Weinmann and Goldammer, known to me as pupils in the Sarner Missionshaus, as also the preachers Wrede, Conrad, a pupil from Basel, and Klinegees. Later also I attended the Synod of the Saxon Lutherans held in Pastor Lochner's church. Thereafter I journeyed on the advice of Pastor Klinegees, who was a member of the northern district of the Evangelical Synod of Ohio, with him to Jefferson County where he lived and where he had three congregations to serve as pastor, taught school for him and when he wanted it, also preached for him and sought out the preacherless German farmers and those surrounded by Methodists to gather them as much as possible into Lutheran congregations. I also left there with a written recommendation from Pastor Klinegees, directed to the President of the Northern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, where I sought a candidate's license, which I also succeeded in getting from him, although the proceeding was exceptional.

In the spring of 1852 I rode with Pastor Klinegees, together with my baggage, from his residence to the railroad on which I traveled to Ohio and personally visited the President of the Synod. And as I had not yet received a call from any congregation, he authorized me with a certificate to visit several congregations in and near Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, which had been shamefully deceived and abandoned by some rationalistic preachers. I went there and was there called by two of the congregations and chose as their pastor. In September of the same year, when the Northern District had its meeting in Fremont, Ohio, I had the regular examination to undergo and was, after careful trial, held to be competent to assume the office of a licensed candidate.

Next year, in 1853, I was united in marriage on November 20, with Miss Caroline Friederica, nee Margraf. We lived in the country charge of Van Buren township in two different block houses and had the pleasure here of having a new church building erected and dedicated.

In 1854, at the Synodical Conference of the Northern District, I had my ordination examination to make, and after a careful trial and giving of pledge upon all the creed confessions, I was publicly ordained as pastor by the laying on of hands on October 9.

In March 1855 I was called by two congregations in Crawford County, Ohio, to Annapolis and to Bucyrus as pastor. This call I followed and then lived with my family in Bucyrus. I received also in September of the same year another call from the third congregation, in Chatfield Township, so that I now had a parish of three congregations to serve. In 1856 came the call of a fourth church, from Whetstone Township, Crawford County, Ohio.

In the spring of 1859 the congregation of Chatfield Township consented to be served by the pastor at New Washington.

The congregation in Bucyrus soon after my pastorate there had a new brick church erected, but later the secret society movement and the Sunday beer-saloon business began to take hold among the German citizens of the town and I witnessed with God's Word against it. But the aversion towards truth and its champion became more and more apparent until finally it came to such a point and the spokesman in the congregational meeting publicly stated that it was considered for the best that I receive another call, that I accept it and that I relinquish this charge.

Soon thereafter in the same year, July, 1867, I received a call from the two Zion's and Immanuel's congregations in Liverpool Township, Medina County, Ohio, which I accepted and to which place I removed with my family. Here we lived in the country in the parsonage with about 18 acres of land, from which church and school were located quite a distance, where, during the summer, I had to hold school several days in the week and where also in winter the catechetical school was conducted.

The Immanuel church had a number of so called Reformed members among them, besides for a long time they had had "United" preachers up until my predecessor. So they were not well versed in the Lutheran doctrine nor accustomed to the Lutheran discipline, though not far from their church was one belonging to the Missouri Synod. So within the course of a year this congregation separated itself from its affiliation with the Zion's church, built a new brick church of its own in another place, in Liverpool Centre, and called a "United" preacher as pastor.

After being there a period of almost six years it got to be a serious problem with me to provide my growing children with a better English education that was offered them there, which was indeed of a very poor and miserable kind. So then, when in May, 1873, I received a call from the Emmanuel's church at Monroe, Michigan, I did not hesitate long to accept it, in addition to which also a call came from the Matthew's church at Raisinville, so that I would have two congregations to serve, besides holding school several days in the week.

These congregations consisted chiefly of immigrant Mechlenburgers. In the Monroe congregation were two brothers-in-law who in church matters were seriously at logger-heads with each other and each was at the head of a certain faction in the congregation. Already before my arrival there had been in congregational meetings considerable contention over the erection of a parsonage, and the brothers-in-law had never been able to agree. Soon after my arrival the matter was opened again and it was decided that a suitable building that could be purchased was to be recommended to a committee but was not purchased by the congregation. This caused the bidder to become so contentious and rebellious that his conduct could not be tolerated and he had to be expelled from the church. After which he proved himself more and more to be a very wicked and hateful person and did all he possibly could to every manner to injure our church.

Aside from our own church there were two other larger Lutheran churches in Monroe, one belonging to the Missouri and the other to the Michigan Synod, who were not loyal to our little church, either, and who caused defection whenever possible.

In November, 1878, I received a call from the Trinity church at Union City, Indiana, and its sister church the St. Paul's congregation, at Ansonia, Drake County, Ohio.

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In the spring of 1883 the author of the above was called from Union City to the pastorate of the Lutheran church in the country about three miles east of Westerville, Ohio. There he moved with his family and for a time lived in a log house which belonged to and was located on one of the farms of one of his wealthiest church members. When he first saw this house he was nearly heartbroken and would never have entered it, but for the fact that he had his family there and there was practically nothing else to do. The house had only a short time before been used as a sheep stable. The blow was all the more severe because he had been led to believe, through information from one of the professors at Capital

University, Columbus, Ohio, that he was to have a nice comfortable brick house to live in. It was only a few months, however, that the family lived here, long enough until they could secure another house, when they moved into the town of Westerville, where they resided in rented property. Here they kept a horse and he drove out to his church, not only to preach, but also to conduct parochial school in summer.

During the residence in Union City he had been frequently ill and was treated for stomach trouble, but apparently without permanent relief. At Westerville he had no better results, his health gradually failing until his death on August 13, 1885, aged 63 years, 10 months and 27 days.