

1908

Cutting in 1907 diary of
Correspondence of
names mentioned there
w. those in July '08
report "On the Mountain
Top" by David Morgan
confirms this is 1908
Jan.

Katoomba Convention . Jan 11 - to 17.

The Convention was very successful this year. The presence of Mr Inwood attracted a number of people. A large tent was pitched in Khandalas Tennis Court with seating accommodation for between 300 and 400, and was filled for the evening meetings. The weather was bright and fine for the whole week. A booth was erected for tea between the meetings after which those who stayed for the interval would form into groups on the Mt. side to chat or sing hymns. Mr Miller George was in charge of the music all through, this made the singing very bright.

a large number of Ministers were present. Of our men Isaac Bell, Lewis, Dillon, Howe, Knox, Greenwood, Preswell, J.R. Stewart, Keffernann, A. Fraser. - Among others were Robt. Wagh. Cooks of Pitt St. Wallace. P. J. Stephen, Robinson of Adelaide - Michael C Smith. Morgan of Kogarah. Southwell

The chief speakers were all put up at Khandalas, where we made a very happy party. Mr Kelchen. Sorelly, Mallis Inwood. Mrs J. & myself. Mrs Carrington was up. but she was kept on the whole very quiet. Indeed she had little chance, as after the Sat night, the meetings were never thrown open.

At the Sat. night P. Meeting - Mr Inwood gave a short word on the closing verses of Exodus x7. The flag covering the Tent

On Sunday Morn We went on several ways. Mr Inwood preached in the Methodist Church, Mr Mallis in the Congregational, I in St Hilda's (which was packed), in Rom x11. 1; and Mr Sorelly presided at the Brethren Meeting at Ceevadam. In the afternoon. There was a good attendance at the Bible Reading in the Tent by Mr Sorelly.

Valedictory Communion Service -

On Friday Evening (Apr 10th - 8 45) we had Communion Service in the College Chapel. The attendance was small between 30 and 40, but the service was very restful and refreshing - ~~the~~ Five of my old students robed and took part, Chambers celebrated, and was assisted by Howe Reynolds and Kimberley. The opening hymn was "O God our help". That began the sermon was "Blest be the tie that binds". D. J. Knox preached from the Forty-sixth psalm. "There is a river the streams whereof make glad the city of God. . . . God is in the midst of her therefore she shall not be moved, God shall help her and that right early." His message was simple ~~and~~ helpful & appropriate. He dwelt on the assured presence of Him who is named "Immanuel" ~~and who~~ he linked together the promises "Lo I am with you always" and "When thou passest through the waters I will be with you". After the sermon we sang. ~~And~~ ~~and my beloved's~~ "How good is the God we adore" and after the reception - "Oh I am my beloved's". The inevitable "God be with you till we meet again" was sung at the close.

Saturday -

Blythe had promised to take us down in his motor car, but as he could not get in till 10 o'clock we didn't wait - We got our luggage off by nine, and were on the boat ourselves by 10.30 - a number of friends came to see us off - Bellingham, Archd Oxen Colvin, Koble, Mr & Mrs Nicholson, Mrs & Miss Young, Miss Young. Several of the students - G's Bible class girls came, and made her a presentation. Great crowd on board made pushing and crushing, and vain attempts to find people - At last the bell rang - the boat was cleared, and we got away.

On the wharf Bellingham organised a parting cheer - It was as calm outside the heads as inside

Sunday

A still warm morning, the wind freshened in afternoon but dropped again in the evening. I found out there were six ministers on board. Middleton & myself (Anglicans), Revs Binns & Buchan (Congregationalists), Revs Holan & Hayward (Presbyterians). A rule has been made that on Sunday morning the Ch of England Service must be read by an officer of the ship. On this first Sunday it was taken by the doctor. After service we six ministers met and came to an amicable arrangement about other services. We decided back for an early S. Morn'g Communion Service conducted by the Anglicans on Sunday, by the other ministers the next. Then we were all to join for an open Service on Sunday night. With these plans we went to the Captain for his sanction. He ~~was not~~ agreed to let us use the Writing room for an early service on S. Morn'g. from 7.30 to 8 - but would allow no service in the large Saloon beyond the official service. Therefore the six ministers belong to the ranks of the unemployed -

Monday. April 13th

Reached Port Melbourne about 10. a.m. Went up to City after lunch. Went with Maisie to Cathedral Service - We all had dinner at Makereekos' Cafe - Then took train to St. Kilda. Maisie & I went to Christ Church and heard Stainer's Crucifixion. G & Hene sat on Esplanade till we came up.

Tuesday April 14th

Went up to City. Lunch with Ebb. Chat with him and Sadler about proposed Evangelical College for Melbourne. Met the Theo Kitchens. M & I went with them to tea. G & S came back to boat to meet Poulton.

Wednesday. April 15th

Pleasant trip with the Warrens to Healesville. Afternoon tea & dinner at Gracedale House - lovely spot for quiet holiday.

Long tedious journey back. Got to the boat at 11.30 - dead tired.
Thursday April 16th Left Melft at noon. Mrs A. Summers
came to see us off. She looks just the same, was much affected.
Mr and Mrs Burstall also came, and Mrs Dix, & Miss
Lynch. One or two other persons on board, including
Webb of Adelaide. Outside the heads the wind very cold
and after dinner, considerable motion in the boat.

Good Friday. Apr 17th.

Was anything but like Good Friday - Sea was choppy but
it was pleasant on board. Sat & read Herbert's poems &c.
Sat of impromptu Concert in Writing room at night - begin-
ning with Sacred Songs & ending up with Comic.

Easter Day Apr 18th.

We were glad to spend this in Port. In the morning we
went to the Cathedral. The ritual was high but the music
was simple. The Dean preached on "Victory Through
Sacrifice" Among other things he told us that the
discipline of the Lenten Fast ought to bear permanent
fruit in the better observance of the weekly Friday fast.
We did not feel that we could join in the Communion
Service so we came away.

In the evening we went to the Congregational Memorial
Church where our fellow passenger Rev F. Brind was
to preach. The service was good - an excellent choir
you could hear every word of the cantabens - The sermon
was on Heb III 1-2. "Consider Jesus" Mr B has
a pleasant voice, and a quiet persuasive style.
The service was distinctly more helpful than that
in the morning. After getting back to the boat, we
sang hymns till half past nine. There was no at-
tempt all day to play or sing anything secular.
Most of the passengers seem to be professing Christians
and I have already met with some decidedly
spiritual people.

Monday April 20th - Wed April 22nd At Hobart

We were delayed five days at Hobart. We had to take on 48,000 cases of apples, and a large quantity of timber. And the Easter holidays interfered with the loading. The weather was fine, but the wind was keen, so I stayed most of the time on the boat.

Hobart to Albany.

Thursday April 23rd got away at 6 a.m. It was very rough rounding the Southern Coast of the Island. A large number of the passengers were sick - Showery -

Friday - We are still in dirty weather, and there is a very heavy swell on. Many of the passengers who have kept up till now, have had to give in, and the tables are very thinly attended -

Sat The Sea has gone down a good deal, but the weather is still cold and showery.

Sunday April 26th Sea smooth - weather much warmer - was able to sit on poop Morning & afternoon -

Had Communion Service in Writing Room 7.15 - 8 a.m.

Webb celebrated - I gave ten minutes address on "The Living One" about 20 present - at 10.30 - Morning Prayer, taken by Docton - Saloon two parts full - after Lunch Docton asked me to go and see a man in Hospital with double pneumonia - he is not likely to live - he seems an intelligent Christian - one of the brethren.

Monday April 27th The sick man died at 10 p.m. Mon night. Captain sent for me and asked me to read Burial Service -

Tuesday 28th Up at 5.30 - funeral at 6 a.m. on Poop only the Officers, one or two of the crew, and Brins Buchanan Middleton and Southall present - The surroundings were weird -

I read the service by light of a lamp as it was still dark, and the wind blowing strong - The body was covered with a flag and was shot of a plank at the words of Committal - Several passengers got up to attend the funeral, but were ordered off the Poop much to their indignation -

After breakfast we were in Albany harbour. The coast is barren and inhospitable but picturesque. The town prettily situated at the foot of mountains - We stayed about four hours - put off about 2 doz passengers, and took on about an equal number including two Canon of the West Australian Church. Wed & Thur - The boat fairly steady but weather squally. Friday - a very bad day - The rolling at night gave me quite a headache.

Saturday it calmed down & got warmer, but showers continually drove us off the deck.

During the week we started Bible readings.

On Mon. I took one on "Burdens" - about 25 present.

on Wed. Mr Birns on "The Holy Spirit" - betw 30 & 40 -

on Fri. Mr Middleton on Transfiguration. over 50 -

Unfortunately he got us to sing two hymns, and we were singing the last when the Capt walked thru on inspection. He at once sent a message through the Purser that the Services must be stopped - Buchanan & I went to see the Purser after, and he said that we could have our little meetings provided we did not proclaim the fact by singing hymns -

On leaving Albany - the amusement craze began to manifest itself - a Sports Committee was formed - a Thursday Evening a Progressive Euchre party monopolized one side of the Saloon; on Friday night another unimromptu dance was arranged for but the rough seas made the passengers dance to another tune - On Saturday night, a Concert was held in the Saloon. It seems rather unfair that the Saloon should be taken.

The run from Albany to Durban took fifteen days - after the first two or three days the weather got warmer and we were able to stay on deck.

On Sunday May 3rd Rev J W Jones conducted an early service in the library & Rev Nolan gave address.

Wednesday
~~May~~ May. 13th.

At Durban.

We approached Durban over a smooth oily sea - and by 4.30. p.m. we were moored to the pier. We were glad to get off and stretch our legs. We took a 2^d train up to the town and made some purchases. The place is very oriental. A large number of Indians are settled there. The streets are full of rickshaws drawn by Zulus &c in their fantastically dressed and elaborate head gear. They have bullocks horns on their heads, which they toss about as they run like animals.

May 14th to 17th Durban to Cape Town.

Left Durban at Daylight on Thursday 14th - a day of moist heat. Friday and Saturday cooler - We dropped anchor off Cape Town about midnight on Saturday. Drifted back about ten miles before morning owing to strong current. Had a fine view of Table Mt & Cape Town after breakfast. There was not time to go on shore. Letters were awaiting us from W.C. Ward, Mrs Billett, and Miss Rowles; the latter conveying an invitation for the Bp of Durban to spend two or three days at Auckland Castle in October. Got away from Cape Town about eleven o'clock.

Sunday May 17th to Fri. June 5th Cape Town to Plymouth.

First two days it was cold and somewhat rough - after that it got rapidly warmer.

On the 21st Francis was seized with a severe attack of Sciatica in the back. She was in agony and the Dr had to inject morphia to give her a little ease -

all Friday & Saturday she was very sick. - She had to keep her bed till Monday, and she continued to feel very weak and ill up to Thursday 28th.

We crossed the line on Monday 25th about 11.30 a.m. The "Reptile" business was carried out by the passengers on the forward Deck. Played with Francis -

Empire day was kept up on Sat. 23rd with sports on the after deck in the morning, and a display of drill by a squad of about 20 men & 40 firs, followed by a patriotic concert on deck at night. Canon Clais delivered a patriotic oration at the latter.

On Sunday May 24th the N. Con. ministers conducted service in the library at 7.15. with an address by Rev J. Buchan. At 10.30. official service on Deck. All this week study was suspended - Could not do any solid reading, just sat and dozed and read stories.

On ~~Sunday~~ Thursday May 28th Ascension Day we had a celebration at 7 a.m. Canon Fraser & Clais officiating and the former giving the address.

On Sat. May 31st we had our last communion service - 28 present. Middleton celebrated, I gave address. "What is Man". Collection for library Steward. £1. 6.0 - Morning Prayer in Salon at 10.30. We passed Tenerife about 5 p.m. and had a good view of it. The weather was lovely -

Every day we were looking forward. As the boat did not expect to reach London till Sunday, and the Whit Sunday holidays would interfere with our getting our luggage off, we decided to disembark at Plymouth. We sighted the Lizard before noon on Fri. June 5th - How green the hills looked, we got off at 5 p.m. by tender, got our luggage through without trouble, no dock dues, or formalities. The customs gave us no trouble. Our luggage porter recommended a Temperance Hotel, which proved very comfortable. We had a lovely tea supper: a look round the quaint old town. Then next morning, left by train for Gt. Bowen.