

I have left many things unsaid which I want to have written. Did you ever receive the letter which I wrote last spring about Paraguay's girls? He seems very anxious to hear from them.

I am glad to see that the Bill is forming an agency of honor. May the Lord give him strength for his work, & bless his labours, and at length restore him to you in health & safety.

Constantinople, Oct. 5. 1841.

My Dear Mrs Hill,

I should not have been so late in announcing my return & giving you some account of my travels if there had not been good reason for it. I arrived or rather was let out of quarantine the 19th Aug. I came home a sick man and the first month I did hardly anything but lie about the house whenever I could find a sofa or settee to repose upon. Since then I have been looking for a house, making into it and getting to rights again. We have been fairly under way only three days, so you will see I am proving myself a punctual correspondent after all.

I was absent from home just three months, during that time heard from Mrs S. once & succeeded in getting some two or three letters to her. I have received two of hers since my return, and some of mine are still wandering about in Asia Minor. The first two months I had a delightful time excepting a regular drumming to the skin at least once every day until I passed the Taurus & descended into the hot plains of Mesopotamia. The first day that we did not have a soaking was one of the principal epochs in my journey. There was one other circumstance that detracted a little from the pleasantries of the first two months. The whole country was in a very unsettled state and Kurdish banditti here & Kurdish banditti there kept me guessing about much more than was convenient, to find safe routes. I travelled most of the way with guards,

and we had some very narrow escapes. All this made my journey into Me-
sopotamia very long. I arrived there in the hot season, went through my work
in the hot season & left in the hot season. It was all hot, very hot; I never
felt anything hotter excepting fire. You can trace my route on the map
in my Narrative, if you happen to have one by you. I first went to Tub-
izond, from there south a little beyond Gumush Khanik, intending to go
straight through Kurdistan to Mardin. But I was compelled to abandon
my course by the Kurds who lay in my path & so moved westward,
trying at every point to get down through Kurdistan, until I reached
Sivas. After this I kept upon my old route by which I came from Bagdad
until I reached Mosoul. Here I spent ten delightful days with my
old friend Raffles, now British Vice Consul there. He has his wife (an
English lady - he himself is a Chaldean -) and his wife's mother, Mrs
Budge with him. I was glad to find them, though the only Franks
there, and indeed the only ones between Bagdad and the Black Sea, con-
tented and happy. From Mosoul I came back to a monastery near
Mardin, keeping along the North side of the Tigris. In the monastery
I tarried two weeks with the Syriac Patriarch and then started for
home. My object was to settle every thing with regard to a Mission a-
mong the Syriacs. My work succeeded entirely. The Patriarch and myself re-
ceived me very kindly & showed me every attention. My stay with them
was exceedingly pleasant; I have seldom spent two weeks more happily.
On the 14th July I bade adieu to the monastery & started on my
journey home. I was slightly indisposed when I left & before I had
travelled an hour my troubles were increased by a stroke of the

sun. I could not travel in such a state, so I entered the city of Madrid
I went to the hands of the Levian Metropolitan. The next day I was
prostrated by a bilious attack, but this soon yielded to the Metro-
politans' medicines. Before I was half recovered however the Intermit-
tent came on. I lasted a week, but finding no relief, determined to
start for home. I came in 15 days to Samsoen on the Black Sea & three
more by steamer to Constantinople. Every day, one only excepted, I had
a fever & a que attack & several times went thro' the whole process on
horse-back. This was dreadful & often, if it had been the will of God, I
would gladly have lain down & died. The fever, as it sometimes does in dis-
circumstances, brought on Dropsy. My brain was disordered by the
Parts of my body were swollen to nearly double their
natural size. My legs & feet lost their sensation
& became unmanageable. I could find no food which
did not increase my disease. Eggs, yoghourt & milk are what
travellers live upon in the interior, but these were the worst things
the world for me. Things were at the worst when I reached Const-
antinople & here my good friends, the Turks, put me into a miserable quar-
antine for 10 days. However, I was now within reach of friends who did
all they could for me. I was particularly indebted to Dr Dawy, (a brother
of Sir Humphrey Dawy,) who gave me his valuable services & succeeded
in improving me considerably before I left quarantine. Dr D. was only
a visitor here & has just left for England to the great regret of us all.
Since my release I have been slowly recovering & excepting that
my strength is not yet perfect & I cannot bear the least touch of the
dew on my head, I am quite well. - My little boy has been growing fat &
handsome & good during my absence & Mrs S. has enjoyed uninterrupted
health.

Ms. 17. I failed of getting my letter into the mail of the 7th on account of the irregular departure of the boat. In the mean while Parry has handed me a note to enclose. N.S.

An Armenian friend called the other day ~~to~~ to inquire whether he
could get admittance into your school for a nephew & ward of his - a lad of 11 or
12 years, a fine promising boy. He is an Armenian & does not know Greek,
reads English tolerably & speaks a little. His uncle is able to furnish fifty
dollars a year for his support - is a worthy, pious man and very anxious
to have his nephew educated. The lad is now at the Hamlin's & will

Wm Southgate

Mrs J. Southgate
Please address my kindest regards to your family, Miss Balthazar & Miss Whittell.
I have your very kind letter of the 11th & am glad to hear from you.



(1841)

Athens,
Greece.

Mrs J. H. Hill,

Miss Hill



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remain in his school if the school survives. At present, however, there is
great danger of its being broken up by the Armenian Patriarch & if it should be
there is no institution here where the boy could be educated. I hope the necessity
will not arise for the Hamlin's school is a very valuable one, but the
danger is threatening, & if it should come, the uncle would rejoice to put his boy under
your excellent care. If you can consistently take him with you send me
word to that effect that I may set my good friend's mind at ease.

Yours very truly,
Wm Southgate.