

Pearce's Description of Carey's Farewell.

Contributed by the Rev. EDWARD MEDLEY, B.A.

[*A letter from the Rev. Samuel Pearce, of Birmingham, to his wife, describing the actual departure of Carey for India, May 30, 1793.*]

FOR the sake of my own peace I must suppose that my dearest Sarah arrived safe at her journey's end and for her sake I trust has experienced and expressed that gratitude to the God of all our mercies which stamps reality and sweetness on every enjoyment of life—O that I felt more of that myself, which I cannot but recommend to my best Friends—Surely, if one of God's Creatures hath more reason than another for Praise, I am he. Indulged with bodily health—mental peace—domestic comforts—providential supplies—ministerial acceptance, usefulness, wt the undissembled friendship of a crowd of the People of God—Lord who and what am I to be so distinguished? We do pray for each other my dear S let us also praise for each other specially since we have one common Interest and ye joys or griefs of one become by necessity the pleasures or pains of both.

The Evening of the day you left me was distinguished by feelings of the most rapturous pleasure, wonder and gratitude that my heart ever knew respecting the kingdom of God—Prepare my love, to rejoice and wonder and be grateful too! I received a letter from Dr. Bror Ryland, and what d'ye think he wrote? Why *Carey* wh *all his family*, are gone for *India!*—When? How? you are ready to ask—I cheerfully satisfy you—Not long after the English fleet sailed—News came that a Danish East India Ship was to call at Great Britain in her way from Copenhagen to the East. Down came Thomass Carey to Northampton at the news last Saturday—Carey's wife (who was sufficiently recovered) offered to accompany him if her sister wd go too—the Sister consented—they all set off for London together the same day—Carey wrote the Monday to Bror Ryland saying they had found

friends in London who had advanced 200£ above what the Society had in hand—that the sum was agreed on wh the Captain of the Ship, and the passage money *paid down*—that chaises were then at the door to convey Thomas to Portsmouth, to secure the Baggage left there, and to take Carey and his family to Dover, from whence they were to embark. By this time I suppose they have sailed, and if the Lord prospers them will get to India time enough to receive Mrs. Thomas and the goods she has wt her in the Earl of Oxford.—O what a wonder working God is ours! tell the whole now if you please, for the honor of our Great Redeemer, and the encouragement of his Peoples' faith in the most trying situations.

Three advantages are secured by the disappointment—1st The Missionaries will go out more honorably—and the enemies of ye Cause will not have it in their power to reproach the Society *wh publicity*, in transport'g the Missionaries under false pretences—2dly as the Danes are a neutral power there is no fear of their being captured by the French on their way and 3dly Carey has the satisfaction of his whole family, and the world have lost thereby an objection they have often raised to *his* going on the business.

I set off for Leicester to morrow—go from thence to N'hampton Monday or Tuesday and most likely will exchange with Bror Ryland the following Sabbath—I intreat you will write me (on receipt of this) an Acct of your journey—health—friends &c—direct at Mr. Ryland's Northampton—if you write immediately I shall receive it before I return shd I not stay a Lord's day at N.H.—

All friends are well—my love to Bror and Sistr Sing wh the Seniors and Juniors of that family as well as Sistr M—s and Mr. Henwood.

Do not delay writing if you have any concern for my Satisfaction—

I am My Dear dear S your own very

Affectionate S. PEARCE.

BIRMINGHAM, May 31, 1793.