

NOTABLE CRUISE

Morning Star Visits Islands of Marshall Group.

CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE FELT

Natives Have Built Substantial Churches—Are Eager for the Gospel.

Below will be found a continuation of the narrative of the cruise of the missionary packet Morning Star among the islands of the Marshall group. Probably there will be one more article on these interesting islands and then will come another field. Mr. Harry Swinton tells the story well.

It was intended by Dr. Rife, as I have already stated, to leave Limagen at this station, but somehow or other, there was some difficulty about which I could find out nothing. Those concerned seemed to be rather reticent about the affair, for reasons best known to themselves. It was decided to take Limagen further on and to leave him where he was most needed.

We brought his canoe alongside, took it apart, and had it hoisted aboard. Got under way that day (3:30 a. m., October 8th), made Arn, the next island, bright and early next day, but as the passage into the lagoon was some distance off, we did not enter it until 11:45 a. m., coming to an anchorage abreast of the station at 1 p. m.

This island is not a very large one. Notwithstanding that fact, however, it seems to be well populated. The canoes were off, as usual. Mats and other articles were disposed of amongst the crew and passengers. We found there, as in the other islands we had visited so far, that the good work was progressing. They have a very nice little church, with quite a large number of members. There were, of course, not as many as in Mille, Majuro or Arno, but, considering the size of the place, they made a very good showing.

We left this island on the 10th of October at 9 a. m., being there but 21 hours. As the next island is close, too, we came to an anchor that same day at 5:55 p. m. Being so late, Dr. Rife and his people did not go ashore to hold a meeting. Mr. Gordon, a trader, came on board to see Dr. Rife about his little daughter, whom he wanted to be taken under his care for tuition and to be brought up in his family. This Dr. Rife agreed to do. Mr. Gordon pays him \$5.00 a year for her board, lodging and tuition. This I consider very reasonable.

Here we left Mr. Limagen, the man we brought away from Majuro, and took aboard the old teacher of the place. To judge from what I know of Mr. Limagen, the people there will be the gainers by the exchange.

We found the same progress, morally and religiously, although not so marked as we saw it at Majuro. However, as the teacher we left was the very man who made such progress at Majuro, it is to be hoped he will infuse some of his zeal into the people at the new station, so that when the Star reaches there next year she may expect to find a very much improved community. She is sure to find a marked difference, religiously, among the people.

We left this place at noon on the 12th of October, having spent the Sabbath in Muluwup. At 4:40 p. m., we came to an anchor just inside the passage out of the lagoon, it being too dark to see our way out. The length of the lagoon formed another obstacle. Early next morning, weighed anchor for Warch, one of the new islands to be visited this year. Came up to the entrance just at sunset. Notwithstanding the fact that Captain Garland had not been there before, he passed into the lagoon and came to an anchor in 33 fathoms of water, half a mile or so from the entrance.

Daylight next morning, got under way for the supposed new station, arriving abreast of it in an hour's time. We did not have as many alongside as at the other places we visited, owing, I suppose, to the fact of this being a new place, and the people somewhat shy. Nevertheless, in the appearance of the inhabitants we could see very plainly the influence exerted by the godly men and women among them, and that was not "labor in vain."

Even here they were dressed in European style. I did not see a single person with old-fashioned or absence of clothes. All seemed to have "caught on" to the comforts of civilized dress.

Dr. Rife went ashore to see the people and to find a place for the pastorate. He found that the people had already built a small church. Miss Palmer, Captain Garland and the school boys and girls also went ashore with Dr. Rife.

On this island there is a pond of fresh water close to the place they had picked out for a mission station. There are other ponds of water on the island besides this one. These are something unusual to find on a coral island. Of course everybody had to go ashore on a tour of inspection to see the wonderful pond, with the exception perhaps of the mate and one or two of the crew. They found the pond, sure enough, but it did not pan out to be what they had expected. It was not so deep as they were led to believe.

It was good water, however, not very clear, but rather of a darkish hue. When they returned on board each one was decorated with a vine found growing on the banks of the pond. Here we left the teacher brought from Arn. We found even here, notwithstanding they never had a teacher before, people wearing foreign clothes, and to all appearances civilized.

Left there the next day, the 15th, at 7 o'clock, passed out of the lagoon an hour and fifteen minutes later, bound for Migit, an island to the northward of us, some 90 miles distant. On the way there we fell in with stormy weather for the first time in this group. Sighted the island after three days' dead beat to windward, under sail, against a strong westerly current, with heavy swells coming from the northeast and trade winds blowing fresh. Did not get up to it that day, the 18th. When night came on the land was some eight or nine miles off, bearing by compass east by north from the ship. Lay off and on all that night. Came up to the landing at 8:20 a. m. of the 19th, after a four days' beat to windward. This is one of the islands that has no lagoon, consequently we had to lay off and on until Dr. Rife was through with his work.

As soon as we were abreast of the station we lowered the big boat. Dr. Rife, Miss Palmer and some of the school girls and boys got in and were taken ashore. We found here a very neat little church. The people have made nice roads leading to the church from their residences. In fact all about the church, which could be seen from the ship. The morals of the people here are good; they are well on as far as civilization is concerned. Two of the pupils on board, a girl and a boy, are of royal blood.

We found there that the good work was progressing. The island is not a very large one. The natives are the proud possessors of a fine church and the congregation is quite large. Taking it all in all, the majority of the inhabitants belong to the church, or, perhaps, speaking more correctly, are church-goers.

3:45 p. m.—Dr. Rife, Miss Palmer and the school boys and girls returned to the ship. We at once squared away for our next island (Ailinglaplap) some 200 miles to the southwest of us. We sighted the island on the 21st, but did not enter the lagoon, it being too late to do so. Early the next morning we went in, anchoring abreast of the mission station in 20 fathoms of water.

The teacher of this island boarded the Star as we anchored. We found here, as elsewhere, signs of religious progress. The usual quantity of canoes came alongside with their traffic in the shape of curious, which were disposed of among the passengers and crew.

Here we left two married couples, both from the training school, one to relieve the one we took away from Ailinglaplap, and the other not as a teacher but for another reason. I am informed that they were "unprofitable." In other words, they were dull and could not learn, even if they were kept at the training school in Kusaie for ten years or more. It was deemed expedient to dismiss them in order to make room for those who could be "profitable."

After taking on board the old teacher of this place and his family, we weighed anchor at 3 p. m. on the 23d. Just before we hoisted up anchor we lowered the little boat, Mr. Douse, the chief engineer, and Dr. Rife got into her, taking two school boys for a crew, and sailed down the passage. They were to land on the weather side of this passage, and as we passed out take a snap shot at us with their camera, which they happened to have along.

Went out through the passage at 4:20 p. m., October 23d, on our way for Namu. Sighted land at 2 o'clock that night. Daylight found us close to the south end of the island. The mission being at the other end of the island, some twenty-five miles ahead, we steamed and sailed. Before entering the passage we encountered one of those squalls which the Marshall Islands are noted for. This lasted about fifteen minutes. Entered the passage into the lagoon at 10:45. Just before coming to an anchor, at 12 noon, we encountered another squall with much rain. It seemed a wonder to me how the Captain, on the tonsal yard, could see his way to the anchorage. He did, however, and that, too, nobly, the squall notwithstanding.

After anchoring a good breeze sprang up from the northeast, accompanied by much rain. Owing to the wind, the lagoon was quite rugged, a nasty little choppy sea was running. This kept the canoes from the shore from coming out to us. Toward evening, however, one did muster up courage enough to come off. This turned out to be one with the teacher of the place in it. Dr. Rife went ashore in the big boat during the afternoon. He did not take Miss Palmer or the crowd with him. It was the first time during the trip that Miss Palmer and her school girls did not go in with the Doctor. Being late in the day and somewhat rough, the Doctor deemed it best for her and the school girls not to go in. The next day being Sunday, they could all go then and hold their meeting with the people just as well.

There are not many people in this place. The island where the teacher lives is situated at the extreme north end of this lagoon, some distance from the other islet of the lagoon, consequently the only congregation they have for the church is composed of those who live there on the island, those on the other islet deeming it too far to go away from their own home to bother themselves to attend church. They do attend sometimes, but this is not very often.

While there we saw four or five large canoes hauled up on the beach. They had come from the other islet of the lagoon. They have here a very nice little church, but the members are very scarce. However, it corresponds favorably with the rest, considering its size.

Sunday, Oct. 25th.—Dr. Rife, Miss Palmer, all the school girls and boys went ashore to church and to hold a general meeting with the people; returned in the afternoon.

Early next morning (5:20 a. m. the 26th) got under weigh for Kwajalein. Had to run half way down the lagoon to get out, as there were no other passages nearer. After getting out had to steer along the land outside of the lagoon, running the same distance over



again. This, of course, made the distance to Kwajalein so much greater. We took away with us the old teacher of the island, replacing him with a married couple and their children from the training school. The old teacher told me through an interpreter that he had taught the people all he knew, which he himself admitted was not much. He thought it was pretty near time that some one else should take his place, as he wanted to go home to Jalut, where he belonged. His wish was gratified.

Sighted Kwajalein that afternoon (the 26th). Just as the sun went down we came up to the mouth of the passage into the lagoon. It was a little too late to enter, so the Captain concluded to lay off all night. Kept close to the land and went in next morning at 3:30 o'clock, coming to an anchor abreast of the station at 9:45, one hour and a quarter later.

Found here, as in the other islands we have visited, a great awakening amongst the people, religiously; and here, too, as elsewhere, the people were all eager to get the Gospel. That afternoon Dr. Rife, Miss Palmer and the school girls and boys went ashore to see the people.

Here, while waiting for Dr. Rife, we improved the spare moments by getting through with the work of taking rock ballast aboard.

Left the next day (October 27th) for our next island, Lae, which we made bright and early next day. Got up to the entrance at 7:30 a. m. and found a strong tide coming through the passage. It was low tide, and the entrance being shallow in consequence, the Captain concluded not to try to get in until it was high tide. Entered the passage at 2:30 p. m. and came to an anchor abreast of the station at 3:10, forty minutes later, this in 7 fathoms of water.

Here we found a very snug little lagoon, but very few people. They have here a teacher, as in the other islands, and have built themselves a very nice church. We left here the teacher we took from Namu. This island has the misfortune of having a number of lepers. It is the only island in the group thus afflicted. There are some very bad cases among them. I did not see any as I did not go ashore. All I know about them is what I heard from Dr. Rife and Mr. S. Rilling, the second officer.

It was while here that Mr. Douse, our chief engineer, was taken suddenly sick, on November 24th. On examination by Dr. Rife it was found he had a hemorrhage inwardly. If we had had no doctor on board Mr. Douse would have been in a very bad predicament. He was a very sick man, and I would say here that great credit is due Dr. Rife for bringing him out of his trouble. Even when we got back to Kusaie he was still sick. It was deemed best by all concerned to leave him there in care of Dr. Rife until our return from the Gilbert Islands. We never expected to see him alive on our return to Kusaie. Great was our joy to hear on our return that he was still in the land of the living, and doing very well under the circumstances.

While in the lagoon we met with heavy weather, severe squalls accompanied by much rain. It became necessary to let go the second anchor.

When the work was finished here we could not get away; in fact we were weather bound. After being penned up there for four days we weighed anchor with the hope of getting out of the lagoon. Found when near the passage out that seas were breaking clean across.

I forgot to state in last week's article on the trip through the Marshall Islands, that there are two training schools at Kusaie, one for the Marshall Islands and one for the Gilbert group. The former is in charge of Dr. Rife and wife, the latter in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Cannon.

The girls and boys (amongst whom are to be found some very "old boys and girls") of each group are gathered up by the Morning Star annually as she goes from island to island, and are taken to Kusaie to the training school. Every year these girls and boys are taken on board the Star to their homes to see their relations and friends. If a teacher or pastor is wanted on any island, those who are well advanced in their studies are left there by the principal of the school, he picking out the one he sees fit for the position.

Instead of having fifteen passengers, as was stated last week, when we left Kusaie, we had thirty school boys and girls, some four or five married couples and the teachers, making fifty odd all told, this, of course, not counting the crew.

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