

- N.B. 1. 'Tr.' stands for translator. (paragraphs are my own for easier reading)  
2. ( ) Brackets are for original German or suitable comment.

**Eben Ezer, 10th July, 1865,  
near Stockwell, South Australia.**

Grace and peace to you, my dear brothers and sisters, from our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules over us with His almighty power. It is marvelous how He gave me the idea that I should visit you by means of a letter, since it is not possible to speak with any one of you as to how you are faring. And I long to know whether you are remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. For over 11 years I have not heard anything from anyone.

My dear teacher, I know that the grandfather has died; this came to me in a dream. You know that I emigrated in 1854 and that I arrived safely in Australia, with the help of God, and that I settled at Eben Ezer (now written Ebenezer - Tr.). And when someone asks me how I have fared, as Jesus asked His disciples, whether they had ever lacked anything, I, too, must agree with them: 'No, nothing!'

Sometimes I reflect on my life and thank God that he did not call me hence in my younger years when I was not walking in the ways of the Lord as I ought. You can well imagine how one feels when delivered from the snares of the devil (cf. Ps. 27). And I pray that everyone of you entrust his soul to our crucified Lord for eternal life.

The land on which I now live is not as level as it is where you are in Ankersdorf and Steinbach, but it is rather hilly. There are now no longer as many aborigines about as 10 years ago. They have withdrawn themselves from the whites. During the first years they would lie at one's door in large numbers and beg for coffee (Kafe), sugar, tobacco, and the like. But when they were asked to work they would go away. At night, when many were together, they could be heard shouting and singing while brandishing their weapons to their god. Oh you children, do pray earnestly to God in their behalf.

Nowadays one seldom hears of them. All of them have gone away to Copper's Creek (Kopperschkrik), and we have now received four missionaries from the Bohemian Brethren (Die Bruedergemeinde - tr.), of Herrnhut, near Kunnenwalde, in Saxony. One of the aborigines, who has been converted to Christ, accompanies them. Now and then an aborigine will take on work. They are particularly good in mustering cattle on horse back in the bush (pusche), when the cattle are needed for slaughtering. They are very good in tracking them. Sometimes they have from 700 to 800 in one herd, or even a 1000.

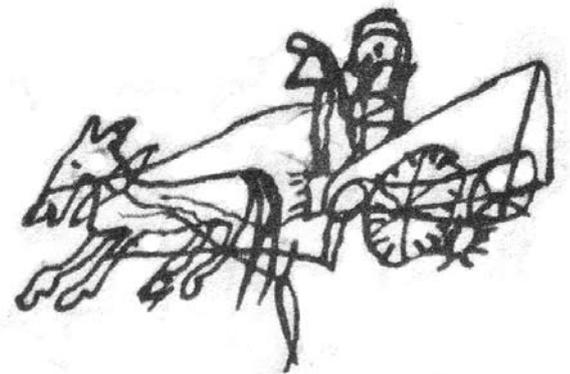
About 7 years ago aborigines killed a woman and 2 children because she would not give them what they wanted, but within two days 4 men were captured and tried. None of them would betray another.

(N.B. This page does not seem to follow on from page 1 – tr.)

That (what? - tr.) is something the aborigines, have to learn, and they are well rewarded. They live on opossum (Paasam), kangaroo (Kinkoru), wallabies and wild rabbits. They normally wear no clothing, but now that it is getting colder, they will need some covering.

On June 24th we had ice on a pool of water up to quarter of an inch thick, and we are having the heaviest frosts for 20 years, a sign that the time is drawing nearer (meaning? -tr.).

During the first years the land was more productive than it is now. Using two horses I sowed 70 acres and harvested over 1,000 bushels of wheat. At first all such crops were cut down with a sickle, but now no longer. Now a machine is used for the harvest. I have bought a machine which is drawn by 4 horses. When the crop is ready for harvest it is reaped.



(N.B. Here the writer has included a small drawing of the stripper being drawn by horses and with a man in charge, and has written: ‘The outfit looks something like this.)

According to your money the machine cost me 585 (the sign added probably indicates the former German coin, a Thaler, which was worth 3 German Mark - Tr./ In my reckoning the machine would have cost him approx. £88.0.0 or \$176.00 - tr.) The straw is left standing. The machine threshes the heads of wheat. When I have driven the machine once round the wheatfield (crop) the machine is filled with chaff and grain. This goes on all day long. With the 4 horses I reap from 6 to 7 acres per day, provided nothing goes wrong and that the man driving the horses does a good job.

A bushel of wheat weighs 60 pounds, and it is worth 2 Thaler 16 Pfennige in your money, or 8 shillings (80c) in our currency. I have gone to live on my farm.

At first I pursued my calling as a carpenter-builder. I erected 16 houses and a church measuring 54 feet long and 26 feet wide. This is tied up with ... work (The last sentence is unclear to me - tr.). Here we conduct our divine services.

My dear teacher (Meister), how quickly time passes! But this remains a firm truth; He who does not provide for his real needs here and now will be lost forever. Oh that His Holy Spirit would lead all of us onwards to eternal life. May God grant it to all of us through His Son.

*Translated by C J Pfitzner, August 15, 1980.*