

P4

we would call exceedingly pretty, however, whether the
 anything grand - it is a succession of gently sloping
 hills generally covered with the most beautiful
 trees, & with a pretty variety of vegetation on the
 top of each. The vegetation are about the English
 like, the Chinese & Malay like above however
 the river in the latter part of the island. I am
 with the East but I should not like to live here
 at all. The heat for any length of time I should
 think would be very trying - in Singapore the air
 is much fresher & far more pleasant than in
 Batavia & many days the heat was more agreeable
 than on a very hot summer's day at home.
 The best to the last. We have had very good news
 so the whole from our precious little one. How
 & how now however has not been quite well, but
 this was only when he was ^{in the hospital} ~~in the hospital~~
 a good. Our hearts are far more at rest about
 him than I could have thought it possible. Indeed
 sometimes I almost fancy I am less anxious about
 him now he is here. It gives him up into Allah's hands,
 than when we felt our poor child's wisdom had to
 guide & direct things for him. There is a useful saying
 sometimes to be said with them, but the same will
 come when it is need. I hope you have better news
 again from him. He will be very sorry to hear about his
 last, but his chief grief must be much stronger from
 all accounts, I am so thankful it is for your account
 well as ever.

So give our most precious Mother ten thousand
 affectionate thousand kisses & all good wishes, & say
 that she keeps so well is worth to us more than I can
 tell you. In your own precious self dwelling with
 the Lord. My heart is so full, that I can scarcely
 write about it. - your most affectionately
 James G. Edman.

P2

leaves all close up at sundown as our sensitive
 plant does on being touched & they open again
 at sunrise.
 Now at Buitenzorg where we came two days
 ago, we are so happy divine from Batavia &
 the country is magnificent. Here are macon
 towers 8 & 14,000 feet high covered with
 tea & coffee plantations, all kinds of graceful
 tropical trees grow down in the valley
 where a broad river winds about in
 & runs amongst the rice fields. The rice
 is just ripe & looks so exceedingly pretty
 as it grows. Here is a great deal of Mahony
 here & the fields of it which are quite solid
 look very like our corn fields at home only they are
 all arranged in terraces for purposes of irrigation.
 The rice resembles barley more than wheat but is
 still more drooping & graceful.
 We go on Monday, all well today, but on Tuesday
 with an old friend of Saul's all lives on a coffee
 plantation a little way up one of the mountains
 where you shall enjoy some comparatively cold
 bracing air & I expect it will do us both good.
 here at Buitenzorg it is delicious, cool &
 fresh compared with Batavia. The heat there
 is never. The day is just now unusually great
 is intense. We have only been here a fortnight
 as we are taking a fortnight to run in the country.

P1

Buitenzorg, Sunday 29th 79
 My dear sweet child,
 I very much received your letter which
 was sent to Brindisi a few days ago in Pa-
 larria. I suppose it reached Brindisi after we left
 for Singapore. Thank you very much for it. I
 hardly know how eagerly the balls set for letters
 from home for how much time they were when they
 arrive. It is grand to have such good news
 of you dear Islands folk, it cheers our hearts
 immensely. By the time you receive this I hope
 we may be about starting on our homeward
 journey. It is a great treat to have had
 a glimpse of the East & to see the thousand
 & one things which interest me so much. The
 town of Batavia is really splendid - you know
 it is a very large Dutch town & is as big
 as Paris. The streets are magnificent, they
 are formed of splendid avenues of trees
 are exceedingly broad & the ground between
 the rows runs down the centre of these
 & they much resembles the trees in Holland.
 The trees are of all kinds, Palms, bananas,
 Bamboos &c & there are a great many light
 graceful trees with very delicate leaves exactly
 the same as our sensitive plant at home only
 these trees grow as large as our Elm trees. The

P3

we shall only have about 3 weeks to a month here
 if I do not happen returning home. I shall be glad
 for Saul's sake to get away, he has been too long
 hand settling Mr Ralfe in the new house as he
 being to the new house of Mr Ralfe as he
 not very fluent with Malay yet & Saul has been
 of it he furnishing in part for him. The day
 is certainly one Saul's first good but a cooler
 climate it is very evident quite him better
 than this. He is looking very fine. I expect his
 change up the country will give him up
 derfully I am quite a different creature already.
 The sunsets here in the tropics are wonderful. The
 they are gorgeous beyond description. We have been
 they were very good, but generally only about 15
 going in the distance. We shall go to Mr Ralfe's house
 when we return to Batavia, it is in the coolest part
 of the town. We have been at a great disadvantage
 of the town being in the hot part for the food is
 great & the situation not so close with our new
 & good living we shall get on much better than
 return. The number of servants always wanting
 your brother astonishes me. I have seen
 there 14, he had 22 servants to wait on as 9-10 for just
 the clothing of many of the people here & in Batavia is very
 scanty. Many children till they are five or 6 years of age
 nothing whatever & the men frequently only wear a pair
 of drawers reaching to their knees. With Singapore I was
 very much pleased. There are no high mountains & it is what