



kindex[®]

< Scan QR to view this original record online, or visit <https://ezratclark.kindex.org/s/199041>

Title: **Book-084**

Provenance: **Courtesy of the Farmington Museum**

Category: **Volume**

Person:

Date:

Missionary Letters of John Alexander Clark

the Lord's prophets, worked miracles, which they were, as we now are preaching the gospel of Christ. One thinks he can feel the influence of other departed spirits prompting him to greater diligence in serving the Lord. Although it has not rained during the Summer months much of the vegetation is yet fresh and green. The weather still remains warm, the nights are cooler than they have been. My health is good, sea bathing is delightful and I indulge myself nearly every morning. Am enjoying very much my labor here. Am training as best I can my mouth and tongue and throat to the Deutsche language. The throat is principally concerned. It is said that during the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel a gob of mud, dropped from an elevation of considerable height into a man's mouth. The noise introduced in expelling it received the name German language. I have all the practice I desire, in fact it is seldom that I speak English to anybody beside myself. But I'm having as pleasant time and a good experience, the latter I prize for it is a great privilege to serve the Lord in this part of His vineyard.

Daily schedule

His daily schedule was to study in the morning and then have a morning swim in the Mediterranean Sea. Then he would walk into the city to practice his Arabic and hand out tracts. He also continued his study of Arabic .. At night he gave English lessons and held meetings. His mission cost about \$25.00 every two months. His letters reflect the same concerns as modern day missionaries: he shares his testimony, he admonishes his younger brothers to be obedient, he asks his fa-

ther for money, and begs his mother for more letters. His sensitivity to his mother is ever present in his letters, as he sends her a piece of cloth from his new suit to satisfy her curiosity and dried flowers for her to save for him. Always he wanted to hear news from home. Letters!

As Elder Clark began to master Arabic he felt more and more driven to teach the gospel and was ever anxious to do the Lord's will. In his last letter home he tells his parents he is now able to enjoy Arabic. He says, "It did seem that if one can learn the Arabic characters he can do most anything, but after we pass through an ordeal we feel, or should do, that it was our own weakness that made the trial seem so hard."