

Correspondence

Paulpietersburg,
Natal, S. A.,
July 4th, 1911.

Dear Highway;—

We fear we haven't the ability to make our reports as interesting to your readers as the "happenings" are to us.

Truly there is much of sameness about our work here,—the same daily routine, the same people who come asking for food, clothing, matches, soap, salt or sugar. Yet here and there comes some who really do not ask, but "drop in," in passing, to see us and tell us of their troubles, or probably a mother brings her new baby to show us, which is much admired. There are weeks together when we do not see a white face, so rarely hear even the village gossip.

We were blissfully ignorant of "Coronation Day," hearing it was to be June 20th. and there was to be special services for both European and Native at Vriyheid, (some fifty miles from here.) Mr. K. rode there expecting a treat, when behold he was two days ahead of time, so owing to sickness and pressing duties at home had to return without "celebrating."

Saturday morning we were called upon to set a broken leg. While the boys were getting horse and donkey ready, a woman came with a sixpence fowl to get a tooth extracted, tho' we were hurrying to get splints, bandages, etc., together, we could not deny this poor victim the pleasure of losing her tooth and pain. The young man lives about three miles from here. We found him in much pain, as the limb had been badly fractured the day before, but he manfully bore the agony of pulling and setting the bone. His mother, sisters and friends were in tears.

While performing this operation my donkey took it in her head to go home, so they had quite a chase before she was brought back. While Mr. K. was looking for her I had the opportunity of telling them of Jesus and His love, and praying with them. Praise the Lord.

Men who have spent all their lives in South Africa tell us this past year is unlike any they have ever seen. We had a very dry summer, thus very little of the amabile and mealie crops came to maturity; then we had unusually late cold rains. This winter has broken the record for continual cold weather, very heavy frosts about every night, and ice to be seen mornings, with the usual high winds during the day. Yet in spite of the cold nights some days are quite warm.

We have re-opened our day school, so with three sessions daily, keeps us it brings to our souls to see some who have recently taken on Christ and are walking with Him, while others have begun studying.

We have re-opened our day school, so with three sessions daily, keeps us busy.

Our prayers are for you these days as you assemble at dear old Beulah, and Riverside, and feel sure you will have a grand time of victory.

Yours in Jesus Love,
IDA M. KEIRSTEAD.

West Pembroke, Maine,
August 8th, 1911

Dear Highway;—We are pleased to be able to say that there is a good interest just now in the West Pembroke church. We had quite a fight to over come the opposing elements. In answer to prayer God has given us the victory. We are having three services on Sabbath and a prayer meeting during the week. The congregation is not very large but good interest manifested in every service. We have also organized a Sabbath school which is well attended. Prospects at present are very encouraging. Bro. A. F. Tanner has accepted a call for part of his

time. This church has been very much neglected. It is only 25 miles from Calais. Trust the Brethren will make us a visit; We need help. Would like to have our Field Evangelist to come and help us along. A Quarterly Meeting would be very helpful just now. The people are prepared and waiting for spiritual help. We hope the Brethren of this District will arrange for a Quarterly as soon as possible. Send all communication to

MRS. HELEN DUDLEY,
Young Cove,
West Pembroke, Me.
Church Clerk.

REPORT ON THE BIBLE.

Dear Brethren and Sisters of "The Alliance;

Your committee on the Bible wish to submit the following report.

The Holy BIBLE is a faithful record of the dealings of God with Man. It describes the creation of the universe, entrance of sin and the stupendous plan of God for the destruction of the works of the Devil.

"Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." These prophets in foretelling the scheme of man's redemption, "enquired diligently, searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

In the fullness of time the long promised Messiah came, announced by the heavenly sign of his first advent and the angels of God. He was recognized by the spiritually minded and grew to manhood, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. His teaching, works, death and resurrection combine to prove this God-Man all New Testament claims Him to be. HE was a greater than any of the prophets and His accepting the Old Testament as the Word of God is our strongest authority for doing the same.

Though compiled by many authors who wrote under such widely diverse circumstances and times, yet the book is one and its central theme CHRIST. All its teachings cluster about the Cross and are upheld by it. Accepting Calvary and the resurrection no man can logically disbelieve either the New Testament or the Old.

Our precious Bible is the revelation of God and his will concerning us. The law was given by Moses but grace and he truth that God is love came by Jesus Christ.

Ever since the days of Jehoiakim and the historical penknife critics, some higher but mostly lower, have tried, but in vain, to destroy this Book the books.

We still have our Bible to illuminate the road to Heaven, and find it a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The Highway of Holiness is so clearly shown in this Travelers' Guide that a way-faring man though a fool need not err there in.

To the impenitent sinner God's law speaks with all the power and authority of Sinai, inspiring with awe and fear. While the truly penitent one finds in it a city of refuge and escapes the wrath to come.

We voyagers over the sea of life, have a Chart marking all the ocean currents, shoals, sunken rocks and other dangers that lie before us. With Jesus as our Pilot we shall some happy day sail into the haven of eternal rest and cast anchor within the veil.

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Thus we are saved by faith and yet we read, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." And again, "the washing of water by the word." And, "Sanctify them through thy truth thy word is truth."

Man shall not live by bread alone, but this word of God becomes the spiritual manna for the Israel of God.

'Tis sweeter than the honey in the honey comb, and imparts power to prevail in prayer, (John 15:7.)

The Christian warrior, whose weapons are mighty through God, may wield the Sword of the Spirit and be like Joshua—"There shall no man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life." It is the fire and hammer and Heavenly dinomite that breaketh the rock in pieces bringing down the strong holds of Satan.

The good seed is the word of God, and he that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again bringing his sheaves with him.

The Bible has always been the Balm in Gilead to the mourning and broken hearts, and will continue to be the same until God Himself shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. Heaven and earth shall pass away but the word and will of God will be our guide even when we see Him as He is and are like Him; for His servants shall serve Him and His name shall be in their foreheads.

J. H. COY
E. C. SANDERS.

PERFECT YE PRESSING.

C. W. Ruth.

In Philippians, third chapter, and fourteenth verse, Paul says, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," and then says in the very next verse, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." While he included himself with such "as be perfect," doubtless referring to the perfection of love, he is still on the stretch for more. While he claims Christian perfection he is still pressing forward, and "reaching forth unto those things which are before."

Perhaps the greatest danger of all experience and taking for granted, that because of some past experience and marvelous manifestation of the Spirit in the past we are all right, thus settling down in a sort of complacent, self-satisfied condition. This is the beginning and explanation of much of the back-sliding of the day. One could not well backslide while pressing forward.

We need ever to remember that immobility is inconsistent with our being, either mentally, physically or spiritually: we must advance or retrograde; we will increase or decrease; we cannot stand still; and especially is this true in Christian life. In order to retain a clear and satisfactory heart experience there must be continual advance. It would prove fatal to regard any experience, however glorious, as a finality. Whatever the experience of the past, it should be regarded as preparatory to something better; as a stepping stone to higher altitudes of grace.

While one cannot grow into sanctification any more than one could grow into justification, seeing in either case it is a divine act—an act of God, divinely wrought—it is nevertheless true that after the heart has been fully cleansed from all sin, and been made holy, there is limitless and endless growth in grace, and continual advance in the deep things of God. Indeed, this is the condition and experience where the obstacles to growth have been removed, and progress may now be made by leaps and bounds.

Men frequently inquire, "If you were perfect, how could you grow?" We may illustrate by two children: One is deformed and diseased, while the other is perfectly formed and in perfect health; which of these two children would grow most rapidly? Of course every one would say the one enjoying perfect health. We would answer, What perfect health is to the body Christian perfection is, to the soul; sin is a malady, a disease of the soul; holiness is a freedom from sin; wholeness, spiritual soundness, perfect soul health. A child may be just as perfectly form-

ed and enjoy as perfect health as does an adult, and yet continue to grow. But we must continually distinguish between growing in grace and growing into grace. As we cannot grow into pardon, no more can we grow into parity. A child can never grow clean.

But says one, "Suppose the child has grown to manhood, and so reached his full stature, how could such an one continue to grow?" Of course such an one could not continue to grow taller physically; and yet such an one would continue to grow in strength, in knowledge and in usefulness; while he may not have more avoirdupois, nor be larger physically, he nevertheless becomes a larger man as the years go by. Even so, after a heart has once been cleansed from all sin and perfected in love, it is perfect as to quality and therefore cannot be made more pure, yet such an one may increase in spiritual power and knowledge and usefulness, and continually receive more pure love in his pure heart, and so "grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

But it seems to me that the language of Paul denotes even more than would be implied by the term growth. He says, "I PRESS toward the mark." This denotes intensity; he is giving particular attention, and diligence, applying himself, and with consecration and concentration putting forth real effort to reach a certain goal. He doubtless has in mind the Olympian games and race-course, where every nerve and every energy is bent on winning the prize. There is a sense in which one may grow without much effort, but Paul has evidently caught a glimpse of some mountain peaks of Christian experience he has not yet attained, though he had obtained Christian perfection, and as though he were on the race-course, he presses toward the mark for the prize. This is evidently the lack and the need of many of our holy people today; instead of acting as though we lead all, we need to redouble our diligence, buckle the armor on a little tighter, and "press toward the mark for the prize."

What was this "prize" for which he made such strenuous effort? The context would imply that it was none other than a martyr's crown. Surely this would suggest to us a greater self-denial, self-abandonment, and self-sacrifice than many have yet known. Not only could he say, "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ," but also said, "Neither count I my life dear unto myself." Acts 20:24.

As one walks among the mountain peaks pointed out by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, such as, "Be filled with the Spirit," 5:18; "The fullness of Christ," 4:13; "Filled with all the fullness of God," 3:19; "Sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," 1:13; "A perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," 4:13; "The unsearchable riches of Christ," 3:8; "Holy and without blame," 1:4; and remember that in addition to all these, He is still "able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," 3:20, surely one must exclaim as did Joshua, after he had been in Canaan a number of years, and was old and stricken in years, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Joshua 13:1.—Christian Witness.

THE DYING MINISTER.

Burdened with years of labor, the old preacher lay upon his couch, waiting the summons of the messenger to call him across the river. Around him were gathered his children and brethren, ministering as far as they could to his every want. He lay silent for a time, when one of the watchers said, "He is going soon." Tears were flowing freely from many eyes. He roused

a little, murmuring something none could understand. "His mind wanders in the last hour," said one; "he seems to revive a little." "Raise my head," he said. "Is it time for the sermon? The lights are burning and the song seems to have died away. Well, my text, is from Jesus: 'In my Father's house are many mansions'—blessed words of promise. You poor lowly ones, who dwell in cabins, remember it is a mansion that awaits you; and you poor, waiting ones remember there are many of them. I promise my children to come home; but that mansion is my home. I'm too weary to preach long to-night, my brethren. What is that I hear? The music should not begin before the service is over. Strange voices, too—no, not strange, 'tis the wife of my early youth leading the choir,—yes, and mother, too! I can't preach. Let me lie down and rest." He opened his eyes. In them was a far away look. Raising his head solemnly, he said: "Let us pronounce the benediction. May grace, mercy, and peace abide—" an unintelligible murmur, and the hush of silence came, to be broken by the sighing of the watchers. The old preacher had preached his last sermon!

YACHT CORONET REPORTED.

The Steamship El Valle which recently arrived at New York from Galveston reports that while off Hatteras they spoke a small power boat who said they were from the Coronet which was near by short of provision. They also reported that the Coronets sails were torn and were being mended, while they went to Chesapeake Bay to obtain a supply of provision for those on board. While the five men in the power boat were not anxious to give had been on a long voyage, but would give no report as to where the boat was now bound. The men in the boat were supplied with provision to last until they might reach the shore. The boats power had given out and they were now making the trip with their sails.

CHEER UP.

Cheer up. The world is taking your photograph. Look pleasant. Of course you have your troubles; a whole lot of things bother you, of course. You find life a rugged road whose stones hurt your feet. Nevertheless cheer up.

It may be that your real disease is selfishness—ingrown selfishness. Your life is too self-centered. You imagine your tribulations are worse than others bear. You feel sorry for yourself—the meanest sort of pity. Rid yourself of that, and cheer up.

What right have you to carry a picture of your weebegone face and funeral ways about among your fellows, who have troubles of their own? If you must whine, or sulk, or scowl, take a car and go to the woods, or to unfrequented lanes.

Cheer up. Your ills are largely imaginary. If you were really on the brink of bankruptcy, or if there were no thoroughfare through your sorrows, you would clear your brows, set your teeth, and make the best of it.

Cheer up. You are making a hypothetical case out of your troubles and suffering from a self-inflicted verdict. You are borrowing trouble and paying a high rate of interest.

Cheer up. Why, in a ten-minute walk you may see a score of people worse off than you. And you are digging your own grave, and playing pallbearer into the bargain. Smile, even though it be through your tears, which speedily dry. And cheer up.—Methodist Protestant.

It is better to learn to still the spirit within than the storm without.

One of the gravest faults is to be blind to the virtues of others.