

Correspondence

Paulpietersburg, Natal,
Feb. 22nd., 1911.

At the home of the bridegroom, Hot Baths, Transvaal, on Feb. 17th., 3.30 P. M., an interesting wedding took place.

The contracting parties were Solomona Kumalo, one of our workers, and Kristina Fakude, of "Ekujabulem Mission," Swaziland.

Between four and five hundred, I should think, were present at the wedding. Four different societies being represented, namely, Lutheran, Westlyan, American Scandinavian and Reformed Baptist.

Both the bridegroom and bride were becomingly attired with the exception of the train of the latter.

After the ceremony was performed the brother of the bride lead in singing after which the writer took advantage of the splendid opportunity to give the people the gospel message. Petrosi Zondo followed with an exhortation. After singing again, the benediction was pronounced.

The believers of the different churches then entertained the crowd while the feast was being prepared. Dishes knives and forks had been procured and the table was set in Solomona's new stone hut, for the bridegroom, bride and her attendants.

As you no doubt are aware, it is not customary for white missionaries, in this country, to eat with natives, though the latter are Christians, so your humble servant was not invited to sit with them at the table until he told a friend of Solomona's to tell him he would do so on this occasion, if they so desired.

We noticed the bride was ill at ease as she did not know how to handle her knife and fork. The young girl who accompanied her to hold up her train did not attempt so difficult a task but used her fingers as usual in place of knife and fork.

Four goats had been killed and a good supply of food, porridge, potatoes and other dishes was brought by the friends of the contracting parties, so all present were fed but perhaps not satisfied.

After supper was over we got the believers together and again gave them the "Word of Life." Singing was then in order until well along in the night, then to give them a rest we again got as many workers together in Solomona's Hut as we could and gave them some lessons in the Bible. Thus we continued with them until break of day, as there were so many present that it was impossible to find them all a place to sleep. After the crowd had somewhat dispersed after day light, the writer found himself inclined to seek a resting place, though was not successful in sleeping.

About noon a number of unbelievers came to bring more food to the visitors and see the sights; so again we were lead to try to awaken within them a desire for the bread of life, by giving them the truth, and the Lord gave us liberty in talking to them of their needs and the great provision made through "Christ our Saviour."

In the afternoon we had a conference meeting and on Sunday morning communion service at which time two members were received into our church by letter, Kristina and Amoni, Solomona's brother.

Yours still in the war,
I. F. KIERSTEAD.

Paulpietersburg, Natal, S. A.,
March 7th., 1911.

Dear Highway;—

We had a real good day Sunday. The Lord blessed our souls as we talked to the people, and trust that all received new strength. How willing yea anxious our Father is to bestow his

blessing upon us when we keep in touch with Him.

We have had a very dry Summer with intense heat. When the glowing sun sets we have it sultry, which makes one feel rather depressed. There is scarcely a breath of air at night, so one is not well fitted for a new day with all its heat again.

The mealies are a poor crop all around us. The people fear a famine, even if we get rain soon it will not help the present crop much.

We are praying for "showers of blessings," a real refreshing from the Lord for our spiritual need as well as rain for this parched earth.

Please unite with us dear readers at the throne of grace for these.

Sunday, one of our pupils came with a man's shirt on, and asked me to sew him a pair of pants.

Today among my isicibi (pieces), I found enough to make him a pair. There are only eight pieces in them, and he will be delighted with his first pair if they are not a thing of beauty.

One of our young men began to "lobola" today with thirty goats. He hopes to marry in a few months.

Lidia will be married shortly also. One of our other girls hopes to take her work (of teaching) after reaping.

Watching in the gardens has begun so our pupils will get very little time for study before the amabele is reaped.

We need your daily prayers for physical health during this season, that we may be enabled to carry on the work for the Master.

Souls are perishing for the Bread of Life. Time is fleeing. Eternity will soon dawn. We must be at our best and work while it is yet day, and then we shall hear the "well done good and faithful servant," from the lips of our precious Redeemer.

Yours in His Service,
IDA M. KEIRSTEAD.

Paulpietersburg, Natal,
Feb. 17th., 1911.

Dear Girls and Boys;—

I think you would have been amused could you have been here on Tuesday when our young people, (twelve of them,) started away.

Each one had a bundle of clothes. Some carried blankets and sleeping mats. All who owned shoes carried them over their shoulders. One young man, the proud possessor of two pairs, carried them along. All their fine clothes are to be worn at the wedding of Solomona on Friday (today.) Others were to join them on the way, so I presume they will have a fine time.

Most of them carried umbrellas which they sorely needed in the afternoon, as we had a down-pour of rain, with a heavy hail-storm. The stones were very large. Eugene had a great time gathering them up after the storm. He had a large plate full,—most enough to make ice-cream.

Our boys at the station are getting along nicely now with their studies. It was very hard for them at first.

They sit beside a woman holding her baby, usually while she studies from the same chart.

She can only stay a month so I teach her afternoons as well as evenings.

There is much sickness among the children here. One small boy comes daily to get a bad wound dressed. Another child is brought for ear treatment.

Many others come for medicine for their izilonda (sores). This is really itch and nothing more. There is scarcely a child but has it more or less.

Now may the Lord bless you all.

With love,
IDA M. KIERSTEAD.

131 Waverly Ave., near Myrtle,
Brooklyn, N. Y.,
April 7th., 1911.

Dear Highway;—

It is my privilege to write to you and let you know how the battle is going with me; for truly there is no discharge in this war, and there can be no retreating from the great battle field of life. I am glad however that there is no necessity of us ever being defeated; for he who has on the whole armour, and follows the white flag of Holiness, and listens to the orders of his great leader shall be a conqueror, yea more than a conqueror. Bless the Lord. The armour that God gives is worth wearing, for it is most necessary. I am sure that the shield of faith is the most necessary thing in all the world; Paul says, now abideth faith, hope, and love; of course love is the supreme Christian grace; but faith always precedes love. Without faith there could be no love of Christ in the heart; and for love to remain in the heart, faith must be continually exercised. So faith is the shield of God's love in the heart, and love is the inspiration of faith, Glory to God.

Now faith is a shield from doubt; we read that whatsoever is not of faith is sin; but I am convinced that perfect faith believeth all things, and hopeth all things; that is all things which are right and proper to believe. We also read in the scriptures that we stand by faith; Now God is our shield that is the reason why we stand. A shield is something to be used for protection; so when doubts are suggested to us by Satan, when clouds seem to hang heavy, when thoughts of evil are presented, when temptations arise, we need to get behind God; and always put God first; and not try to battle with Satan ourselves but let him deal with God. Oh God is a high tower into which the righteous run and are safe! Thank the Lord. We read "that even Michael, the arch-angel, durst not bring against Satan a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." Let us continually live beneath the Blood; let us point always to the Blood; it was the Blood that flowed from Emmanuel's veins, that gave the enemy of our souls his death blow.

Yours in Christ,
F. T. WRIGHT.

Easton, Me.,
April 11th, 1911.

Dear Highway;—

My last letter reported the work at Sandford, N. S. I was glad for the privilege for having a day or two at home with my family. I went to Caribou, Me., on Friday, March 17th., but owing to a misunderstanding the meeting did not begin till Saturday night. There are a number of grand good Holiness people there and in the surrounding country, some as good people as I have ever met. They enjoy the sharp truth and live up to it. Praise God. The meeting started in good, but the great day came the last Sunday April 2nd. It certainly was a grand time. They talk about the fire falling and it certainly did in the afternoon service.

The weather conditions were against the meeting, we had real March weather. Between twenty five and thirty knelt at the altar and there was what seemed some definite cases of conversion and sanctification. To God be all the glory. Was kindly entertained in the home of Bro. G. H. Knox, the president of the Mission, and I pray that God may give us many young men in the Holiness movement such as he. It is hard times in Aroostook but the brethren did well on the finances.

I came home on the 4th. and had the privilege of listening to L. Milton Williams for two nights. I only wish it might have been longer. I am now at River de Chute, Easton, for a short time. Pray for me. Thank God for the blessing of "Full Salvation."

Yours in the Work,
P. J. TRAFTON.

FAITH.

By S. B. Charlton.

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithall shall we be clothed?"

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:31-33.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God," says Paul. And the disciples said; "Increase our Faith."

All who are the children of God readily admit that it was through the door of faith they received forgiveness of sins, and by faith they maintain their relationship with God. And here is the beginning and end of the faith of a great many.

Some in a nominal way acknowledge that God is their protector, but should misfortune overtake them they are at sea in regard to their faith along that line.

But praise God he has many dear children who can and do trust him at all times, and in all places in the shadows, as well as the sunshine.

This is the kind of faith that He desires all His children to have. To take Him into every phase of every day life.

The verses quoted above from Christ's sermon on the mount, have staggered the faith of, no doubt, all Christians sometime in their christian life, before they learned that they had a never failing friend at their side to aid them at any and all times.

With many it seems to be beyond the reach of their faith all the way along.

Let us take the liberty to transpose these verses from the sense here used to a purely business sense, and apply it to the business men of large interests, and see if it will not help us to a better understanding of it. And not only to a better understanding of it, but to a firmer determination to put God to the test and apply the rule laid down in these verses to our every day life and experience.

Therefore take no thought etc, (for after all these things do the poor laborer seek.)

But seek ye first to keep your store well stocked with saleable goods, giving your customers courteous treatment and full value for their money. Look well after your collections and have few bad accounts, so that you will have a good balance to your credit at the bank, and all these things added unto you.

The merchant who follows this rule will not have to worry over where the next barrel of flour is coming from, or how he will be able to get another pair of boots to replace the ones that are now in wear, as the poor man next door, whom fortune has not favored, but when these articles are needed will only have to give his order over the phone perhaps, and the goods will be sent at once to his home.

Now this is what Christ means when he says take no thought. Have the same faith in me that the business man has in his business.

Be as anxious to please me as he to please his customers. Be as desirous that God's righteousness should be maintained in your life as the merchant is to maintain his credit at the bank, and all the necessary incidentals of life SHALL be added unto you.

The man spoken of did not have to give one moment's thought as to where the things necessary for his daily food and clothing were coming from. He has larger things to think of. By a strong faith in his business when properly attended to and an equally strong faith in himself that

he will give it diligent attention, he knows these other things will follow as a matter of course.

So let us exercise that same faith in God.

God has a large bank and a commodious storehouse, and we, his children can have all we need for the asking. We needn't want. He does not promise to supply all our wants. He says "Ask and ye shall receive," but He must be the Judge as to what our needs are, and so we must always supplement our petitions with "not as I will but as thou wilt."

And herein lies our faith. Let us ask and believe God for great things, and like Abraham of old "Stagger not at the promises of God through unbelief—but be fully persuaded that what he had promised he was able also to perform." Rom. 4:20, 21.

INSANITY AND RELIGION.

It has been frequently asserted that cases of insanity and other mental afflictions are very often caused by religion. Dr. A. B. Richardson, in charge of the hospital in the state of Ohio, gives evidence, however, of a very different character. He says:

"There are only two patients in this hospital whose insanity has any relation to religion, and I think, from their predisposition to insanity, that they would probably have become insane on some other subject, if they had not on religion. Now, if you had asked me how many people in Ohio are kept by religion from insanity and out of these hospitals, you would have given me a question hard to answer, for they are a multitude. The good cheer, bright hopes, rich consolations, good tempers, regular habits, and glad songs of religion are such an antidote for the causes of insanity that thousands of people in Ohio are preserved from insanity by them. But for the beneficent influence of religion, Ohio would have to double the capacity of her hospitals in order to accommodate her insane patients."

That is pretty straight talk.

HOW TO PRAY—

NOT LIMITING GOD.

"They limited the Holy One of Israel."—(Ps. lxxviii. 41).

"He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."—(Matt. xiii. 58.)

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"—(Gen. xviii. 14).

"Ah, Lorb God! Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power; there is nothing too hard for Thee. Behold, I am the Lord; is there anything too hard for Me?"—Jer. xxxii. 17, 27).

Beware, in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Except unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, of how He delights to hear Christ, of your place in Christ, and expect great things.—Rev. Andrew Murray.

There are people who criticise the church for not coming up to the standard, who have not come up to it themselves. The church can come up to the divine standard only as individuals come up to it. It is every man's duty to be what he believes the church as a whole should be.—Exchange.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The next Quarterly meeting of District No. 3, will be held with the church at Seal Cove, Grand Manan, beginning Thursday, April 27th., and continuing over the following Sunday.

By Order of Committee.

It is only definite prayers that bring definite answers.