

CORRESPONDENCE.

PAULPIETERSBURG, Natal, South Africa,  
Nov. 18th, 1904.

Dear Friends,—Feeling it will be interesting to you for me to tell you a little about the girls I have had for servants, I will begin. You all remember what I have written about u Lina, the one we brought with us when we came from Tabamhlope. She has been driven away from her own kraal and is now living with one of her father's wives at Tabamhlope (her father is dead.) She has stood all sorts of persecution well and is truly a bright example of what the power of the cross will do for even these dark heathen.

The next to come to us was one from that kraal at the Pongola river where all want to believe. For nine months she was with us, learned to read and seemed to have a bright deep experience but hers is not so strong a character as u Lina's. She had been promised to a heathen man, by her brother, when she had not yet gotten her growth. She never liked him, never consented to marry him. We told her the law of the land would help her if she went to court as no girl can be compelled by her people to marry one she does not want. But her brother beat her and likely otherwise ill-treated her so when the case came off she consented to all her brother wished. She still comes to meetings but things look very dark for her in the future as she will live far away across the river among heathen with little or no chance of attending any religious services. She needs our united prayers that amid all she may be kept from backsliding.

u Nomacala, my next servant came to us in rather a strang way. It was when we were buying thatch grass for the house she with several other girls came to sell some bundles of it and we learned her story. Her own mother died when she was very small, but her father drove her and one of his wives away from his kraal so for some years she had been living with this woman at a kraal not so far from us. This woman married another man. Being fond of roving u Nomacala came to stop a while with some of the girls at a kraal on our farm. We asked her to come and work with us we would give her food, clothing and something else beside each month. She rapidly learned to read, bought a testament, speller and hymn book and seemed very anxious to follow Jesus but never seemed to be clear as to having sins forgiven. One day she asked to visit her people and we have not seen her since. Nor do her people know where she is. A night or two after she came home to them, she rolled up her sleeping mat and just ran away. Poor child the devil has drawn her back. Please pray she may yet return. She is a promising girl and I believe the truths and texts learned may cause her to return. I might add she came while u Gabisili was with us and I think her relenting and going the way her brother wished her to helped this child to go back.

For a time we had three girls u Gabisili, u Nomacala and u Lydia. They hoed up our garden breaking up the ground as we have no oxen nor plow of our own.

u Lydia, you remember is one of our baptized girls. She is really our stondest Christian and has a good solid experience. Nothing pleases her better than to tell of Jesus to those passing by and I think she has the record of talking to more people than any other class member.

After u Gabisili and u Nomacala went away u Lydia was alone for several weeks staying on after her people wanted her to return home to help them plant. One day quite unexpected, a professing Christian girl came to work for us. Her home is far away in the Transvaal. Many months ago her father was passing by and, as he is a preacher, we invited him to take part in the Sunday services which he did. He was quite sick and Dr. Sanders perscribed for him. On his return home he began to improve and the medicine running out he sent two of his daughters for more. So lately another daughter u Katie came to tell us her father was about well and she wanted to stay and work. It seemed quite in answer to our prayers for the needed help. She consented to our terms and began work. In a day she was not satisfied. Things did not suit her and she left us early Saturday morning with no one to even carry water from the spring, as

u Lydia had returned home. For several days we were without a girl. Now we have a new one whose home is on our farm.

u Nomasonta (Sunday) has for a long time wanted to be a Christian but, being betrothed to a heathen man who is opposed to letting his people believe, her father also refused to let her come here. However these are her own words. "If I should die where would my soul go? Could my husband save me or help me? I will believe and tell my husband (he told her if she did believe he would turn her away from him and her father must return the nine cattle he had paid for her) if he wants to drive me away a light I will go and will find a man who believes and ask him to give the cattle you have paid to my father for me." So you see she seems to be getting ready to face the hard times that seem to be ahead of her. She has already begun to study and seems very anxious to follow Jesus. Hers is another case for earnest prayer. It means much to face persecution beating and expulsion from home as well as leaving all the sins behind. These girls are bound by what their fathers or guardians say. It really is the matter of cows. So many girls are betrothed when very young. Often to old men who already have many wives and grown up children as old or older than these prospective brides. Until the girl is grown up she lives with her father but often is married quite young. The women and girls have no say of their own they must obey the fathers and brothers of the kraal and their own wishes are so often never consulted. If, when the time comes, the girl refuses to marry this man her father has chosen she is beaten until she consents. So when the cows have been given these old heathen fathers fear if their betrothed daughters believe they may not want to marry heathens and the cattle will have to be returned. Thus, you see one of our difficulties in preaching the Gospel to this people. We give them the words of Jesus, help and encourage them to obey God first and leave them to decide for themselves, but there are many knotty questions to solve that calls for more wisdom than we possess but God is equal to them all and more too. You will see that our influencing girls thus will make us unpopular with the heathen. Yes, it does, but they know we are right. They all are afraid of death and the great unknown is a terror to them so when we tell them what the Bible assures us they wonder and want to turn away from their sins but say "we are bound." O it is sadly true. Bound by Satan but Jesus came to set the captives free so let us haste to help them.

Yours in His service,  
E. SANDERS.

PAULPIETERSBURG, Natal, Nov. 14th 1904.

Dear Highway.—Yesterday just before our morning meeting a passing native drew our attention to what he called a "place of death," and added, "how is it they don't shoot the cattle Monday instead of Sunday?" There was our Boer neighbor's head of cows and young cattle, more than twenty head, being driven to their grave. Soon the sharp reports of a revolver was heard and we could see the defenceless cattle fall one by one. The oxen, except five which had died of "tick fever" were shot in another place.

Though government gives full compensation for all cattle killed in these cases, yet now these our neighbors are without their usual milk, butter and means of transport, plowing etc. We pity them in their severe trial. I may add that all this killing of healthy cattle is to try and prevent the disease from spreading. Government is very strict now as not until recently has this cattle sickness crossed from the Transvaal into Natal. Thus far only two farms are known to be infected.

This Boer will now, I presume buy donkeys to replace his oxen as they are not subject to the diseases that attack cattle and horses. Though with great care, horses will live in this district. Some one will now say, "but where are the oxen for the M. M. Station?" We reply that they have not yet been bought, and as oxen may not do transport in this immediate neighborhood, we must wait or buy, probably donkeys.

The shooting was soon over and all day long a company of natives kept a fire, cooking and eating the meat they were not allowed to take away.

We were rejoiced in the service to see two of our girls who, we had heard, had gone back to their heathen ways. Replying to our enquiries they said that our informant had "gamba amauga" invented lies.

A further joy was the welcoming back of u Elizabetha, one of our baptized girls. She has been for six months working for the owner of the farm on which is her home. In answer to questions she said, "yes, there was a place of worship but my white man refused to let me attend. I prayed every day and did not forsake my Saviour."

This is the second one of our first converts who has stood a six months test without the privilege of attending any meetings. The other girl said that her white man also tried to induce her to drink beer saying that if she refused he would shoot her with his rifle. This man though high in his church buys beer from the natives, not considering it any harm.

It is encouraging to notice how well our black lambs stand such tests, for we know that God will have a tried people, and his good things are promised to the overcomers.

Yours in His service,  
H. C. SANDERS

MILLVILLE, N. B. Dec. 22nd 1904.

Dear Highway.—I must hasten to report myself before your editor reminds me of my duty.

Coming home November the 21st to spend one night, I hurriedly packed up again for Boston where a dear friend Mother Hayes" (for this she was to me) was patiently awaiting my coming as she is nearing the home land. Those days spent with her were full of profit and rich blessing for such a saint of God cannot but strengthen and encourage any coming in contact with her, indeed her very presence is an inspiration. She never lets an opportunity slip even in her extreme weakness and intense suffering of working for the master, as she expresses it. "I haven't time for anything else my stay will be so short here." So she patiently awaits the bridegroom.

I had the pleasure of speaking at the Evangelist church at Everett, on missionary work, to an appreciative audience, also at the Pentecostal church at Haverhill. Though a stranger there, I felt at home even among a house full of people who were filled with the spirit. They are pushing the work there for God and holiness and having good results.

Sister Jessie Hooper who has passed through many battles in dark India occupied a seat on the platform, was also invited to speak at the Highland Avenue Congregational Church, Somerville, at their missionary meeting. The pastor thoughtfully changed the meeting from afternoon to evening in order to have a larger congregation, which we had, who listened with much interest. They gave evidence of their appreciation after the meeting in a very substantial manner, as did the other churches. Met one young lady at the meeting who is shortly to train for a nurse preparatory for missionary work in Africa. The Lord bless her. She had a deep sense of that important work and one looking into her shining face could not doubt her sincerity and call to the work.

After three weeks stay with Mother Hayes, I made short visits with friends at Lowell, Waterville and Bangor, enjoyed meeting these dear ones. Arrived home Wednesday 21st.

Wishing all your readers a bright and happy New Year with greater victories than they have ever known. May the coming year find each one of us at our very best for the master, with more courage and greater faith for the work that is before us.

Yours saved and kept by power desire,  
I. M. MORGAN.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Dec. 19th, 1904.

Dear Highway,—I feel so happy in knowing that my sins are forgiven and that it is well with my soul, that I have decided to express myself in your columns. Never was the wideness of God's mercy more apparent to me than it has been in the last month or two. I never fully realized his undying love until he saw fit to lay a detaining hand upon me, and in the midst of my wandering to bring me low before Him, where I was gently reminded of my sin and trespassing and brought to repent and seek His face, and now I feel happy and safe in the light of His favor. I desire the prayers of his saved ones that I may progress in grace, and do all in my power to forward his kingdom.

Yours with Hope,  
PERCY B. MAXON.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Reformed Baptist Quarterly Meeting of the second district convened with church at Lutz mountains N. B. Dec. 13th to 16th. The meeting was opened on Tuesday evening with preaching by the Rev. F. H. Grass of Westchester N. S., Wednesday was a day of great blessing, and victory. In the morning service one precious soul claimed salvation. Preaching in the evening by the Rev. M. S. Trafton.

On Thursday morning 10.30 o'clock a. m. prayer and social meeting led by brother A. J. McPherson of Millstream. At 2.30 p. m. service led by the Rev. F. H. Grass with blessing and victory. In the evening Rev. M. S. Trafton spoke with power and great conviction rested upon the people, from the words found in Hebrews 11: 24-25.

Friday at 10.30 a. m. the first business meeting of the convention was called to order by the President Rev. Z. B. Grass opened with prayer by Brother McPherson. Rev. F. H. Grass was elected President for ensuing year. W. B. Maddison, secretary and Brother Oliver Trites, treasurer, Highway agent, Rev. M. S. Trafton. The report of the last quarterly meeting was read by F. H. Grass as Brother M. E. Pugsley was not present, report accepted as read.

REPORT OF CHURCHES.

Lutz Mountain church reported, our church is in better condition than has been in the past. God has wonderfully blessed since the last quarterly meeting. The work looks prosperous for the future. God is working and victory will surely come. The Lord has also blessed us with a new pulpit set, and lamps. Brother Z. B. Grass, pastor, preaches to us every Sunday morning and afternoon. God has blessed his labours and we esteem him very highly for his works sake. He is not only appreciated by us but by all those that have the privilege of listening to him.

St. John's church reported by pastor Rev. M. S. Trafton to be in good spiritual condition, souls seeking salvation and occasionally five or six at the altar. We have a good missionary society, meetings once a month. Brother Trafton gave us some good thoughts on missionary and Sunday school work which was encouraging and helpful. Brother A. J. McPherson gave a report of the work at Millstream. He says the Lord is doing great things for the people there since our last quarterly gathering. Brother A. H. Trafton has done a great work, souls were saved, and sanctified. We have no sabbath school at present but expect to have one in the near future. We have a bible class, and God gives us seasons of refreshing. There are about twelve of us ready to organize into a body as soon as the Lord opens the way. Holiness is acknowledged by the unsaved to be the only religion worth having. So the dear Lord will bless, if we keep true to him. Praise his name.

2.30 p. m. afternoon session opened with prayer by Brother Boyle and Sister Harrop the minutes of the preceeding meeting was read and accepted. A report was then called for from Brother M. S. Trafton in regard to the Mercer Settlement district. He reported that he had visited Mercer Settlement two weeks ago, and found things in the flourishing condition about 30 or 40 professing religion of which about 20 were new converts. Rev. A. H. Trafton expected to have baptism last Sunday, and that was the reason he could not attend our convention. Rev. A. H. Trafton has been labouring at Mercer Settlement and the vicinity of Norton for about seven weeks and God has blessed his efforts.

Moncton church reports victory; the work is moving along grandly. Strangers coming into our meeting to listen to holiness preaching. There seems to be many hungry souls for this full salvation. We have a beautiful sabbath school with large attendance, both young and old, are much helped by the exercises on the black board given by Brother Geo. Harrop. We are having calls from different families to get their children into our school. Two years ago there was not a boy to be found in school, but to day we can count twenty five. Praise God for what he is doing. The children are not all gathered in yet, but we are doing what we can to gather them in.

Amherst reports difficulties in the way but God is helping the few to stand fast.

Spring Hill reported by Rev. Z. B. Grass. About ten or twelve organized in a band, Brother Brace is the leader and God is blessing their efforts. Sacrament administered by Rev. Z. B. Grass last week. Interest increasing. If some teacher would take up the work and get into the homes, the work of God would be a grand success.

Westchester church reported. We as a church are on the victory side, Praise God. The Lord is wonderfully blessing us in saving precious souls. We appreciate Brother F. H. Grass, he has preached the word in all its purity and God has blessed it. The young people are very attentive listeners. The people are coming from mountain and valley to our meeting. Our school is increasing in interest and number. Pray for our school.

This is the spirit of oneness existing between pastor and all the members of this church. Bless God that we can have the prayer of our Saviour fulfilled when he prayed that we might all be one.

Thompson reported by Bro. F. H. Grass regular services on Sunday and through the week. No pastor but God is blessing them. Rev. Z. B. Grass moved that an invitation be given Rev. A. H. Trafton to come this way and assist in the work in different places. Carried by an unanimous vote.

Quarterly meeting by laws drawn by committee, Rev. M. S. Trafton, Rev. F. H. Grass and M. E. Pugsley. Read and received.

Moved that the place for next quarterly meeting stand open at present. Carried. Moved by Rev. Z. B. Grass that Bro. A. F. Tanner be recognized as one of us, and that we grant him an exhorters license; seconded by Rev. M. S. Trafton. Carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was also tendered to the people of this vicinity for their kindness in entertaining the friends and delegates. Meeting closed with prayer.

The evening service was opened at 7. p. m. Bro. Trafton spoke of the disadvantage of our Missionary Bro. and Sister Sanders not having anyway of conveyance and gave an invitation to any one who wanted to give towards the purchase of cart and oxen, for which he received quite a sum, which we expect will be given in full through the HIGHWAY. Rev. M. S. Trafton then spoke from Phil 3-7.8. The power of God was manifest by the deep conviction that rested on the meeting. A number was at the altar some were reclaimed and some regenerated. Our Quarterly Meeting was a great blessing to church and vicinity. To God be all the glory.

W. B. MADDISON, Sec.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR VOWS?

"Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the most High."

Did you carry out your resolutions for 1904?

Very many should say with the prodigal "I will arise and go to my Father."

The Greek word for sanctification literally means to "take the earth out of us."—Sel.

"I used to be an 'odd job Christian,' but now I am working full time."—Sel.

"Remember that you are bound to do all those duties for the doing of which you have prayed for the divine assistance."—Sel.

However things may seem, no evil thing succeeds, and no good thing is a failure. Trust men, and they will be true to you; treat them greatly, and they will show themselves great.

NO TIME TO PRAY.

"No time to pray!"

Oh, who so fraught with earthly care As not to give to humble prayer Some part of day?

"No time to pray!"

'Mid each day's dangers, what retreat More needful than the mercy-seat?

Who need not pray?

"No time to pray!"

Must care or business' urgent call So press us as to take it all,

Each passing day?

What thought more drear Than that our God His face should hide, And say, through all life's swelling tide, "No time to hear!"

—Selected.