

January 30, 1913.

Missionary Correspondence.

Missionary corr....

Paulpietersburg, Natal, So. Af.,
November 19th, 1912.

Dear Bro. and Sister Baker,

The first rains to be sufficient to moisten the soil fell a few days ago and then only just enough to begin with. Two months late, so the summer season is shortened for some crops such as peanuts, izendhlubu (ground bean) and amabele or Kaffir corn. The country has had the most drought for, some say, seventy years. Famine, that may result in loss of life, is being felt by thousands of people in a large tract of country some few hundreds of miles from us and the government must help them at once, and for months to come. Though the rains have fallen the season is too short there to ripen their slow growing corn. That part of country, including Pondoland, Tembuland and other districts, is more for raising stock than anything else, and lately within the past eighteen months and more the Tick or east coast fever has been sweeping away these in great numbers, so now they have little or nothing to buy food with, and getting corn transported inland is most difficult, owing to the stringent laws to prevent the spread of the fever. It is said ten thousand natives are starving even now, having to live on roots, etc. others say a million natives are involved. Here in this district, though food is high and the people are moving about from place to place in quest of it, still they do not know famine as the people spoken of above. Then, too, although scarce to what they were years ago, there are some cattle and quite a number of flocks of goats, so these people can help themselves for a time at least, though here and there we do find a very needy family with nothing to buy with.

Between us and Durban, less than three hundred miles, the drought has also been very bad. Cattle have died and lots of sheep for want of water or because the pasture is so poor. Farmers have killed off their lambs so as to save the ewes, and others have had to haul water five miles to water their stock. In some places water has even been sold for two cents per pail.

Knowing all this, how precious seems our Father's care of us! We have a small boiling spring that has never been known to go dry, and from its overflow we can irrigate two acres or more for orchard and garden. We have had abundance of vegetables, even able to supply three families with sixty pounds per week, besides enough for the two families here.

When Brother and Sister Kierstead returned, they remarked they had seen nothing like it since leaving Durban. To us it seems like an oasis in the desert. All about us the hills that should have been a lovely green were a greenish brown and growing browner every day before our late rains. And the people's garden spots, just barren patches of ground. Such surroundings made our garden seem even a richer green.

Today I was having a little Bible Class with Lydia, Losilind and Tabita giving them the history of Children of Israel up to the time of King Saul's death. His visit to the witch of Endor appealed to them, for so much of that is done all over Africa.

Several times I have started to tell you a little about how I am appreciating the furniture you got for us. Beside the convenience it

gives our little home an air of comfort and the work in keeping it tidy is greatly simplified. So many times I have thanked the Lord for everything. The stove is such a beauty, everything that could be desired. The tank was damaged near the top so it leaks if filled full. This was owing to insufficient crating as the part damaged (bent) was never protected, a single slat would have saved it. Everything else is O. K. It is such a comfort in every way and the first good stove for baking I ever had. The tank and warming closet are in continual requisition and help me more than I can tell. I thank you and praise the Lord for all these blessings.

Brother and Sister Kierstead came back over two weeks ago. It seems so nice to have neighbors who are like folks at home. He is going to see if he cannot help the men who are constructing the branch of railroad from Vryheid to Piet Retief. Poor men! The majority of them spend all their wages in drink, and so far no one has done any work among these hundreds of white men. No meetings nor a helping hand to keep them from going to destruction. We are hoping and praying that Brother Kierstead may get a hold on them and save some anyway. It will be some months yet e'er the road is completed. Oh there are so many openings in this land for work. One could also invest a good many hundreds of the Lord's money in the different branches of the work in Africa.

May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you this Xmas and may He use you for himself.

Yours in Jesus,
MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

This was written as a private letter but will be interesting to all of our people.—Ed.

Paulpietersburg, Natal,
December 7th, 1912.

Dear Highway,—

We got back to our station a few weeks ago and as we were not greatly needed there I have taken up work among the navvies on the new line being constructed from Vryheid to Piet Retief. These men are greatly in need of some one to take an interest in them and give them the Gospel. Many of them have been in good positions and are intelligent, but have gone down through strong drink. Even now some are earning £1 a day, but waste it all at the bar.

I am holding services here three times a month in the Court House, then out on the line as I have opportunity. Am trying to get literature of an uplifting character to distribute among them and shall be grateful if any of our people at home can assist us along this line.

We are having rooms fitted here and I expect Mrs. Kierstead and the boys will join me shortly and this will be our headquarters at Paulpietersburg village for a few months. We will pay £2 a month rent here. Also I have had to buy a horse for the work, but I hope these extra expenses will be met by the people of the village who attend our services. However, we are trusting the Lord to supply our needs in some way. I still have opportunity to do some work among the natives. Some time ago we stopped with a chief all night over in the Transvaal, and he called in his people for us to have prayers with them night and morning. Also this week we had a service with natives under a waggon while waiting for a shower to pass by.

As I have opportunity, I assist the Scandinavian missionary here, who is a good and faithful worker.

I am fully persuaded that the Lord has led us to this needy field for the present. May we still hope for your support and prayers?

We are having plentiful showers of rain here now, but everything is very backward because of the long drought. Corn cut at our station sells at £1 10s. a sack, which is three times the usual price. We pay £1 5s. here at the village, and there will be nearly five months yet before new corn can be raised and bought.

May the Lord bless you all in your souls and work, and may he lead us all still closer to the Rock which is higher than we.

Yours in His glad service,
I. F. KIERSTEAD.

THE CROWNING DAY.

BY A. F. TANNER.

Wherefore, comfort ye one another with
these words.—1 Thess., 4, 18.

O, Hark, it is the trump of God,
The angel's voice we hear,
In majesty and glory now,
Our Saviour doth appear.

He leaves His Mediatoral Throne,
From heaven to earth He comes,
And gathers all His ransomed ones
To their eternal home.

The sleeping saints shall hear that Voice,
And answer to the call.
Come forth, are changed, caught up to be
Forever with the Lord.

Lift up your heart, lift up your Voice,
Ye ransomed of the Lord!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again Rejoice!
Forever with the Lord.

Forever! Oh, that precious word,
What comfort it doth bring!
Forever with our blessed Lord,
Our great eternal King.

Then let each raptured tongue proclaim,
His fullest praise make known.
All praise and glory to His Name,
All glory to the Lamb.

LIQUOR AND LIFE INSURANCE.

Dr. G. H. Heald, in a recent issue of "Life and Health," mentions a striking instance of the benefits of total abstinence in the matter of life insurance.

A certain life insurance company doing business in New York, he states, has since 1900 kept a separate record of abstainers insured in the abstinence department of the company. These total abstinence policies each year draw increased dividends, which materially reduce the cost of insurance.

It may be explained that many insurance companies issue annual dividends or refund-based upon the actual gains of the companies, resulting from the fact that the actual mortality is less than the calculated mortality shown in the tables. In the temperance department of this company, as in others, it is found that the dividend or amount returned to the policyholders is considerably larger than it is in the general department, because the actual mortality in that department is less proportionately than in the general department.