

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland,
Paulpietersburg,
Natal, South Africa,
February 20th, 1917.

Dear Friends:

You have lost a willing worker in the death of Dan, the horse Mr. Kierstead left with us when he went home.

Dr. Sanders took a trip across the Pongola on Sunday, returning that night. Dan seemed as well as ever till Wednesday after class when he ran down the little hill towards his stable and went in it. We then found he was sick and though we tried all we could to save him, in about two hours he was dead. We feel we have lost a friend. He was always so faithful, gentle and a great help in our work.

Shalaza, a young man, son of one of the most influential head men about here (in that he is sort of a magistrate for native small court cases) is dead. Years ago, when our work here had well begun, he was a most earnest seeker, and I believe, was converted. But the lure of the pleasures and riches of the world were too much for him and drew him back in sin. His ambition was to have a kraal of his own, with many wives. This was easier for him to obtain than others because of his father's position under government (his influence) and his wealth.

Just a little while before he died he came here and I had quite a talk with him. It was much the same, as I had so often spoken to him since our return from home and found he no longer cared to follow Jesus. This time, however, it seemed to me his heart was a bit tender and I urged him not to let earthly things hinder him from getting right with God before it was too late. How little I thought it was my last chance! How often it is so with us in our daily work!

Negotiations have been begun for the purchase of Balmoral but it will be a week or so before they are completed. We are indeed grateful to you each and everyone who have contributed towards its purchase, and trust you may never be sorry for your bargain.

The outlook for crops is rather dark for this coming season but we will hope for the best.

Our work goes on much the same as usual, fairly good congregations, but from now till after harvest, watching the gardens will make many stay away. Two promising young men have lately said they wish to leave us for other churches. One feels his importance so much; he thinks the salary offered him by another more suitable to him than what we give. Another returned to drinking beer and will not give it up even when shown his wrong, so he likely will join a church where he can drink when he chooses.

These cases sadden but do not discourage us. But we do need your constant prayers that we keep steady and true, no matter what the tests.

It gladdens our hearts when we hear the bright testimonies of those who are serving God the best they know, who do have a genuine bright experience. We are encouraged when we know of the work

our evangelists are doing and that God's blessing rests upon our work.

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

Hartland is the name of the P. O. here which we have had lately. No salary goes with it, but the mail carrier is paid and this we always did ourselves.—E. S.

Balmoral M. S., Hartland,
Natal, South Africa,
March 22, 1917.

Dear Highway:

My heart was rejoiced Sunday, at our Communion service across the Pongola. A native man, between forty and fifty years of age, was the first to speak in our testimony meeting, and he stated his purpose of leaving the darkness of heathenism for the light of the gospel of Christ. Our converts are mostly young people and women. Only perhaps one in fifty is a man, as men are so hard to win. We therefore rejoice over this triumph of the gospel.

Our native workers are all pressing the battle in true native style—a slow, lazy way, but with good results. One drawback at this time of the year is the watching of the kaffir corn gardens from the birds. But, in spite of this, our people managed to gather for worship, especially for Communion.

The Natal Missionary conference met in Durban the second instant, to discuss the Natives' Land Act. This is a very important bill as it claims to bring in marked changes for our native population.

Protests were sent to Government by our Conference in unison with many other societies, missionary and otherwise, so that the passing of the bill has been postponed for a year, awaiting further investigations.

This bill, among other things, proposes to set aside for purely native use seventeen million acres of land in addition to the twenty million already given under the act of 1913.

Our Mission Station is in the center of one of these proposed native locations. This bill also proposes laws to compel part of the natives now living on the farms of Europeans to leave their present abodes; then these new native reserves will be the only open door before them. The natives, on these reserves, would have the privilege of becoming real land owners. But yet they prefer, mostly, to remain as and where they are. Even the educated natives oppose the bill, thinking their race will rise faster if left thus scattered among the European farmers.

The Europeans desire the natives to remain on these farms and furnish cheap labour; while those concerned object to devoting so much good land to the use of natives who will not properly cultivate it.

The whole question is a great one, and fraught with the possibility of great consequences.

At Durban, Mrs. Sanders and I met many missionaries, renewing old acquaintances, and forming new ones.

The city is swarming with soldiers from England and Australia. While on the train we met some recently returned from German East. The greatest difficulty they found there was the unhealthy climate.

While crossing low swampy sections, many fell victims to malaria fever. We met a trained nurse soon to sail for Europe, where she has two brothers at the front.

But I suppose you know the condition in South Africa. There is the British loyal element, ready for service in German East or Europe.

The native races are loyal as a whole, and are helping in gifts. A contingent was raised and sent to France to act as labourers. They are well fed, clothed and seem to be a success. One naturally feels that the natives should help in such a national crisis. In a recent collision on the English Channel, six hundred natives were drowned, only two hundred being rescued. The natives being so ignorant and superstitious, may not understand and take this loss well. But we must hope for the best.

Germans in this country, even missionaries, are doing what they can to make the natives discontented. But nothing alarming has yet developed. On board this sunken vessel was a medical missionary we know, Dr. Herslet, formerly of the S. A. G. M. We were glad to see his name among the rescued.

Whereas South Africa has so little manufacturing, we are dependant on imports. For this reason the prices of most all goods are very high, and yet England is the country furnishing us largely with clothing, blankets, cotton and woolen cloth, and leather goods, etc. One wonders now, with conditions so abnormal, England can still compete with U. S. A., Canada and Japan in this market.

We had a goodly number at our mid-week prayer meeting yesterday afternoon. All the great world wide turmoil does not affect our missionary work. In fact, these ignorant natives know almost nothing of what is going on in Europe. They inquire if the war is likely to come here, and then settle back in their old ruts, and all their world goes on as it always has, except as the leaven of the gospel is working among them, surely, silently, swiftly lifting the whole race and separating a few to be His own peculiar people. One of our workers reports yesterday that two more kraals had opened their gates to the gospel. One by one they come to us, but constantly, and it is our privilege to lead them up to Him "who taketh away the sin of the world." Pray that our labour be not in vain in the Lord.

Yours in Him,
H. C. SANDERS.

"True piety never becomes popular."

"Eternity cannot straighten a crooked day."

"It matters not how long we live, but how well."

"No poverty is unendurable except poverty of the soul."

"No cloud can o'ershadow the Christian in which his faith may not discern a rainbow."

"True nobility is shown by gentle consideration and courtesy to all, no matter what their place in life."