

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,

Paulpietersburg, Natal,
So. Africa, Dec. 27th, 1917.

There are so many things I should like to write about to you and Sister Baker I shall only get a little written I am sure.

Herbert has sent you a very concise account of our Christmas. It is all there without embellishments but I do wish you could have seen the crowd—over 340—and a great many of them were heathen too. None of our church members from across the Pongola River got here. The river has been so full of water this year it has been dangerous to cross nearly all the time and many people have been drowned in attempting it. I doubt if Herbert will be able to get to his appointment there next Sunday. There is no bridge for foot passengers over it at all in this district except a R. R. bridge. We thought there was one by the R. R. but there is not. Everybody must ford it and when in flood it is high and swift and very dangerous as often boulders are carried down by it.

Our church could not hold all the people who would like to have come to the first testimony meeting on Xmas Day. Possibly 125 got in. It was a good meeting and some of the testimonies showed growth in grace. One woman who started to serve Jesus very lately, spoke well. There has been a marvellous change in the community since we came here and the people behaved well indeed, gave signs of gratitude for all. We will likely have many more new ones coming to church as the result. Some goats and hens were given by the people. We gave a goat and a half and 110 lbs of corn, which was nicely prepared in imitation of rice. Quite an assemblage of pots out of doors to cook all this food. Quite a time to dish it up, put in dishes and place before the hungry crowd who were seated in groups according to age, sex and station (either Christian or heathen), so it really was very interesting.

Paul is home for holidays. He did well while at school and we hope will make great strides ahead this next term.

We are all rejoiced at the taking of Jerusalem. Wonderful to be living in such days when prophecy is being so rapidly fulfilled. How strange Russia, one of the latest oppressors of the Jews, should be in such an unhappy state and Britain, the Jews' friend, should be so honored. I am looking for more marvellous things to take place. I can't but believe we shall have victory. What an awful catastrophe at Halifax. We are all so shocked and wonder if any of our friends were in it. Well, God is blessing us in our work, blessing us in our home and blessing us daily in our lives. To him be all the glory.

Yours in Jesus,

Thanks! The books arrived safely and all are so pleased. I tell you we make the house ring.

MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

Note.—We are giving our readers the benefit of this private letter, as we know hundreds will be interested and much pleased with it.—Editor.

"WITHOUT HOLINESS NO MAN SHALL
SEE THE LORD."

By Dr. H. C. Morrison, Editor of the Pentecostal Herald.

The passage at the head of this column claims the serious attention of every thoughtful man and woman who hopes to make heaven their home. It would seem that there are large numbers of people in the various churches who fully expect to make heaven their abiding place who are not seeking or expecting to be made holy in this life.

The passage to which we have called attention is in harmony with the whole tenor and teaching of the Word of God. It is in harmony with the fact and attributes of God Himself. There can be no peace or joy for the sinful in the awful presence of infinite holiness. One of the serious troubles with our times is the fact that men seem to have lost sight of the holiness of God, and the sinfulness of sin.

If men could be brought to see the depth and heinousness of their sins, and the awful holiness of God, they could then be brought to see the necessity for, and the value of, the Atonement made by our Lord Jesus. When the ministry becomes lax in keeping before the people the Divine holiness and human sinfulness, and the necessity for holiness in order to see God, then the people come to have easy-going notions about the Atonement. Unitarianism flourishes, Destructive Criticism makes headway, salvation becomes a matter of human decision, going up to the evangelist and giving him your hand; a mere profession of faith.

When the ministry faithfully keeps before men the fact that the human race is fallen, that human nature is depraved, that the human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked above all things, that out of it proceed adulteries, murders, deceit, and all manner of sin, and that, somehow, between this and death's awful hour, it must be purged from impurity, and brought into holiness in order to meet God in peace; then men will cry out for salvation in Christ. Then they will weep in agony, and grieve over their sins. Then "decision day" is a time for tears, and prayers, and confessions, and pleading with God for mercy. Then the Lord Jesus Christ is exalted, and men are saved; sanctification is no longer a subject for ridicule, but a heart from sin set free is the pearl of greatest price.

When the people lose sight of the importance of holiness, when they get the false notion that the redemptive scheme was an arrangement by which sinners are enabled to go to heaven in their sins, when they can live in hope of eternal life and blessedness, with their lips filled with mockery and ridicule against holiness, the whole spirit of religion becomes corrupted, devotion dies, sin flourishes, false teachings are rampant, preachers lose their burden for souls, and resort to pictures and entertainment to draw crowds, who do not and cannot feel any special concern for their lost, deluded souls.

God's justice could never turn loose an impure people into heaven. The Atonement makes no provision to lift unholy souls into glory. The mercy and love of God gave the Lord Jesus Christ to die that sinful lives might be changed, that impure souls might be sanctified, that here in this world, we might be new creatures in Christ Jesus, that the atoning blood of the Redeemer might wash us from all sin, and make us heavenly-minded in order that we may enter that blessed place of sinlessness and peace.

Those preachers and people who make fun of sanctification, who ridicule holiness, are in gross, deep darkness. They do not know the A B C of the Atonement. They are ignorant of the necessity for it, the purpose of it, and the gracious fulness there is in it. They are miserably deceived, and awful deceivers. They will awake one day to find that the God who commands holiness on the Sinai of His law, provides for holiness on the Calvary of His mercy, and that He will require holiness in the awful day of Judgment. Let those who ridicule, laugh and jest about these fearful realities, do so if they will; there will come a time when their laughter will be turned into mourning; when they would give a million worlds, if they possessed them, for a heart from sin set free.

ANOTHER BOY IN KHAKI.

Clayton Dickinson, one of the most popular young men of Meductic, left St. John on Feb. 2nd for overseas service. He will be much missed indeed. He has been the mail carrier on the Route from Meductic to Woodstock for the last few years past, and by his pleasant, genial manner has endeared himself to all. About a year ago he gave his heart to God, and now we feel very glad for we know God will take care of his own. This is just another instance of Canada giving her best for God and King and native land.—Press.

THE OLD GOSPEL.

Everything which is best in the world is old. Sunshine is as old as the earth itself, as old as the sun when the fire-mist was rounded into an orb—the same today playing on our streets, as when it played on the bowers of Paradise. The air is old, pouring its refreshing currents into our lungs and renewing our life today as in all time past. The great arch of the heavens is old; it has not been taken down and built up again on modern brick-work since the creation. The doctrines of the Gospel are old but full of motion, full of energy, as the river is full of movements—full of movements—full of life-giving power, as the sunlight and the vital air. They are the doctrines out of which the missionary work sprang. They are the doctrines of Paul, that first great missionary. He had strong convictions. He did not doubt. He knew in Whom he had believed, and was persuaded that He was able to keep him and to save the world. And who is the successor of Paul! He who holds the same faith with him, and teaches it with the same earnest fidelity. This is the true apostolic succession.—R. R. Storrs, D. D.