

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O., Paulpietersburg,
Natal, S. A., June 9, 1919.

Dear Friends:

Before this letter can reach you Baulah will have closed for this season. But we do not forget you, and pray God's richest blessings may be upon you this year, especially in drawing each one nearer to Him.

We are going in for greater activity on our field than ever, "Strengthening the stakes and lengthening the cords," that we may reach yet more of the dark heathen about us. Praise God for the many manifestations of His blessing upon us! Souls are hungering after God, among the heathen about us, and the church members are wanting to know Him better and desire to follow all the way He leads.

We had a very precious day yesterday. It was Communion Sunday, and so large a crowd they could not get into the church, so we took them in front of the house on our bit of land while we sat on the small verandah. The first meeting we held in the church, as we did not wait for the whole company to arrive, but began a prayer meeting with the first seven or eight who came about 11.30 a.m. It was a good service, and many gave good testimonies to victory or progress. In the meantime the house gradually filled up and at about 12.15 Dr. Sanders and Paul came to take my place while I had dinner. About o'clock everything was ready for the baptism and four more dusky jewels gave themselves to Jesus.

In the after service these joined the church and one baby was presented to the Lord. Paul interpreted our covenant from English to Zulu, and many listened eagerly. Among these was a number of heathen who are wanting to know Jesus. About 175 were present. I did not have a good chance to count them, but I could judge fairly well from remembering Christmas gatherings on the same spot.

The man baptized will marry Americi in a few days. He is a widower and she a widow with one child. Strange, she is able, in a way, to follow Zulu custom, as her former husband was this man's brother. She is an earnest Christian, brought to Jesus in the following way:

Several years ago she was a heathen; her name Nomklumo, two children and her husband. Well, shortly before the birth of the second child I had a close talk with her about her soul. She was not carelessly indifferent, but did not feel to follow Jesus just yet. I learned she had had great light, as at her maiden home her people knew God and many of her family were Christians, but she loved the things of this world. I warned her, stating plainly God's call to her, her rejection of Him, and if she did not seek Him I feared he would chastise her by trouble.

Only a few weeks after the birth of her baby it came. The child sickened and died. She was stricken with grief and came to me. Again I pleaded with her, but the devil had many excuses. However, I could see her heart was touched. Only a very little time passed when one day she received the message. Her only child, who was with her mother, two days' journey

away, had been bitten by a snake. Hastily leaving her home, she hurried to her mother's village, hoping and praying to see her child before it died. She only rested part of that night on the road, and rushed on. Happily she was in time, but the child soon died. Now she was heartbroken and felt indeed that God had whipped her because she had refused Him. After some weeks spent with her mother, she returned and came with her broken heart to me. She now was eager to follow Jesus and listened attentively while I helped her. I told her she could see her babies again. Jesus had them in His care and keeping and if she served Him here He would take her home to Himself and them.

Day by day she came to "hear those sweet words again." John 14, was especially dear to her, and never did a thirsty person appreciate cold water as this little heathen woman these blessed promises of God. She soon found peace and has ever since been an earnest Christian. After a year or two her husband sickened and died, but not before he, too, found his Saviour. She was left a widow with a small baby born only a month or two before his death. For a year or so she lived with her mother, but last spring she returned and again came to tell me her difficulties. She would like to stop with us, but there was no garden land for her here. I told her we would give her all she wanted on Balmioral. There she stayed. She said she would like to marry again and have a home and asked my advice. I told her the best I knew. Saturday last she came to tell me her secret. "Oh, Nkosikazi, it has been just as you said. If I would trust God and obey Him, he would give me a man of this church." Then she told me of this man, David Mdiniso, who wished to be baptized and join the church, and then as soon as possible they would be married, but not before he had been baptized.

Well, it has all come out so beautifully, and I cannot tell you how grateful I am to God for so helping her, as this strengthens her faith; she will no more be a homeless one, but will have a little place of her own, some one to care for her and her child.

Then, too, Mpanahla, Pengula's daughter, was baptized. Years ago she laughed when I first talked to her about being a Christian. She wanted a husband, but no Jesus. Ah, she, too, has passed through deep trouble and sorrow, and just escaped death from the influenza. Her baby did die. How many times I and others have talked with this one, but how glad I am we did not grow weary in well doing, for now we do see the fruits of our labours.

Dear friends, take a lesson from these who at first seemed indifferent, but God knows how to deal with them, if only we will stand true in our places and help Him.

Yours in Jesus,

MRS H. C. SANDERS.

THE THORN THAT REMAINED.

By Rev. J. H. Jowett, D. D.

"I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me." II. Cor. 12:8.

Was the prayer answered? The apostle was troubled by some physical ailment which drained his strength and seemed to

interfere with the fruitfulness of his work. It was like a thorn in the flesh, it continually obtruded itself and mixed its pain with everything. And he prayed that God would remove the thorn, but the thorn remained. Shall we then say that the prayer was unanswered? Was the Lord heedless? Might the apostle just as well have saved his breath? Quite other is the teaching of the Word. The unremoved thorn does not mean the unanswered prayer. God most certainly answered the prayer, but in quite another way than the apostle dreamed. There was not less thorn, but more grace. The burden was not reduced, but the sufferer was endowed with more power. "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Here is a motor car somewhat burdened and gasping at the difficult hill. There are two ways of dealing with it. We can either lighten its load by removing part of the burden, or we can lighten its load by increasing its strength. We more than halve the hill when we double the engine power. And that is the way in which many of our prayers are answered. The answer comes not in the removal of the difficulty but in the increase of our dynamic. "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Many young Christians are bewildered to find that temptations remain even when they have begun to follow the Lord. They prayed that he temptation might be removed, or that it might no longer frown upon them as they go to their work, menacing them while they are at their work, and accompanying them on their return. If only the Lord would remove all our enemies! But that is not always His way. Many times the foes remain, but the answer is found in a table prepared "In the midst of our enemies." He gives us hidden manna, and the surrounding enemy glares at us in impotence.

And just because the difficulty and the burden remain, what an opportunity this offers for powerful witnessing. If the Lord removed all our thorns, if Christian believers have no temptations, no troubles, no difficulties, no difficult hills, what a poor, anaemic witness we should offer to the world! We should present a character that was faced by no enemy. We should present a life that was grappling with no problem.—Sel.

REAL REST.

There is no rest in circumstances.
There is rest in Christ.

Values fluctuate, friends fade, fashions change, health fails, ministers are moved, business has its "ups and downs," politics national and international, reverse themselves, and loved ones die, so that the soul that builds for its peace and prosperity upon any of these builds upon sand.

Christ's Truth is unalterable. His Love is changeless, His Fidelity is lasting, and His Promises are ever the same: His Spirit, too, is abiding, and the soul that commits its keeping unto Him is kept in perfect peace, kept from the strife of tongues, the turmoils of war and of the rumors of wars, from the terrors of earthquakes and from the tribulation of time; or kept, rather, at rest in the midst of these, till all these calamities have passed over the head.—Selected.