

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Amanzimtoti, Natal,
May 30th, 1921.

Dear Friends:

Dr. Sanders and I have been at the above place for a little over a week. A much-needed and long-deferred rest we are now having, and it is delightful.

It will soon be nine and a half years since we left home. It is ten years since we last saw each other at Beulah and I have been to no gathering of Christian workers in all that time. The past ten years have been the hardest and the most crowded of our lives. We have passed through many trying times some keen tests, but have continued to prove that God is true, He has never failed. He has kept us from backsliding, still letting Him have His way with us. He has kept us by His grace continually supplied. There have been times when we seemed to be plodding along "in a desert way." When our souls grew weary and so thirsty, but "that rock which is Christ" proved the place for shelter for the heart and drink for the thirsty soul. God has been good to us the past ten years in sparing us to each other, but twice we seemed to be almost looking death in the face, when Faith was so low with influenza and I with malaria fever. We have tried not to put our troubles too much to the front, so have said little about them, knowing full well you each and all have enough of your own.

Satan has tried twice, by supreme efforts, to overthrow our church or else pull it down. But, after we had passed through great struggles over these black children of ours, God has poured out upon us added blessings and enlarged our boarders. For all this we say, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endureth forever!"

I am about 350 miles from home, so away from all data thus I must leave reports of numbers to the church report which has been sent.

It has been nine months or so of blessed victory and has swung Faith out as a real choice soul-winner. She has learned what it is to travail for souls, and God has used her to lead many into the kingdom. She is rather frail, so we try to help her not to go too far with her zeal to help, and she is learning to husband her strength.

Beloved! What this means to us as parents—I wonder if you know?—to see our children treading in the footsteps of Jesus and choosing, like us, to seek the lost brethren, rather than the pleasures of this world, is more than I can tell. Again I answer God is faithful, for He promised me, "And all thy children shall be taught of God and great shall be the peace of thy children." He will feel it, I believe it.

Faith today is fully fitted to take up a missionary station anywhere in Africa. She has Zulu, and being of a studious mind, could easily learn another language. Her heart is in the work, and my own heart has been thrilled, as I have seen her come in from a special meeting, her face lit up with the "joy unspeakable and full of glory" because some one else had gotten saved. Talk about school-teaching or any other position for missionaries' children, I shall be perfectly satisfied when all of mine can fill the position of mis-

sionaries as my little Faith can. Bless the Lord!

..What shall I say about Paul? Listen! He is waiting for God to put His hand also upon him and call him for service. He is grandly fitted for another mission station, but not so much medical experience as Faith, but a grand young man. Willing to take any appointment we give him, far or near, a keen, horseman and hunter, fond of open air work, and very skilful in blacksmith work, always reading up something in blacksmithing, carpentry, etc., etc., and longing to have training on some one of these lines.

He has so acquired the Zulu tongue that when preaching the natives themselves have mistaken him for a native evangelist talking, before they entered the church and saw for themselves.

While we are away he is manager and is bossing up the making of brick for the buildings we need, just now turning out about 1,000 per day. He says, "But the boys have to work hard to do that much."

For several years Paul has been in love. Now his engagement has been announced and a near wedding talked about. Ruth Keyes, daughter of Mr. N. W. Keyes, who several years ago visited St. John church, is the expected bride. She will make him a real helpmeet and I trust be a valuable additional worker among your missionaries. Her father's missionary station is near the coast and very full of malaria. From a child, Ruth has been away to school. This past year she has been trying to live with them and help in the work, but has had fever so much they all see she cannot live out the three or four years she had expected to spend with her parents before she and Paul were married, consequently they have decided to be married before the next rainy season comes on, and they will take up some part of our work.

Judson is still growing up, and a dear, earnest Christian boy, full of love for souls. He goes now and then to hold a kraal meeting and is always praying for the heathen to be saved. George, already, has a certain kraal he has been preaching to for months—and he is only just sixteen.

These two—almost young men—promise to make very useful workers for God. Miriam and Grace, Charley and Norman, though so young, are being trained for workers, too. All are growing up. Only the youngest two are shorter than I am now, and Judson is not far from six feet tall.

Please do be much in prayer for my children that the desire of my heart may be granted, viz., that every one be a worker for God. They are eight bright young lives, but I haven't one for the world, not one. Forgive me for writing so much about them. My only excuse is I had to, because you cannot see them, and I want you to know them.

Dr. Sanders has written to the Mission Board, and I do not know as I can add to it. You, I believe, will understand.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the dear Sterritt sisters. They do fill such a long-felt need and most of all I praise God they walk with Him. These workers coming filled with the spirit have by their very presence been a blessing, and by their willingness to help have lifted such a burden. Why, here we are having a few

weeks' rest, which we could not have felt we could take at so busy a time only for them. The Lord bless you for it all! I believe just now He will.

The report of members, etc., is so very encouraging. It means so much hard work, prayers and bearing them upon our hearts for so long as burdens. Several very excellent Christians have gone to be with Jesus and some as workers. Pray that God will raise up workers.

Again pray for those among our members who are, just now, very keenly tested, that they may get victory. Pray for the young married men that they be not drawn away to take another wife. Only those who know African customs realize what a hold the devil has here, as several of the Zionists have backslidden over this very thing, and their influence is bad.

How I should love to speak instead of sending this to be read!

God bless you and let us be true to Him, being "faithful in His work till He come."

Yours in His sweet service,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

SHARPENING OUR TOOLS AT THE PHILISTINES' SHOP.

The Philistines were ever the enemies of God's people. At one time they had so devastated the land of Israel that it is said in Samuel 13:19-20, "Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears; but all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his colter, and his axe, and his mattock." These short-sighted people were playing into the hands of their enemies.

The same thing is being repeated spiritually today. We have nothing to work with. Our material has been allowed to get into and remain in the hands of our enemies. The modern Philistines run the school of New Theology these days. The church today has gone to sleep spiritually, and, instead of looking after her material, has lost that material. The boys and girls are allowed to remain under the teaching of those who don't believe the Bible is the Word of God. The church fails to teach so as to hold her material. She is sharpening her tools at the Philistines' shop.

What will be the result in the day of battle? Verse 22, "so it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hands of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan." It was a sad plight. Defeat! What else could they expect? Unless we sense and attempt to remedy the situation, defeat will likewise await us.

Has the church no mission today? Will she not realize that destructive criticism is an enemy? Will she be satisfied to continue to keep "an icicle in the pulpit, snowbanks in the pews, frost in the choir and ice-cream in the cellar?" The church must resist the invasion by its enemies and sharpen its tools at home if it would know the joy of victory in the battle.—W. S. Bowden, in "Our Hope."

"Those who fear lest they sink in the storm of temptation, are not yet in the life-boat of faith, which carries them safely through."