

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P. O., Paulpietersburg.  
Natal, So. Af. June 25, 1928

Dear Friends:

While reading a book "In South Central Africa" by J. M. Moubrey, I found the following statements and since they are very good, giving reasons why missionaries in Africa meet with disappointments among their converts, I felt it was good to write it to you. "This brings me to the much-debated mission question. The average White Man has nothing too bad to say of Missions and will never employ a mission boy if he can possibly help it. It is unfortunately the case that many of the mission boys met with are rogues of the first water, but this is easily accounted for. I think the best analogy is one that was given me by an old missionary, a man who had spent almost all his life at his work, and who in looking round, could see, as he told me, very little result as yet. He said that in building a railway over a swamp many hundred tons of rock were swallowed up in making the fill, before any result whatever could be seen on the surface. The foul gasses in the swamp were disturbed and liberated, with the result that the surface appeared more foul than when the work was commenced. Yet without that invisible foundation, which required great expenditure of both life and energy, the embankment which would eventually carry the train in safety over the swamp, could never be built."

"Some day, when the history of Central Africa comes to be written and people are able to look back with the unbiassed view attainable only by lapse of time, the debt that the country owes to the missionary, who cheerfully gives his life in an attempt to better the native will be recognized."

"It would be unreasonable to expect that, in a generation or two, savage races should be able to throw off all their old customs and traditions and accept the restraints of a new moral code. In the transformation many relapses and disappointments must be met with."

This is about the sanest talk I ever heard concerning missionary work and is exceedingly enlightening. Missions take years of time and lives, whole lives, of the missionaries must be poured out that a strong foundation may be built and then great patience in dealing with the people who are trying to live a new life and keep new laws.

Only God's power is able to save any heathen—some are much lower in the scale of humanity than others—and then, after he believes, he is like a baby, newly born, and must have tender care else he will fail. Heathen influences are so strong.

Looking at things from this standpoint I marvel at the progress missions have made among these zules and praise God who is able to save them as well as us.

Missionaries have their problems and discouragements but when God and His promises are counted in He "always maketh us to triumph and there are some, among these black people, who have beautiful white hearts.

We have come through a very hard and exceedingly trying year, full of discouraging things but we rejoice to say God has never failed us, is giving us victory and still enables us to say we refuse to be discouraged but today are obeying Him the best we know and He is making us "strong and of good courage."

Yours in Jesus,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS

## JOB'S TWO EXPERIENCES

"I have heard of Thee through the hearing of the Ear:" this was his first knowledge of God. "But now mine eye seeth Thee;" this was his later experience. The first was hazy

The early morning prayer meetings were vining. There was a vast difference between those disciples who said "That which we have seen, and our hands have handled," and the others who could only say, "We have heard of Him." Nicodemus had an "Ear knowledge" until he sought the close up "Born again" Experience.

The Result of Job's New Experience: "Wherefore I abhor myself and repent." The light that discovered God's excellencies (also revealed to Job his own vileness.) Before this he had been a "good fellow," perhaps a man at man's best, but not at God's best. Isaiah, one of the holiest of the ancient prophets had the "Hearing by the Ear," knowledge; but one day finding himself in God's presence, cried out, "Woe is me, for I have seen the Lord." Zacheus, entrusted with office, perhaps as good a citizen as was the average, living up to the custom of his age, but when Christ appeared, how small he really was by comparison, and found his affairs would not stand in the light of Christ's presence.

A Modern Example:—A wealthy merchant, who during revivals, often attempted to become a Christian such as his wife was, but seemed never to get beyond conviction, one evening fell in with our prayer meeting crowd, for like the poet Burns "he was not religious, but religion haunted him." On the way to church we met many gay folk going to the "Fireman's Annual Ball:" the dance came under discussion, the merchant holding out in favor of it, "no harm in it," he contended.

It transpired, however, that the prayer service was one of spiritual power and heart-searching, a verifying of that promise so often experienced by praying saints, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." Under this power our merchant arose, and in tears said—"My friends, I wish to retract what I said about the dance a while ago, I do see harm in it now. I was just as honest in my contentions for the dance, as I am now against it, while you praying people mildly opposed me, but here is the difference,—Under the influence of God's presence here I see things in a new light, His light, and if we could abide under this spirit, what Christians we could be." He then declared himself a seeker for this new abiding Experience.

A Personal Mention:—In the interest of this subject, the reader will pardon a reference to myself. As a lad I was brought up under church influences, but had only Job's early knowledge of God, "through the hearing of the Ear." I knew of Him, but did not know Him. I was no better nor worse than the average boy. During a summer revival I became convicted, began to experience Job's awakening—"Now mine eyes seeth Thee, I abhor myself and repent." Every night after hard days labor on a farm, we drove a team four miles to church and return. And each night for two weeks, I went fully determined to confess Christ and to unite with the church, only to fail through my native timidity. Needing, as I thought a little human aid, I proposed to a boy companion that we "join church" together. Seeing he was not interested, and no others responding, I made up my mind to fight the battle out alone,—and "battle" is the right word. After many failures I stood up and yielded to the gospel call, and was followed by

many others, who like myself, had been struggling with weakness. And all of whom like-wise had only Job's first experience, that of "hearing of God through the ear," but now began the new life in Christ Jesus. We fear there are all too many who have no more knowledge of Him than this "Ear" knowledge. The life of these bear testimony to this: the dynamic of Christian service is lacking.

But how much this later experience comprehends, the very life of Christ imparted to the soul, evidenced in a new urge, the stir of service, the rejoicing spirit, new growths, new wood, new fruits. Inspirations, aspirations, confessions, repentings, humbleness of mind. "For now mine eye seeth Thee, and I abhor myself and repent."

T. RICHARDSON GRAY

Green Ridge, Mo.

## IF YOU LIKE HIM LET HIM KNOW IT

If with pleasure you are viewing any work a man is doing,

If you like him or you love him, tell him now; Don't withhold your approbation 'til the parson makes oration.

As he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow; For no matter how you shout it, he won't really care about it;

He won't know how many teardrops you have shed:

If you think some praise is due him, now's the time to slip it to him;

For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead!

More than fame and more than money is the comment kind and sunny

And the hearty warm approval of a friend; For it gives to life a savor, and it makes you stronger, braver,

And it gives you heart and spirit to the end; If he earns your praise, bestow it; if you like him let him know it;

Let the words of true encouragement be said, Do not wait till life is over and he's underneath the clover,

For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

From "Dripped from the Stream."

## SURE CURE FOR SUNDAY SICKNESS.

(Several weeks ago the symptoms for Sunday Sickness appeared without a cure and the cure was found in the 1907 number of the "Gospel Witness.")

On Sunday morning rise at six; eat a plain, hearty breakfast. Then mix and take internally a dose composed of equal parts of the following ingredients, namely:

Will

Push

Energy

Determination

Self-Respect

Respect for God's Day

Respect for God's House

Respect for God's Book

A desire to be somebody.

Stir well; add a little love just to make it sweet. Repeat the doses every three minutes until Sunday school time, unless relief comes sooner. If the day is stormy an external application of over-shoes, rubber coats, and umbrellas will be helpful.

(Signed) Dr. Never Fail.

—Selected.