

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S., Paulpietersburg,
Natal, South Africa

Dear Praying Friends:

This morning two messengers came to the Mission Station for help. One to report a poor man whose skull was crushed in a drunken brawl, and to ask for medical attention. The second for a winding sheet for his poor mother whom he left well and returned to find dead. Fever is very bad in this section again this season and deaths are being reported from across the Pevaan and across the Pongola and from near and far. This week there have been over 20 calls for quinine and many for other medicines as influenza and other ailments are also very prevalent.

Filimon, in his testimony on Wednesday, related two startling instances. He spoke of the malaria in his "Ngotale" district and also his own home section, where many of his own relatives and friends are very ill, and some dead. He says for years now these places have been a very hotbed of demon doctoring and demon possession, and the demons which are supposed to cure sickness and keep a person in health, really make invalids of them, and aggravate any illness they may have.

A certain young man in his own distant district lay very ill. He had been a real Zulu "brave" and won the love of six girls who had presented him with suitable love tokens in bead work. One day, as he lay burning with fever, he rose from his mat, opened the box in which he kept his treasure, arrayed himself in the bravest of his finery and walking outside with the words—"They are calling me, they are calling me!" fell dead in the yard outside ("They" were evidently the demons of which he was possessed).

Another young man, nearer home, died a heathen among his heathen people. As his soul passed out an awful weeping and wailing was heard all around the kraal—but not from human lips. The very air is teeming with evil spirits in these kraals where everyone is bound over to the service and possession of the devil himself and his demons. Can you picture the darkness and despair of these poor fear-ridden souls, "all their lifetime subject to bondage through fear of death!"

Praise God, He who "took part" of flesh and blood "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage," has sent us to proclaim this deliverance. The salvation He has sent us to publish delivers from this awful bondage and gives victory, joy and peace such as I wrote of in my last letter at the death of His own who "die in the Lord."

Can you not hear an echo of this awful wail from Africa's night. Can you vision the darkness and despair of these perishing souls sweeping over the brink, attended only by evil spirits. Death is stalking through the land and many souls are nearing the gates of eternity. Oh, friends, pray with us for souls snatched as brands from the burning before it is eternally too late.

Yours for souls at any cost,

FAITH MacDONALD

Hartland M. S., Paulpietersburg,
Natal, South Africa

Dear Friends: In our last letter we mentioned the fact that Martha, Filimon's wife, was with us at Mbucus, Paulina's former outpost. I wish you could

have heard Martha's testimony that day. I cannot give it to you in full, but will pass on what I can.

"I greet you, the Church at Mbucus, and praise God for the privilege of being here today. I have often longed to see you here in your home church, though I have met different ones at times at the Hartland church, I did not know the Mbucu people.

Friends, we have heard the Word of God here today. In our presence here in this service you all appear to be good Christians, but, sisters, how are you in your own home? Your close friends and neighbors, what do they see? We are not here to be seen of men, but to prepare to meet Him who hath said, "Follow Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." In our homes is where this thing is tested out. How is it, sister, when you come home from meeting and find your neighbors' goats all feeding in your garden patch and you discover your little field finished completely? Do you go off to your neighbors in a towering rage and say such words as empty every memory of the meeting from your heart and cause your neighbor to feel there is nothing in your "Christianity?" When your child accidentally smashes the water-pot, is there something that rises up within you so you call the child some vile names and beat the poor little thing within an inch of its life? Are your neighbors afraid of your tongue? Do they say among themselves: "She—oh, yes, she is a Christian—but just touch her and see the fire fly!"

I had this thing in my heart. It troubled me greatly. One day the truth was brought home and I saw this "old man of sin" my own inward corruption and I set myself to go down and dig it out. I tell you, sister, it is no light thing to have the "old man" removed. He dies hard. You must get your shovel and your pick and dig deep. It hurts. It takes time. But in my heart I had said, "This thing must go." I kept on digging even cost what it would in pain and shame, and friends, God heard my cry and delivered me and took that old thing out of my heart and now I am free. You may come to my home; you may ask my neighbors. I have gardens. My neighbors' cattle have eaten them more than once this season. I am not saying it is pleasant to see your food eaten like that, but I am no longer troubled by furious bursts of temper. I can quietly report my loss, request more care in shepherding, and remember we have stock ourselves which may be in our neighbor's field tomorrow. I have sweet peace and joy and rest in my soul. God has this victory for you."

I do so love to hear Martha tell her experience and describe "the old man" and his manifestations. I have given her testimony but poorly, for her language and description is wonderful, and her own deliverance very real. Let us pray for more Holiness Zulus.

With loving greetings to all who "Follow Holiness."

Yours in the fullness of the blessing,

FAITH MacDONALD

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.—I. Cor. 15: 19-22—Heart and Life.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Brother: Fort Fairfield, Me.

We had good crowds at the services in the Fort and at Perth on Sunday, May 14th. The Church at Perth was well filled. Rev. M. Ella Slipp brought a strong message on "The Spiritual Birth."

At the close of the afternoon service the writer baptized five candidates in the stream above Perth village.

The male chorus sang a special selection in keeping with Mother's Day at the morning and evening services. There was a record attendance at Sunday School yesterday. God is giving us victory. Praise His name.

Yours in Him,

G. A. ROGERS

Dear Highway Family: Milltown, Maine

It has been so long since word from us has appeared in the columns of our paper that we shall as briefly as possible only mention the main happenings during that lapse of time.

The past winter was, according to the word of many elderly residents, the hardest Calais and Milltown has ever known. However, in spite of such existing conditions, the Lord saw that we were not in need of any necessities. He even has given into our hands some things that might almost be termed luxuries. We have been continually reminded that those who trust in Him shall not want for any good thing. Praise His precious name for not only temporal but also spiritual blessings.

On the evening of January 2rd, some members and friends of the Church gathered at our home and gave us a well selected donation of groceries, meats, vegetables and also some cash.

On the evening of February 13th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. Bradley was given a welcome and much appreciated surprise party.

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Messrs. A. E. Ripley, Hazen Smith, J. Higgins and R. Gaddis for their assistance in getting wood to our door.

From March 1st until we got our car registered this month Mr. Wm. Bell used his car to drive us to Meddybemps for our service each Sunday afternoon. We certainly were grateful for his kind offer and it was the means of keeping the services going all winter. We have not seen as many results as we desire to see in Meddybemps. Some have requested prayer, but none have come to the altar. However, a good Sunday School has been organized and we feel encouraged to keep on pressing forward against sin.

Mr. Bell works for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. On April 8th, he gave us a good working sewing machine he had taken in trade on a new one. Since we had none this one is much appreciated by Mrs. Bradley. It has been well exercised since coming to its new home.

On Friday, April 14th, the church folk decided their pastor and wife should have a happy Easter. At the close of the cottage prayer meeting we were given a splendid donation of groceries, etc. This was at Mr. and Mrs. Bell's home. Some who could not be present at the meeting either sent or brought their donation to our home either on Friday or Saturday.

Our good people are doing little deeds of kindness for us all the time which are exceedingly helpful and too numerous to mention.