

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

AFRICAN NATIVE'S LETTER

The following letter is one written to Rev. L. T. Sabine in response to his request to the Sterritt Sisters that one of the natives write a personal letter. This, of course, is translated from the Zulu in which it was written, by Miss Alice Sterritt. Mr. Sabine has the original letter in native handwriting. It will be recalled by the readers that Isaiah Sangweni recently died from poisoning; and just before the reply to his letter was received:

Altona M. S., P. O. Berbice,
Via Piet Retief Transvaal
Jan. 5, 1933.

Reverend who is respected by me:

I thank for this beautiful opportunity which I am caused to receive by my Lord Jesus that I open my mouth before you and before our Lord Jesus Christ, who sought us when we were like lost sheep.

Oh I do thank for this rest under the wings of my Savior and beneath the fountain of His blood which cleanses me from my iniquity. When I remember where I was I am amazed when I see the mercy of the Lord which is so great. Oh, Mfundisi (teacher) I do magnify this love which I should testify of. I praise the Lord because He took me out of my sins. I remember the day He manifested Himself to me. Oh! At that time I was with great lonesomeness when I was with opportunities to pray and fast. Then it happened one day when we were in prayers I heard the call of the words of the hymn 284 and oh to hear those words made my heart so hungry. Indeed Mfundisi I had been praying many days and fasting and when I felt this great hunger I sought to get a promise that I might hear the voice of my Lord saying "All your sins are forgiven". Then another day came when we were gathered together, it was on a Sunday. We were called to the altar and I humbled myself before my Lord and while I was telling all to my Savior in prayer behold! I was held like one dreaming and I received the witness and a hope which told me "My child! You are forgiven all your sins". I went on in prayer until it seemed I was thinking that perhaps it was not I because it seemed like I had a new body and a heart which was not my heart. Oh! I do magnify my Savior Mfundisi. Oh! brethren it is sweet to know that I am a child of God. I am with great joy by this matter. Now I am waiting for the last wedding because in Zulu we say it is the first wedding when a person is born on the earth. We have a wedding also when we take a wife—it is the second wedding when we are joined in marriage, and the third is when we go to the Lord. It is the last wedding. Today I am waiting to go to stay with my Savior.

I beseech you to not be surprised by the delay in this letter. It is because of sickness. I have been very sick until I nearly went to stay with my Savior because I was ready to go to the rest of my Lord. Even now I am still in pain. Forgive me for writing like this, it is because of weakness, and I am sorry for long ago I meant to write this letter, but I went down with pain and today also I am with it—it was not my desire—may you excuse me.

Mfundisi (teacher) I believe you will be satisfied with these words, I am not able to go further. I send my regards to all the church.

Goodbye, I am yours,

MR. ISAIHAH SANGWENI

The neglect of little moments is responsible for many of life's greatest failures.

Hymn No. 284 in the Zulu Hymnal:
Oh my brother, come now to the Savior,
Return today from sins, trust in Jesus.

Long ago you went astray. Hurry do not delay;
Do not spurn His mercy, Come to the Deliverer

The world has no peace, therefore you are disappointed;

Believe now in the Lord, He will bless you.

Confess your sins, ask mercy of Him;
For Jesus is loving, you will be saved by Him.

SOCIAL REFORM

Your committee on Social Reform begs leave to report. We have had a most excellent paper on Sabbath Observance, and another on Temperance, both of which we heartily endorse. These paid heed to, will surely help Social Reform. But there is another subject greatly needed to be emphasized, that of dress. Immodest dress by the world has not helped morality. Nay! In fact it is one of the degrading influences, and a mighty power to increase this growing evil. If immodest dress were confined to the worldly alone that would be bad enough, but sad to say Christian women, influenced by various circumstances, seem drifting away on the crest of this tide of evil. In the early days of our denomination Holiness women could almost always be picked out of the crowd by their modest dress. They laid aside every trace of jewelry and ornaments, some even putting away their wedding ring. How about today, are we conspicuous because of our modest dress? 1 Tim. 2:8-10. "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness, and sobriety, not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but which becometh women professing godliness, with good works." 1 Peter 3:3, 4, 5. "Whose adorning let it be not that outward adorning, of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart. . . even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also who trusted in God adorned themselves." Isaiah explains a little part what these women had to lay aside in order to meet these instructions. Isaiah 3:16-26, from which we quote the following: "Moreover the Lord saith, because the daughters of Zion are haughty, (proud) and walk with stretched forth necks, and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, (perhaps spike heels is what is meant by this) and making a tinkling with their feet. Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, the chains (beads) and the bracelets, and the mufflers, the bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the head bands. . . the ear rings, the rings and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, the mantle and the wimple, and the crisping pins, (hair waving and curling devices), the glasses, (possibly this means mirrors which nearly every woman and girl feel they cannot go out without one along so as to fix their make up) and the fine linens, and the hoods, and the veils, etc. These were the beautifying utensils, and one is struck with the resemblance of them to what is universally used for the same purpose today. All min-

istering to pride. Holiness women today in order to follow the council of the Bible must learn to remodel most dresses they buy, or make the whole garment themselves. The world demands sleeveless dress, low backs, short puffed sleeves, and other immodest styles, but we as holiness women must not fall to their level but must keep our standard high. We were greatly encouraged to hear one good woman say that, "after walking the blistering streets of her city four days trying to find a decent dress, a dress with long sleeves and being unable to do so, came home and patched her old dress up, and will wear it until she can get what she feels is a dress becoming to holiness". If we as Christian women will take that stand, I believe we can do much more for the Kingdom of God than we are doing now. We asked a group of young people what they thought was our greatest problem as a church; with one voice they said, "the dress question"; with tears in their eyes they told us how the unsaved twitted them with the way many women professing holiness dress, and they asked, "what can we say". We have even heard the remark, that many minister's mouths are closed on this subject because of the way their wives and daughters dress. May the Lord help us. A real spiritual woman feels she is compelled by her devotion to God to dress modestly. She is judged not only by her testimony, but by her dress as well, a silent testimony especially in ministers' wives, whose dress influences every woman in the congregation. We voice our protest against the present vogue of the immodest bathing suit, and many young folk in order to keep spiritual must cut out this healthful exercise we fear, and what more can we say, for time would fail us to tell of the evils of dancing, cigarette smoking and drinking, especially among young women, who will be the mothers of the future. And now just a word to those who use rouge, lip-stick, eye-brow pencils etc., they deceive no one but themselves.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.

Respectfully submitted.

MRS. PERLEY BRIGGS
MRS. H. C. SANDERS

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

We are sorry it is not possible to bring more encouraging report on Sabbath Observance. These are days when so many seem to have little or no regard for the Sabbath, the day God said we were to remember to keep it holy. But instead of keeping God's holy day and assembling together to worship God, the Sabbath is taken for a day of pleasure-seeking, car-driving, picnicing or visiting. Some make excuses for taking long drives by attending a service somewhere when really their chief interest is not in the service of God but in other things of far less importance.

One thing for which we are thankful is that the Sabbath is not used as a day of business to a very great extent; although some places are open to the public for business. We are glad that even in these days of carelessness when people are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, there are still a number of true and faithful followers of Christ who believe in keeping the Sabbath as God commanded. As God's people we feel the importance of preachers and laity keeping God's day, by precept and example in a way to please Him. And urging others to remember and obey God's command in regards to keeping the Sabbath.

MRS. H. C. MULLEN
MRS. F. A. DUNLAP