

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
Natal, June 10, 1937.

Dear Friends:

I find that the rapid progress of events and tread of time have combined so that the dear Homeland is parted from me by the sea's broad plains, and I am fairly well settled in my new work. Throughout these recent changes, of place and task, God has been as "a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night." I do praise Him for His presence and provision during the past, and look at the future with assurance that He will be "all I need."

The first out-station I had the pleasure of visiting was Altona. George and I crossed the Pongolo on horseback and enjoyed the meeting held there. Since this trip I have been with Mr. MacDonald and Grace to two other points, one near the above mentioned place and the other farther up the river. At both these places we found fairly good sized congregations and enjoyed profitable services. Near the close of the service at last Sunday's service, several young men responded to an altar call and seemed to pray through. One of these, a rather well educated and apparently earnest young man, who has shown interest for some time, sought the Lord for pardon and claimed this experience. If he continues steadfast in the faith no doubt God has some work for him to do.

Besides these weekend, more distant opportunities there are many, many, apparently smaller ones, near at hand, dealing with the individuals, personal work. These who come for help, in some way or other, are cases that very often prove to be well worth the time and effort spent to help them to Christ. If the Holy Spirit is allowed perfect freedom in us many souls will be won. I spoke to one man: a native doctor who admitted that he was giving assistance to the worship of Satan and whose own life was, at least partially, directed by wisdom received from the prince of darkness. I testified to him of how our God will provide us with necessary wisdom, and give us light on hidden things of the future if we are filled with His Spirit. What he should do was to get rid of Satan's power and be converted and filled with the Holy Ghost and he would have a far superior influence, power and life. This intelligent native expressed a desire for such a change but: as, the rich young ruler and the worldly minded, his source of income and desire for honor NOW, had the greater appeal for the present. Join with us in prayer for this needy soul, as God may lead. Another one in keenest need is a backslidden young man, the one time promising Christian, Luke Kuneue. Now he is a demon doctor, miserable, blind and far from God. However he is showing signs of heart hunger and may God grant us prayer and faith at this time for his desperate case. Perhaps a hundred, yes hundreds, of others are thickly scattered about us in their helpless and hopeless state and who is caring enough for their immortal souls to PRAY? Let us join faith, and work in consistent co-operation, let us join hands and bring souls to Christ.

Yours in Him,

CHARLES D. SANDERS

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think . . . It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.

A TRAINED HOLY GHOST MINISTRY FOR THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

(Continued from last issue)

Among the many necessary subjects required on a Divinity course, such as Sacred Expression or Public Speaking, Church History, Missions, Church Administration, Greek, Hebrew, and such like, it is our humble opinion that there are at least four subjects that should be continued throughout the three years. For instance, Advanced Homiletics and Pastoral Theology; a study of every phase of this subject. Advanced Christian Theology; a course built around some good old-fashioned Methodist texts, and covering the field in a systematic way. Advanced Christian Evidence; a course meeting every phase of modern destructive criticism. Advanced Bible; a course covering a full analysis of every book in the Bible, with exposition. Such a course would afford a wealth of knowledge for the coming ministry.

Is this enough? Is it all the qualification necessary? By no means. There is a qualification "from on high", a qualification that is specifically Divine, a qualification which is the result of the Holy Ghost coming upon a man in His cleansing and enduring power, the lack of which means failure. It is pathetic in the extreme for young men to go through a full salvation college, and in some cases cover a Divinity course, and know practically nothing about the Holy Ghost. How necessary is holy fire! (not wild fire). How essential "the unction of the Holy One"! Without this, what? "Without me ye can do nothing."

Speaking from a holiness denominational standpoint, it is our sincere opinion, that a small denomination would be much better off to centralize, and have one seminary or college for the training of its ministry, and of course others who may come. In this institution insist on a course second to none in the land, and equally insist on time and opportunity being given to the spiritual aspect of a minister's qualification for the Christian ministry; in a word, see that the institution has the best academically and the best spiritually; see that the Holy Ghost rests upon this institution, its faculty and student body.

It is difficult for a small denomination to sustain a number of colleges equal to the task of giving the rising ministry the qualification so necessary today, and difficulties often arise too from restrictions regarding subjects and time for the spiritual. In the case of a centralized school these difficulties could be overcome. The church could do better by way of a qualified faculty, and with less expense; do better for her students, especially her own coming from a distance, that is, with respect to expenses. The idea is centralize, raise the standard, put into force advanced courses that will meet the need, and see to it that the blessed Holy Spirit comes upon the institution and its faculty, and the student body will catch the fire.

Speaking from an interdenominational standpoint, the need is here, the challenge of the hour on this very line, the challenge for the best possible academically in view of the great need, and the best possible spiritually in view of the great spiritual need. In spirituality, something a thousand miles beyond mere fundamentalism or cold orthodoxy. There are, however, hopeful signs from this standpoint, especially from one interdenominational institution we know, and it is hoped that similar advancements are being made by others. We must not mention names at this time. What have the schools of this character to say for themselves? Let's hear from them.

In the case of a centralized institution, it may

be possible that in connection with it an extensive Bible course may be given for those who have not the academic requirements for a B.D. Such provision would meet the need of many who are desiring a preparation for their calling. The course would be similar to the B.D. course but without the degree.

The chief reason for the suggestion, namely, to have the Bible course in connection with the seminary, is that the whole set-up of the seminary is to make it a training school for the Christian ministry, and God in the person of the Holy Ghost is upon the place, whereas the colleges exist to give training for various vocations, and do not usually specialize for the ministry. For what is being done in the holiness colleges, we are devoutly thankful to God. God bless every one of them.

Such a human and Divine qualification received in this seminary, this spiritual power-house, will fit the coming ministry for the great task of the hour. Without it we are doomed to failure. It will save young men from mere traditionalism on the one hand and destructive criticism on the other. It will protect them against mere intellectualism, for the spirituality will balance. It will protect them against formalism on the one side, and fanaticism on the other. Wild fire will give place to holy fire. What we need is that blessed combination of intellectuality and spirituality. Only true spirituality can aid the intellect to meet mere orthodoxy, only spirituality can meet formalism and fanaticism. The apostles after their three year's course in Sacred Theology and Practical Evangelism went to the upper room and waited for the Holy Ghost. He came, and what a history is recorded!

It is our earnest desire that those concerned with the problem of training young men for the Christian ministry would read this article—that is, if they do read it—with great consideration for the writer, for it may be that after the writer reads it in print he might disagree in many points himself. Some of these suggestions may not be workable. The point of emphasis, however, is the challenge for the highest academic standard possible for the Christian ministry and the fulness of the Holy Ghost upon the institution and its faculty. God on the place! God on the ministry!

In closing may we ask this question: Are there some Christian laymen, men of vision, men of means, who will get behind the problem of Christian education for the Christian ministry? An education that is specifically Christian, an education that the blessed Holy Ghost can use because He is upon the man.

THE DAY OF DEATH

The wise man in Ecclesiastes 7:1 declares that the day of death is better than the day of one's birth. Reading on in the chapter one observes that it is a study of the formative influences of life, with emphasis placed on the solemn things that create a sense of responsibility.

The "day of death" is a most solemn thought. It awaits all human beings. It often comes unannounced. In the course of nature it is a certainty, excepting always the great occasion of the rapture of the saints in the event of Christ's return. It closes every earthly career. It ends the joys of the wicked. It brings down the great ones of earth to the dust. It is the end of the sinner's hope, but to the child of God his faith bids him accept the call of death with confidence. He is about to enter upon the great career of his eternal future in heaven. It takes a mingling of faith and righteous living to make the day of death better than the day of one's birth.