LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

Auckland Park,
Johannesburg,
June 17th, 1911.

My Dear Friends along the Line,

We are always hearing about the power of Prayer and it is good sometimes to be able to see the result of it in hard facts. Fifteen months ago I asked for prayer for a “Forward Move” in our work along the Line. The position then, with regard to the need of men, seemed rather desperate. Work that we could not look at in every direction, and apparently little chance of getting the men to do it! Everyone at Home seemed to have their eyes turned to Canada.

And the position to-day? Four of our small band have left us—two of them quite unexpectedly—but five good men have joined us, and now, by
the last mail, comes the news that we may have by February of next year at least six more new men, and shall, if all is well, by then have sixteen men on the Railway work, a number far greater than we have ever had before, and enough to enable us in real earnest to branch out in every direction.

Add to this the fact that passes for the work up North have been given by the Rhodesian authorities, and I think that we can realise that "God has indeed done great things for us," and that we can rejoice and thank Him.

The power of Prayer! I do personally thank God for what that Prayer Circle and the prayers of other good friends have meant during the last two years, and my own prayer is that we shall go on into the months and years that lie ahead with a faith and humble confidence in God that nothing can shake.

But, all said and done, we can't value prayer aright simply by counting results. Prayer is Power; but it is also Life, and if we are not men and women of prayer, or trying to be so, we are dead; at all events the best part of our life is lacking. And we find that out for certain when God at last teaches us to pray. We are like some fish—living in another world, but needing to come up to the world above them from time to time to breathe and live. Only the other day I was watching an aeroplane in Pretoria. There it was, a great clumsy thing, built to fly, but to all appearances glued to the ground as well as it could be. Then the propellers started, the driving power came, and instantly it took half a dozen men to hold it down! And then at last it was off—alive and thrilling. That surely is a true parable for us. Built to pray, and to soar up ever nearer to God: clumsy and unnatural as long as we are content to stay below that; but prayer the motive power which can alone give us the life we need.

Another thing about aeroplanes and here endeth the sermon: Once get started and it won't be long before you are taking other passengers with you. They won't always want to go (personally I wouldn't go in a flying machine for a small fortune); but you'll get them with you, never fear. And then the joy is more than doubled. Seriously, if anything I could write induced a man or woman here and there to begin to pray as they have never prayed before, I should feel that these quarterly letters have not been all a waste of time.

That is one thing that our Prayer Circle stands for, to be a School of Prayer all round the Line, and I would that many more would send in their names to me as Members during the next month or two. That is all that you need do, and you will receive the paper of Intercessions every quarter.

As I write, Mr. Rogers is on his way out from home, and it is safe to say that he will have a royal welcome from crowds of friends up and down the Line. He has been away from us now for eighteen months, and during that time has crowded in more work for the
Mission in England than any two of us others could have attempted. All honour to him and I think that the nature of the welcome he will get will show him something of the gratitude we are all feeling! He brings with him Mr. H. G. Coles, who goes to work with him up North, and with them will go Mr. Douglas, who will have to leave the Midland for that purpose. I am sorry to have to change him so soon, but it is clearly right, and it is good to feel that those three will soon be making things move in the far North in a way that hitherto we have hardly dared to hope for. Mr. Toy meanwhile is homeward bound for a holiday, well earned if ever one was.

Mr. Douglas's work at Cookhouse and on the Midland will be taken up at once by a recruit, all the more welcome because so unexpected, the Rev. T. de Laune Faunce. Mr. Faunce has been working in South Africa for some years, and now comes to us from the Bloemfontein Diocese. He will soon be well known to what we can only call "our oldest friends," up and down the Midland System.

Men may come and men may go, and unfortunately we have to include women in the latter statement. After a good trial it has been proved beyond all doubt that the experiment, through which we had the benefit of two of the Grahamstown Sisters on the Line, cannot continue. We could well do with half-a-dozen more like Sister Emily, Sister Muriel, and Sister Mary Gertrude, but it is too difficult from the Community point of view, and we have to bow to the inevitable. We had to say "good-bye" to Sister Mary Gertrude a month since, and now, as soon as she can be relieved, Sister Emily has to leave us. In each case it is a matter of a very real "God be with you," and they will be able to look back to a record of devoted and faithful service for God, and to look forward to the assurance of meeting many warm and grateful friends, whenever they make a journey up and down the Line. Personally I can never fully express my gratitude to the Warden and Sisters at St. Peter's for their willingness to make the experiment, and must rest content with the certain hope that, in spite of this, the old link and alliance between "The Home" and the Railway Mission will never be allowed to grow weaker. We shall even have a fresh point of touch with the Sisters now at Bulawayo, where they have started new work, and where Mr. Rogers and his men will soon, I expect, have a new headquarters house.

Miss Bridge, too, has had unfortunately to think of other work, as it seemed clear that she ought not to face the work on the Line, and we had no other possible work to offer her.

But one is thankful that with the ladies it is not all a question of going! It will be good news to many of you, I know, that Miss Beckwith hopes to be out with us very shortly again, and will take up as much of her old work as her health allows of. My hope is that she may be able to bring another lady with her, and that, between them, they may be able to cover the greater
part of the work lately done by the Sisters.

Mr. Hands will, I fear, really be leaving us about September, but, when that comes to pass, it will require almost a special number of *Light for the Line* to deal with. Suffice it to say at the moment that a successor is already forthcoming in the person of the Rev. A. C. Crossfield, who has been Vicar of Hartford, near Huntingdon, for some years, and who hopes to be with us about the time that Mr. Hands will have to go.

It is not often that one has on this page to talk of marrying and giving in marriage, but, if I know anything of people's feelings up and down the Line, there will be a chorus of good wishes going out to "Uncle" Henry Forshaw, who hopes soon to be married in England, and to Mr. Rice, who is now Rector of North Cave in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and who on the "glorious first" of June was married to Miss Beatrice Parker. The mention of "North Cave" calls to mind a rather extraordinary chapter of coincidences. The last Rector but one was Mr. Tomlinson, father of our own Mr. Tomlinson, who worked at Waterval Boven. The last was Mr. Batty, remembered of children, young and old, in every part of the Line where he worked. The present Rector is Mr. Rice! This with no connection or design, and one of the thousands of parishes scattered up and down England! Personally I am already thinking of putting in a claim to the reversion, when Mr. Rice has to leave!

The Annual Meeting in London was, by all accounts, about the best that has been held. Lord Selborne, and Bishop Furse of Pretoria, with Mr. Rogers, were the speakers, and I only wish that I had space to reproduce all that the two former, speaking with the authority that they do, had to say on our behalf.

I was too late last quarter to comment on the results of the Queen Victoria Bible Prize Examination. All that I need do now is to congratulate chiefly the principal and children of Kaffir River School in the O.F.S. on their really notable success, and to re-iterate the examiner's rather plaintive question, "Where is the Transvaal?" Kaffir River came almost as near to the excellent scheme of "sweeping the Board" as any School has yet done.

I had not meant to write much about the details of the quarter's work, but I must break silence to congratulate Fordburg, and with them Brixton, on the fine efforts which resulted in their respective Fêtes and Sales of Work. It is always somewhat of a joy to meet the workers from Mr. Skey's parish nowadays. They are all so full of energy and hope, and one feels that things are alive indeed with a big promise ahead. I gather that Vrededorp, under Mr. Shipton's able lead, means to give all records the go by very soon, and good luck go with them! I thankfully include Mr. Shipton's name as that of an unattached member of the Staff, holding, as he will very shortly, the Bishop's licence as a lay reader.
The Railway Lads' Club is now in full swing again, and the Council are hard at work with a scheme of reorganisation. Congratulations to Mr. Bickerdike and his boys on winning six out of seven events in the Scouts' Boxing championships! The seventh was not taken only because they did not enter for it, I believe!

The quarter has seen a respectable amount of work among the Construction men in different quarters, for which I am more than thankful. The need of this is great!

Our helpers in the big towns have been more than usually active this quarter. At Pretoria Lady Methuen's big concert in the Opera House, the benefit of which we shared with the "Baby House" at Grahamstown and the Y.W.C.A. at Pretoria, was as splendidly carried through as it was kindly conceived, and I think that Lady Methuen can appreciate our gratitude without too much saying.

Nor has one of our oldest friends in the person of Mrs. Grindley Ferris forgotten us! The Bloemfontein Committee under Mrs. Dawson's new leadership have done so many things that I had to plead for a respite, lest we should be deemed over-greedy!

At Port Elizabeth a Sale of Work enabled them to send us, for their first year's existence, £50 towards the nursing scheme! It is all so good that one finds it hard to say "thank you" often enough.

Lady Gladstone's great Nursing Scheme is now launched in memory of King Edward. Designed as it is to meet, over a wider district, the exact need that our own Railway Mission Nurses have tried for close on nine years to fill, we on the Mission cannot do anything but wish it the fullest measure of success. It is possible that our own scheme will enjoy some measure of affiliation to it later on.

Finally the Children of the Veld have not been idle or—stationary! I shall not soon forget that tea party on the Mission Coach at Braamfontein. Was it chance, or the eye for effect possessed by the station master, our old friend Mr. Horscroft, which produced that judicious shunt while the coach was full of children and the cups full of tea? Anyhow, I believe in object lessons when taken in small doses!

Always your friend,

H. B. ELLISON.

P.S.—The Nurses are always so retiring and say so little in print, that I should like to ask everyone to notice their present distribution and addresses, and to make a mental note of it for themselves, or any friends who may wish to enjoy the benefits of the best skilled nursing at a cost which should be within anyone's reach. It will be seen that the Transvaal now has two of the Nurses and the Cape two. Application should be made to the Nurses themselves at the addresses given, or to myself, when all information will be given.
Since the last notes were written for *Light for the Line*, the most solemn part of the Church's year has come and gone. The congregations at the Services during Holy Week were very encouraging, and if the number of people who attended the Three Hours' Service on Good Friday was not quite up to what we have had in past years there were certainly more than usual who stayed through the whole Service.

The Easter Services reminded us of the "good old times." Not only did our people who still remain here do all in their power to do honour to the Feast of the Resurrection, but we had several old friends of the Church back with us for the holiday, such as Mr., Mrs. and Miss Dempster, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jenvey, and Mr. Havenga. All concerned did their best to make the Services worthy of the occasion.

The Vestry Meeting was held on Easter Monday evening and saw several changes in the ranks of the Church officers. Mr. Dempster having already left the place and Mr. Francis being obliged to be away from home nearly all his time until he settles down in some other place, it was necessary to elect two new Churchwardens, and the choice fell upon Mr. Craddock and Mr. Greenway. Of the Sidesmen Mr. Odine, Mr. Jessop and Mr. Hitchcock have held office before and the three new ones are Mr. Wood, Mr. Legg and Mr. Gordon Francis.

The Festival of the Ascension of our Lord was marked as usual by a Choral Celebration of Holy Communion in the early morning.

The Church here has lost a devoted young worker in the removal of Mr. Bert Craddock to Uitenhage. As choir boy, Server and Crucifer he was exemplary in the performance of his duties, and besides that was ever ready to assist the Church officers and the Priest-in-charge in any way that lay within his reach.

L. Hands.

**COOKHOUSE AND MIDLAND.**

It was a great joy to us at Cookhouse to be able to have the Bishop with us for the Confirmation on March 31st, when six candidates were presented and the Church was nearly full. On the following Tuesday three candidates from higher up the Line were Confirmed at Cradock. It is sad to record how poorly the Services at Cookhouse during Holy Week were attended, with the exception of the Lantern Service on Good Friday, which Mr. Coombs had come up to take. Owing to the fact that the Head of the Mission was able to be at Cookhouse for Easter Day, both Alicedale and Cookhouse were able to have their Easter Communion. On Sunday evening the annual Vestry Meeting was held, when Mr. Vincent and Mr. Lovegrove were again appointed Churchwardens. The Head of the Mission then explained the financial position and how much it was necessary for us to raise each year for the Sustentation Fund, which he said was the first call on us, and that we must deny ourselves spiritual luxuries such as Church Improvement, until such times as the Sustentation Fund is established on a firm and sound footing. With the reasonableness of this demand we can none of us quarrel. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Veale and Mrs. Vincent were appointed collectors for this fund, and it is to be hoped that everyone will subscribe to this fund, not only our own Communicants, but also those who at any time make use of the ministries of the Church. It is perhaps a
small gratification to hear that so far we have been able to give this year in six months very nearly as much as was collected during the whole of last year, but what we ought to raise must not be twice as much as last year, but three times as much!

We have been rather handicapped during the last two months by our regular organist not being always available and we have had to rely on the services of anyone whom we could get.

It seems also to be a pity that we are unable to raise a choir of any kind to lead the singing. Surely there must be in Cookhouse enough talent for this. During the last two and a half months, every station and nearly every cottage has been visited, some of them more than once, and Services have been held in many places along the Line and the Holy Communion celebrated as often as was possible. The following lists record the places where Services have been held and the amount of the collections in each place:—Thorngrove farm (H.C.), 11/6; Witmoss, 6/8; Nerquy’s farm (H.C.), 5/6; Ripon (H.C.), 5/6; Commadagga (Evensong and H.C.), 8/-; Coega (H.C. and Mattins), 10/9; Barkly Bridge, 4/6; Luney (H.C. and Evensong), 5/6; Coerney (H.C.), 1/9; Mortimer (Evensong and H.C.), 12/6; Conway (Evensong and H.C.), 10/3; Commadagga (second time), 6/3; Ripon, 5/-.

I cannot close these notes without thanking all who have been so good in entertaining me during my first few months in the country; it is wonderful to me to find everybody so kind and hospitable, and I would like to pay a tribute of gratitude especially to the station masters and foremen who have been almost without exception the soul of courtesy and consideration. I would like to pay more in their praise, but it would not do, as they might blush if they read it and, if it were possible, it might make them conceited!

C.G.D.

THE RAMBLER.

ALICEDALE. Things here have been going very well during the quarter. The Services, especially Evensong on Sunday, have been very well attended. Our choir and the singing generally have been praised by several visitors who have been to the Services. The one regret we have is that more of our Comunicants cannot find time to come to the Celebrations of Holy Communion. The faithful few are very faithful, but many who could come fail to realise their duty in this respect. The Mission Services in Holy Week were appreciated and helpful to many. The Church Hall on the Wednesday was quite full for the Lantern Services; there were lots of people present whom I had never seen before and did not know. Easter Day was well kept. On Ascension Day we had a Celebration and Mattins and Evensong, but to many the holiday was more important than coming to Church to keep the Feast. The annual Vestry Meeting was well attended and Mr. Wayt and Mr. Harvey were re-elected Churchwardens and Mr. Brachell, Mr. H. Harvey, Mr. Tinning and Mr. Jones were elected Sidesmen for the year. Those who are being prepared for Confirmation must please go on patiently waiting until our good Bishop returns from England or another Bishop comes this way whom we can ask to take the Service.

The other places visited during the quarter have been Wolvefontein, Mount Stewart, Jansenville, Klipplaat, where the beautiful new Church was dedicated on Trinity Sunday. It is simply wonderful what has been done and where the money has come from. Aberdeen Road, Glen Harry, Letts Kraal, Bethesda Road, Blauwater, Roode Hoogte, Sandflats, Addo, Belle Vue.

We very much regret having to say “good-bye” to Sister Mary Gertrude.
She was only working along the Line for a short time, but during that time she won the hearts of not a few, and her good influence will be felt for a long time to come. Sister Emily is still plodding away; just at this moment she is busy with the Sale at Klipplaat in aid of the Font and other things for the Church.

J. J. Coombs.

**BORDER SECTION, C.P.**

June, 1911.

I have not very much to record, as I have only been a few months in the country. First I must express my sincere thanks to all, both to members of the Staff and to Railway people and parish clergy for much kindness, help and ready hospitality.

I was initiated into mysteries of travelling and visiting by Mr. Coombs. I am sure that the fortnight or so that I spent with him in the coach was invaluable to me.

My own sphere of activity is the line from near East London to Lady Grey, with the branches to Butterworth and Maclear, and the section Stormberg to Rosmead. There are not a great many places where Services can be held, since nearly all the small stations get a monthly Service from the parish clergy.

Most of my time has been spent visiting the gangers' cottages. So far I have been to all those between Stormberg and Blaney, and on the branch lines to Maclear and Butterworth. A few north of Stormberg, and most of those between Stormberg and Rosmead have also been visited.

Some people will not open their doors when I call. I hope they will not say I have never been to see them. I have been taken for various kinds of people—P.W.I., Telegraphist, Doctor, Commercial Traveller, a Parson, etc. In fact one man told me that I did not dress much like a parson. I hope people will understand that I am not a parson, but only an ordinary, commonplace layman.

Another mistaken idea which I should like to clear up, is this: A certain number of people imagine that I visit them in order to collect money (so much per family). On one occasion I had scarcely told a man who I was and where I came from, when I was greeted with "When do you want it?" Another time somebody said, "I suppose you go about with a card collecting silver?"

Without wishing in any way to minimise the important duty upon all to support the Railway Mission, I must say how utterly wrong is this idea. People are visited in order that we may make friends, and do what spiritual work is possible.

Another idea some people have, is that the clergy of the English Church are paid by the Government. Neither in this country, nor in England, do our clergy receive salaries from the State.

I hope to be able to visit all my friends again in the near future; but as most of the work has to be done on a bicycle or on foot, travelling takes a long time.

I do hope that anyone wishing to see me specially at any time will write to me. My address is "Bishopsbourne Cottage, Grahamstown." If I am away letters will be forwarded to me.

May I ask all those who have the work of the Railway Mission at heart for their earnest prayers?

G. S. Harris.

**WOMEN'S WORK.**

**GRAHAMSTOWN Diocese.**

It scarcely seems to be three months since I last wrote for *Light for the Line.* And the report is very much as usual.
I spent from Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday at Naauwpoort, where the Services were most helpful and one felt that the people were really entering into the Penitence of Holy Week and the Joy of Easter. The weather did not join in the joy and was very stormy and cold.

Besides the great sequence of Church Festivals we have also kept Union Day and King's Birthday.

At Rosmead on Union Day the children planted trees in the churchyard—forty of them—which are going to make the approach to Rosmead from that side a very different sight in the future! I took one for a small god-son of mine in Scotland, and a kind boy at Rosmead, Pax Eve, has promised to water it for me with his own and his baby sister's—so he will have three to look after, a great responsibility!

A great excitement is in store for the Guild members. Before they see this they will have received their Coronation badges from the kind Editor of Light for the Line. I can imagine how pleased they will be with them.

We had visits last month from Miss Whitley, who gave a delightful address to the G.F.S. at Naauwpoort, and later on other delightful addresses to the Mothers' Union and G.F.S. at De Aar, where the Mothers' Union one was particularly charming and all the members were left wishing for more! I think everyone is sorry that it was Miss Whitley's last time of visiting round this Diocese.

Changes are still going on, and we have lost Miss Turner from Rosmead, who did so much towards the furnishing of the Altar in our Church there. But she has promised not to forget us in her home in England.

On the other hand we have welcomed Mr. Thurston back, looking much better for his holiday in the Old Country.

G. E. HOLMES.

Glen Harry.

Miss Whitley has again been with us addressing meetings of Mothers, and also of G.F.S. girls at Cookhouse and Alickedale, and on the Graaff-Reinet line too, where she had a very warm welcome. I am sure it did us all good to hear her again, and her addresses have helped us definitely to start monthly meetings of the Mothers' Union at Klipplaat and Cookhouse, for which we are very thankful. At Sandflats too they are going on through the help of Miss Ham and Mrs. Fowler. Miss Ham is also taking the little Candidates' Sewing Class there every fortnight, and Mrs. Lee is doing the same at Cookhouse, as Mrs. Veale can no longer be entirely responsible for it. We are very grateful for their help.

Miss Caithness who has helped us in so many ways at Sandflats, is much missed now she has left for P.E. Mrs. T. H. Bruton has kindly taken her place as local agent for Light for the Line, and also has undertaken to see to the Church with the help of Miss Parry; we hope she will soon be able to open the Sunday School again, which was closed on account of whooping cough. Miss Muriel Bruton's wedding to Mr. Percy Hopgood has been quite an event in Sandflats, as it is the first wedding in the Bruton family for 24 years. All were glad that Mr. Fisher was able to come over to take the Service.

At Loerie on the Avontuur Line, through the hearty co-operation of the teacher, Miss Blewitt, we have been able to start a Branch of the G.F.S. I believe they are undertaking to work for one of our little ones in S. Peter's Orphanage—and to pray for her too. Mrs. Bennett's children at Sheldon—Eveline, Archie, Clifford, Ethel and Wynnie—have also taken another little one, "Irene," aged seven, for their special interest, and last time I was there I received a most delightful parcel of their own toys, etc., to take to
the Orphanage. The "Babies" when they were shown the toys (which are to be kept for wet days) were greatly struck: "Did those little children really send them to us?" "Oh, how kind of those little children to think of us!"

I had a most interesting visit to Thorngrove when at last I was able to take up the Christmas toys. I was glad to see something of the Native School which Miss Brown is so faithfully carrying on there. One little tot of four recited quite distinctly and accurately Psalm 23, and two others of six also recited it; others read out of their standard books and then they all sang. I am sure they all do credit to Miss Brown's teaching. I believe the little white children are also doing well under her sister Mabel. It was a great pleasure to have an old blackboard and some new reading books from S. Peter's School given me to take up to them a few days later.

Alicedale has been fairly quiet lately; for one thing there has been a good deal of sickness and anxiety in some of the homes, and in one home a death after many weeks of anxious watching. As the Dedication Festival was on the same day as the opening and Dedication of the Church at Klipplaat, it made it impossible to be at Alicedale. The Mission Services there in Holy Week were well and reverently attended. The one with lantern slides on the Wednesday night was most impressive, and helpful to us all.

Sister Mary Gertrude and I had almost our last trip together in the Coach and we were again helped with much kindness and many useful gifts for our housekeeping. Sister was very sorry to leave the Line (though glad to be at the Home again), and I, with many others, was very sorry to lose her.

We are looking forward to having Miss Beckwith back very soon—probably in August—and I am sure the Camps where she is so well known, will be ready to give her a hearty welcome.

Sister Emily.

KLIPPLAAT.

This little Camp deserves a column to itself, for great things have been going on there this last week. Many of you will have heard of and probably seen the small English Church of papier mache which has been used for seven years; this has now been replaced by a really beautiful one of brick with a square tower over the porch and a vestry at the west end added. The east end forms an apse and the roof is bright red with the best French tiling; the brickwork is plastered, which gives it the appearance of stone. Altogether it makes a picturesque landmark in that wide stretch of Karoo as well as a standing witness to the Living God in the midst of us, as the preacher on Sunday reminded us.

The Dedication was at the Holy Eucharist at 8 o'clock, Chancellor West taking the Bishop's place, and preaching both morning and evening. The Services throughout the day were well attended not only by the Camp people but by our Church people from Jansenville and Steytlerville, Wolvefontein and Aberdeen Road—all in the Rector's parish and district. The singing was most hearty and was greatly helped by the choir from Jansenville. At the close of Evensong the Te Deum was sung as a solemn thanksgiving—the Rector had previously given out that the Church was most fully paid for and that there was a good sum in hand for a Font and other essentials.

And now I must tell you about the Sale of Work, etc., on Saturday, at which close on £90 was realised. The Stall-holders were: Mrs. Wadmore and Miss Nellie Nothard (Plain and Fancy
Work); Miss Nothard and Mrs. Nicholas (Toys); Miss C. Nothard (Produce and Flowers); Miss Ferguson and Miss Reed (Sweets); Mrs. Duthie, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Fairbanks (Refreshments); Mr. Willie Nothard (Live Stock); and all this came about from such a small beginning. In January two ladies went round to collect for a children’s party, asking at the same time for a small donation towards a Font instead of for toys, as it was to be the children’s own special gift to the Church. £2 was collected and then spent in materials, which were cut out and soon distributed in the Camp to be made up for sale. This as it were set the ball rolling, for very soon a meeting was called with Mr. Duthie in the chair, when it was decided to have a Camp Sale to help to defray the cost of the Church; and they have been quietly working ever since, some of them most indefatigably and very many outside friends have helped too; several of the stores in Grahamstown and some in Port Port Elizabeth, and many of our Railway people along the Line. We had some beautiful flowers sent from Uitenhage, mostly collected by two or three kind ladies, also from Graaff-Reinet. And the farmers were so good too—so that altogether on Saturday a beautiful show of things was laid out on the various stalls (as well as a delightful little flock outside in the kraal). Some almost sighed to think they would never be able to sell all their goods, but, wonderful to relate, the buyers simply flocked in from all directions and it was quite a gay scene outside the Court-house with all the various carts. I must just add that the Church is lighted with acetylene gas, the generous gift of an anonymous friend, and also that I think it is an open secret that the Rector designed the Church himself and it was all built by one man.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, FORDSBURG.

The Easter Festival passed off very happily; the Church was beautifully decorated and the congregations were large both at the Holy Eucharist and at Evensong. Good Friday too was carefully observed, the attendance at the 10.30 Service being particularly good. I was glad to see such a large number of Scouts present. It is a pity that since Easter the congregations on ordinary Sundays have not been up to the mark; our men particularly should make a greater effort to attend Church regularly. I propose shortly holding some Mission Services on Sunday evenings and I trust our people will do their best to make these special Services known so that we may get in touch with some of the large number of people who apparently never attend a place of worship.

It is hoped to revive our branch of the E.C.M.S., and in connection with this effort, the Archdeacon of Johannesburg has kindly promised to address a meeting of men on July 12th. The meeting will be held in the Railway Lads’ Club.

Empire Fête. Our thanks are due to all our workers and friends. On the whole the Fête was a success. Expenses were very heavy and it was a pity we held it in the middle of the month when money was not plentiful. Still we expect to clear about £70. A very fair crowd was present and amongst the visitors were the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. Cresswell Clarke (Assistant General Manager of S.A.R.) and Mr. Patrick Duncan, C.M.G., who kindly opened the Fête. The whole day went with a swing and everyone seems to have thoroughly enjoyed it. When all worked so well, it is not wise, perhaps, to mention names, but I must express the thanks of the Church to Mrs. Taylor, who has been so success-
ful in raising money from her friends and from business firms in Johannesburg.

BUXTON. A Bazaar was held in the Masonic Hall on June 7th in aid of the Building Fund of the new Church. It was entirely successful. Everyone worked with a will, with the result that we shall clear quite £100. The Auckland Park Estates Co. have practically promised us a site for the Church, so that now, with a few more efforts on the part of the energetic Buxton people, we ought to be able to lay the foundation stone and proceed with the building of the permanent Church.

Miss Bridge broke down in health on Maundy Thursday and now it has been decided that she will not return to the Parish. Buxton will miss her in many ways, and I can only express my personal thanks to her for her faithful labours.

VREDEDORP. The work has steadily progressed under the fostering care of Mr. Shipton. Our committees are anxiously working to secure a larger room. We have applied to the Johannesburg Municipal Council for a site on which, if we are successful in obtaining it, we shall erect a temporary Church.

O. W. Laurie Skey.

NORTHERN, WESTERN AND VOLKSRUST LINES.

This last quarter has seen a lot of Coach work. Visits have been paid along the Volksrust, Pietersburg, Fourteen Streams and the Zeerust Lines. Our first visit on the Volksrust Line was on the whole a success. At many of the places the attendance at the Services were very good. But we cannot claim any credit for this as some of these places already receive regular Services from the Parochial Clergy and it was by arrangement with them that we paid such places a visit. There is not really so much need of a Railway Chaplain on this Line, anyhow for the Services, and so our work on this Line will not take up much of our time in future. If any station should ever find it difficult to get at least one Service in the month we wish they would let us know, and we will try and arrange it for them, but we cannot promise that it will be on a Sunday. On this section there is a short line under construction, which will run from Standerton to Vrede, O.F.S. Since we found it, this line has received some attention from us, and we have paid the men on construction work two visits. This is work really worth doing; the men are keen and will make real sacrifice to come to a Service. There is no need to offer them sugar plums, in the form of Magic Lanterns, etc. They are mostly men who would despise such a measure to get them to a religious service. Many of them are men who for the most part are well educated and come from good families and have held good positions, but are now for certain reasons earning their living by doing a labourer's work. There is a feeling that people despise them and speak ill of them, so no wonder they are down, and they will be kept down unless we can go and show them that we believe in them and tell them of One Who does not despise, and is their Friend, even He Who was despised and rejected of men. The difficulties in undertaking this work can be imagined when you think of the distance which lies between our Headquarters and the place we have to start. There is little or no chance of making arrangements for going along the construction. We cannot go by train and so it must be by cart. You know nothing of distances of farms or the Camps where the men will be found at work. You know nothing of roads, as the Railway will not necessarily follow a road. Happily
for these visits to Vrede we found in
the Rector of Standerton the most ex-
cellent of friends. So keen was he that
he not only lent his own horses and
cart, but went on the expedition him-
self. The men at work along the Line
without exception received us well and
extended hospitality to us and one
night, after holding Services, they even
managed to fix two beds up for us.
At another time when we came to the
river they undertook to put our horses
cart across. In every way that, if it were possible for them to give us
help, they made it their business to
see that we got it. And this from men
who are credited with not caring for
parsons and religion!

The Fourteen Streams and Zeerust
Lines seem to be responding to our
visits and we hope before long to be
able to start some Confirmation Classes.
Those who have made up their minds
should summon up courage and tell the
Chaplain when he next appears, or,
better still, address a letter to him at
Auckland Park, Johannesburg. As
classes must necessarily be few and far
between no opportunity should be
missed. Pietersburg and the Rusten-
burg Lines are very difficult lines to
work, and we can get little or no re-
sponse to our work. One reason of
course is because these lines are thinly
populated, and where there are a few
together they are generally Dutch. We
must say that where there are Dutch
people and we hold Service they come
wonderfully well. The Vereeniging
lines, which also belong to this sec-
tion, generally receive mention in the
Light for the Line. So we will not
say much, and what we have to say
this quarter is perhaps not worth the
saying. The weather has been trying,
but we do not think this accounted for
the downfall of Klip River last time
we were there. It is perhaps unfair
to speak of once; we feel sure we shall
get better congregations next time.
Natal Spruit, which claimed the even-
ing of the same day on which we went
to Klip River, turned up manfully
notwithstanding that our Service could
not be started until nearly nine owing
to the engine breaking down on the
way.

We are sorry to have lost the Hol-
ders from Evaton, but we trust they
will be happy in their new home at
Germiston.

I. H. Boon,
A. R. Thurlow.

Offerings.

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WATERVAL BOVEN DISTRICT.

WATERVAL BOVEN. The most notable event in the past quarter has been the commencement of a Sunday School. The work has been undertaken by Mrs. Pollin and Mrs. Paley, and we have made a good but modest start with about sixteen children. There are at least three times that number of Church children in Boven, all of whom ought to come; we assure the parents that the continuance of a Sunday School will always be the first consideration.

The Sunday evening congregations show a marked improvement. The number of Communicants, however, remains terribly small. How can we expect God's blessing to rest on the work of the Church in Boven if we neglect the express command of Jesus Christ? Are we even worthy of the name of Christians?

Several Church people have felt recently that the furniture and hangings of the Church have become shabby and unworthy of God's House. A most successful Concert and Dance was arranged by the Church Council for May 19th, by which over £16 was raised to meet the cost of refurnishing the Church. The work is now in progress, the result of which, it is hoped, will be a real improvement. The children also are hoping to present a Font, for which they are bringing their "tickeys," and so to do their part of the work. The external fabric of the Church causes some anxiety, as the whole building seems to be slipping down-hill towards the station. The actual station staff, as a whole, is not guilty of much Church-going; perhaps the Church is trying to hint that if they will not go to it, it will go to them.

Finances are in a more satisfactory condition owing to the energy of the Church Council and its Secretary. Part of last year's arrears in Sustentation Fund has been made up, all outstanding obligations have been met, and a slight balance remains in the Bank.

MACHADODORP. Here I am sorry to record the loss of our Station-master. Mr. Evans has been transferred to Worcester, where he takes up his new duties in the middle of June. The people of Machadodorp have already shown their appreciation of him by a public presentation. It only remains for me to mention the work he has done as Secretary of the Church Council, and to thank him for the work he has done on behalf of the Church. We wish him and Mrs. Evans all prosperity and happiness in their new home.

BELFAST. Both at the Station and in the Town recent Services have been sadly interfered with by bad weather. On Easter Day, however, we were favoured with perfect weather; there were 25 Communicants during the day, and the other Services were well attended.

WORK ALONG THE LINE. During Eastertide I visited a few places where no regular Sunday Services are held in order to administer Holy Communion. Otherwise little actual Line work was done, other Railway Missioners occupying the coach most of the time. I visited the Selati Line, part of the Boven to Komati Poort section, and part of the Springs to Breyten line. The wet weather rather hindered operations. Services have been held at a few new centres, but it is impossible for one man to make use of all the opportunities that present themselves in my vast district.

T. GRAY HOPKYNs.

DIOCESE OF MASHONALAND.

MAPEKING-BULAWAYO SECTION.

We have had the first visit of the Bishop as bishop. He came to us at
the end of April, confirmed six candidates at Plumtree School; then on to Francistown, where there was a native Confirmation, the first fruits of work among the Bakhushutshe people. There was a big incoming to Francistown for this event, no less than nine wagon-loads travelling the sixty odd miles to greet their Bishop and to see the first Confirmation that any of them had witnessed. It was a cheering sight, and we hope that ere long many others of them will be ready for the Blessed Gift. The Bishop preached to the white population at St. Patrick's Church in the evening, and then went on to hold a Service at Gaberones.

I did my last pay train trip for the time in May; it was a rough journey, the coach seemed to wobble more than usual, perhaps because I was a bit off colour; but thanks to the doctoring generously administered by several people on the way, a fair measure of health was restored ere the trip was completed.

We have had many more changes of late, the chief being the removal of the Artesia School to Magalapye, with most of the residents of the former place. Artesia is now practically depleted and the "sound of boys and girls playing in the streets" thereof will be heard no more. It is difficult to repress a sigh at this; we have had many happy afternoons, and many encouraging Services at Artesia, and a hearty welcome by the people there was always assured.

But Magalapye has benefitted and has now become quite a lively place. I spent Rogation Sunday there, and one of the features of the day was a Service for the Children. They all turned up, sang lustily, and gave intelligent answers to the questions asked.

We are glad to learn that part of the new education scheme is a supplementary school for coloured children. If this is carried out it will supply a long-felt want, and show that the Railway authorities are alive to the necessity of educating the children of their coloured employees, who, on account of their small salaries, are unable to send their children away to be educated.

It is not yet known who will be acting for me during my leave, but whoever he may be I am sure that you will give him a real South African welcome. He is almost certain to be a priest fresh from home, so please deal gently with him, and don't frighten him too much with fearsome lion stories and threats of terrible native risings. I shall think of you all often when I am on the other side of the globe, and shall be so grateful for your continued prayers.

James Toy.

WOMEN'S WORK.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.

A good many of my friends on the Line know that I have been taking a holiday and will not expect to hear much about work. An aunt and cousin came out from England for a few weeks to see a little of the country, and, incidentally, of me, and the last fortnight of their stay I spent in Natal with them. I also went up to Johannesburg after Easter to see Miss Attlee and a little of the work at Fordsburg and the headquarters of the Mission. Now I am hoping before very long to have been all round my Section again, as well as some of Miss Ramadge's, and I hope that anyone who thinks I have been a long time coming will understand and excuse me. Shifting still seems to be the order of the day in the O.F.S., and I hardly ever find the whole staff on a station the same as the last time I was there.
Miss Ramadge writes from England that she is having a good time, and that so far the home weather has not been so bad that she is longing for South African sunshine. Let us hope that it will keep fine and summery for the Coronation and the rest of her holiday. By the way, Miss Burt writes that she has got Coronation Medals for the children of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, which I am sure they will be delighted to have. I am glad to be able to record a good number of fresh members for the Guild. I hope they really mean to be good members and stick to their motto diligently: “Every day—read and pray.”

M. E. WATSON.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

Auckland Park,
Johannesburg.

I haven’t time for much of a letter as I am only just recovered from a slight attack of influenza, and hope to start off to-morrow to visit Miss Watson at Bethlehem for a change of air. It seems only like last week that I wrote to you! but I will try and tell you something of our latest doings.

The girls of the Guild of the Good Shepherd have twice paid visits to S. Agnes’ Native Girls’ School, Rosettenville, and taken them clothes and dolls that they have dressed and for the seniors some sacred pictures which they were trusted to distribute by the King’s Messenger Children of Fleet, Herts, England. We have several new probationer girls.

CHILDREN’S PAGE.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

You will remember that in my last letter I spoke about the great day of rejoicing that has now just passed. All of you I hope were very happy on that day because all of you as well as the King and Queen of our great Empire share in the blessings which we prayed for on Coronation Day. We all want lots of help to be good and to do the right things instead of the wrong

The Mothers’ Union meets regularly and we have begun debates on certain definite subjects, the outcome of our Bible Circle Study of Lent. So far the subjects we have taken are “Prayer” and “Punishments,” and as members lose their shyness and each take a part we shall learn much from the experience and knowledge of one another.

The Catechisms at Fordsburg and Vrededorp have kept steady during last quarter on the whole, but Vrededorp has gone ahead in one particular—the seniors take notes and write analyses now and bid fair to excel those of Fordsburg, if they don’t take care.

The Little Catechism at Fordsburg which has hitherto had no music, has just benefited by the birthday gift of a tiny organ sent me from England, so the Babies will be helped to sing the Action Hymns. I have been so anxious they should learn. We have gained another teacher for them who is also a member of the Guild of the Good Shepherd.

It may interest other Railway children to know that before our Dedication Festival, fourteen of the children of the Good Shepherd Church set themselves to thoroughly clean the building. It is a good size and took a great deal of scrubbing, but they did it as thoroughly as possible, beating mats, washing windows, linseed oiling pulpit, etc., etc. It was a very happy work, as you will find if you try, children who read this, and if you pray first that God will prosper the work of your hands and accept it to His glory.

MARY A. B. ATTLEE.
things every day of our lives. King George and Queen Mary most of all want help because they have to lead all their subjects—children as well as grown-up people—and rule them justly and well. So all of us were glad and very joyful on that day because we believed God would send His Holy Spirit to help them to do in the very best way the work that they have to do as rulers of the largest Empire in the world. And it is grand to know that even you children along the Line joined in the chorus of “God Save the King,” which went up from millions of British subjects on June 22nd.

I do hope that a great many of you will write letters to the C.O.V. children in England and tell them what you did on that day. I want lots more names for letters. So many C.O.V. children are waiting to write to you, and I have not nearly enough names for them all.

There are a good number of new Good Shepherd members, but very few names as yet from the Transvaal. It would be such a glorious thing if all the children along the Line were members, and really earnest members. Just think what a big echo of sound would go up every day if you all used that beautiful prayer on the Guild card and never forgot to do it! Such a little bit of trouble—no, not trouble, but real pleasure if you really believe that God hears you and will answer you—and such a great big blessing, just that same blessing that He gave to our King and Queen the other day. I was told that some of the members of the Good Shepherd were not keeping their rule as faithfully as they might keep it. Why not? I expect the reason is that they have too many other things to do, or perhaps they are lazy. Both very bad reasons. No time to think for one short moment of God! Or, too lazy to use the power God has given you! Remember, children, that all the people who have done great and noble work in the world have been eager and active, not lazy. They have tried to learn all they could and do all they could. And each one of you must do this every day. You will be helped to do it if you use the Guild prayer and think of all the other children who are using it too.

A great many more Bible Reading cards have gone out this year and I still hope that more children will ask for them. That again is a work you can all do together. Don’t you think doing things together is a pleasure? Working or playing all by yourself is not half so nice. I always think Robinson Crusoe must have been much happier when he had found Friday though he tried to be cheerful when he had no one to talk to.

Let us all, then, join in as many things as we can and help one another to be happy and good and useful.

Your friend,
The Editor.

Girls’ Friendly Society.

New Candidates.

Naauwpoort.—Lizzie Harmse, Eve Fleetwood, Annie Coetze, Mary Coetzee, Mary Ann Deacon, Margaret Naudé.

Fish River.—Daisy, Lily and Mary Williams.

Glenconner.—Blanche Matthews, Ina Rautenbach.

Loerie.—Mary Kate van Vuuren, Jessie Roussouw, Annie van Vuuren, Alberta Mereling, Dolly Blewitt.
**Guild of the Good Shepherd.**

**New Members.**

*Stormberg.*—Grace Orton, Elizabeth Maria van Meyeren, Andrew John Harry Buyse, Walter David van der Sandt, Mary Fincham, Doris Lilian Woodier.

*Dohna, G.C.* 18.—Philippina Dolaphina Botha.

*Kubusie, G.C.* 16.—Philip Christian Venter, Lettie Sarah Venter and Sarah Johanna Venter.

*Carrickmore.*—Henry, Louisa and Alfred Els.

*Thebus, G.C.* 9.—Maria and Martha van Heerden.

*Alicedale.*—Maggie Pulley, Martha Daniels, Nellie Rostell.

*Klipplaat.*—Abraham Vincent.


*Lovat, O.F.S.*—Nettie Jamie, David Jamie.

*Springfield, O.F.S.*—Johanna van Tonder.

**Question Corner.**

Very few answers come in regularly. The best I have had are from Louisa Schuch (Senior) and Marjorie Allen (Junior). Both have been very keen and deserve the prizes they are getting.

Instead of the usual set of questions I am now only giving one every quarter, and a prize for the best answer will be offered each time. So that there will be four prizes in the year and it will not make any difference whether you send an answer every quarter or only one or two answers in the year. Only the answer must be sent in before the date that is set down each time. This quarter the question is:

A letter to a child of your own age in England describing South Africa and some of the customs, animals and other things that are different from those in England.

(The letters to be sent to the Editor on or before August 30th.)

**BAPTISMS.**

**DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.**

March.

15—Charles Henry Beddoes Eagles, Naauwpoort.
18—Isabella Johanna Taylor, Norval’s Pont.
28—William Bradley Foster, Franz.
30—Aletta de Lange, Shepherds.

April.

9—Alice Beatrice Mary Cowling, Cookhouse.
11—George Henry van der Merwe, Cookhouse.
13—Arthur Clement Daniell, Alicedale.
13—Hester Maud Casten, Alicedale.
20—Edward John Deacon, Cookhouse.
28—Minnie Francis Holden, Cookhouse.

May.

14—Frank Johannes van Meyeren, Naauwpoort.
22—John Henry Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Thomas Cornelius Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Catherine Maud Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Dora Lilian Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Philip George Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Martha Lucy Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—David Geoffrey Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Ethel Dahlia Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Isaac Jansen, Cookhouse.
22—Annie Faith Golyat, Cookhouse.
24—Alfred Lawrence Bradford, Naauwpoort.
25—Peter Jacob Bonthuys, Cookhouse.
28—Alfred Molomo, Cookhouse.
28—Walter Hendrick, Cookhouse.
28—Wilson Jack, Cookhouse.
28—Isaac Abraham Berkat, Cookhouse.

June.

3—Johnson Ngayi, Cookhouse.
3—Simon Kleinboon, Cookhouse.
3—Jonah Motsepa, Cookhouse.
3—Henry Zwartbooi, Cookhouse.
4—Gowon Edwin Gilmore, Cookhouse.
6—Thora Martha Carter, Naauwpoort.
DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

March.
10—Maria Margaritha Elizabeth Joubert, Fortuna.
11—Sydney Philip Melville, Fortuna.
12—Florence Hannah Marjorie Friggens, Waterval Boven.
19—Thomas Albert Adlam, Platrand.
19—Elizabeth Jacoba van der Heyer, Palmford.
27—Fred Hubert Brialin, Natalspruit.
27—Nona Elsie Cloete, Natalspruit.
27—Sarah Pawson Waterval Boven (privately).
28—James Henry Carstens, Kingswood.
28—Anna Johanna Maria Botes, Kingswood.

April.
1—Hendrina Margharita de Klerk, Harrismburg.
2—Maud Atkey Alford, Belfast.
2—Horace Hamilton Duggan, S. Saviour's, Vrededorp.
2—Iris Agnes Roberts, Brixton.
2—Cyril William Thornton, Brixton.

April 9—Arthur William Harrison, Waterval Boven.
9—William Antony Thompson, Vrededorp.
9—Thennes, James, Vrededorp.
16—Charlotte Ellen Burton, De Deur.
16—Arthur Wallace Gallagher, Belfast.
16—Elenora Gallagher, Belfast.
16—John Gallagher, Belfast.
16—Ella Grace Gallagher, Belfast.
24—Johannes Ludovicus van Vuuren, Maguass.
29—John Christopher Tosen, Bronkhorstspruit.
30—Margaret Frances Alvina Towson, Bronkhorstspruit.
30—Anna Catrina Smith, Naboomspruit.

April 31—Alan George Webb.

April.
4—Ida Otter.
4—Marjorie Otter.
4—Helen Otter.
6—Mona Ida Cheetham.

May.
5—Mary Hester Strydom.
5—Albertus Constantinus Ludie.
27—Margaret Jenkins.

MARRIAGE.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

May.
17—At Thebus, John Telfer Salmond to Gesina Maria Coetzee.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

March.
22—At Fordsburg, Ernest Laurence Flowerday to Olive May Spalding.
23—Peter Nice to Lucy Taverner.

June.
6—Gert Betrus Oosthuizen to Anna Johanna Else.

BURIALS.

May.
28—At Alicedale, Frederic Friday.

Light for the Line.

Subscriptions, 2/- per annum, 2/6 post free, can be paid to the Editor or to any of the Mission Staff or Local Agents, or to Rev. H. B. Ellison, Auckland Park, Johannesburg.

Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address.

Local Agents are asked to send names and new addresses of any removals from their list, or change in numbers required, to the Editor, The Hermitage, Grahamstown, also to apply at once to the Editor if the Magazines do not reach them duly.

Members of the Staff are asked to send in to the Editor, every quarter, names of new members of Guild of Good Shepherd, Mothers' Union, and G.F.S. for insertion in Light for the Line.
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Watarval Boven—Mr. D. M. Fraser.
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Volkerust—Town: Mrs. Pike.
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Lawley—Miss van der Merwe.
Evaton—Miss Sullivan.
Vereeniging—Miss Bessie Claridge, Mrs. Irvine.
Klip River—Mr. Charles.

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Parys—Miss Edna Sanders.
Edenburg—Miss Cochrane.
Paardeberg—Miss Isabel Fairley.
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Viljoen’s Drift—Mrs. Davis.
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Rev. F. A. Rogers, Bulawayo.

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