South African Church Railway Mission.

**STAFF.**

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<tr>
<th>Head of the Mission:</th>
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<tr>
<td>REV. F. A. ROGERS, M.A.</td>
<td>The Rectory, Germiston.</td>
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- Rev. T. de Lance Faunce, B.A. | Naauwpoort. |
- Mr. G. S. Harris, B.A. | Bishopsbourne Cottage, Grahamstown. |
- Mr. A. C. Bickerdike | Bishopsbourne Cottage, Grahamstown. |
- Miss Beckwith | The Hermitage, Grahamstown. |
- Miss Holmes | 92, Railway Cottages, Fordsburg (temporarily). |
- Miss Glasier | The Hermitage, Grahamstown. |
- Nurse Marlande | Rosmead. |
- Nurse Brownlow | Railway Hotel, Cookhouse. |
- Mr. J. J. Coombs | On furlough. |
- Rev. R. E. Thomas, M.A. | Railway Lads’ Club, Railway Avenue, Braamfontein. |
- Rev. T. G. Hopkyns, M.A. | The Rectory, Germiston. |
- Rev. W. M. Austin | c/o R. E. Berney, Esq., Brakfontein, Deatsville, O.F.S. |
- Mr. H. J. Coles | The Rectory, Germiston. |
- Mr. W. P. Renaud | Box 2875, Johannesburg. |
- Nurse Roberts | 44, Railway Cottages, Germiston. |
- Nurse Borradaile | 2, Jorissen St., Johannesburg. |
- Miss Attlee | On furlough. |
- Miss Ramadge | 7, Monument Road, Bloemfontein. |
- Miss Watson | 7, Monument Road, Bloemfontein. |
- Rev. C. G. Douglas | P.O. Box 616, Bulawayo. |
- Rev. W. F. Lack | P.O. Box 616, Bulawayo. |

Native Catechists, Readers and Teachers: Johannes Magxaka, Samuel Susela, Samuel Kula, Archibald Mbolikwa and Priscilla Hewu.

Hon. Editor and Children’s Secretary: Miss Burt, the Hermitage, Grahamstown.
LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

Box 5, Germiston,
June 11th, 1912.

For once a quarter has passed without any decrease or increase in the staff and with only one change, namely, that Mr. Bickerdike has left the Railway Lads' Club at Braamfontein in Mr. Thomas' hands and is now taking Mr. Coombs' place in the Midlands and helping Mr. Griggs at Alicedale and Cookhouse.

For many years past we have uttered warning after warning that unless those for whom we hold services can help us more than they do at present we shall have to cut down the staff. It is with very great regret that I now have to tell you that though here and there individuals have made a noble response to this warning, it has, on the whole, been ignored, and I am now compelled to act on it. I can make no attempt to replace Mr. Boon or Mr. Coombs because I cannot see any prospect of paying either stipends or expenses for their successors. Mr. Thurlow will, before the next number of Light for the Line reaches you, have finished his three years on the Mission and be leaving us; under present conditions I cannot ask anyone to take his place.

If therefore you find that you are getting fewer visits from the staff than you used to do please understand that it is not due to laziness, but to the reduction on the staff; and if you regret the loss of our ministrations, please make it a subject of your prayers, and if you can, do something to provide the means of existence for more workers.

Only last week I heard from a girl living on a farm who told me she had started a guild of about a dozen girls with whom she had been at school, who were going to collect a small sum each year for us. Could not a few others do the same?

Our new home at Germiston is on the whole a great gain. The house is not luxurious and I don't feel sure that a London County Council (if we had such a thing here) would not altogether condemn it as a bad case of overcrowding; but we hope we are going to save quite a tidy sum on it, and it has the great advantages of being near an important station, and, better still, next door to one of the most beautiful churches in South Africa. Every day at 12.45 there is a short service held in church devoted simply to intercessions for the Mission, and every Wednesday the Holy Communion is celebrated especially for our work.

In spite of money difficulties we have felt bound to make some attempt to respond to the constant appeals we get from settlers who live away from the line and are out of reach of the parochial clergy to take the services of the Church to them. The most pressing need seemed to be in the Free State, and ever since Easter Mr. Austin has been trekking round the Hoopstad, Boshof and Dealsville districts on horseback, ministering to the English-speaking people.

This is not work on which we can spend the money collected for the Railway Mission and a separate fund is
being raised for the purpose. I shall be glad to receive earmarked contributions towards it, and also suggestions of similar districts where such work would be valued if the money can be found to support it.

F. A. Rogers.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Since the issue of the last quarterly, changes have taken place both in the Staff and work. By the time you read these lines a good many will have made the acquaintance of Mr. Bickerdike, who has come down from Johannesburg to take temporarily Mr. Coombs' place. He comes with a wide experience of work amongst young men, and we are hoping that it will be possible for him to organise some kind of club at Alicedale—at present nothing whatever has been arranged. I hope we shall be able to make some report on this next quarter. A slight addition to the work has been made by the Mission taking temporary charge of Zwartkops. This entails a Sunday Celebration once a month, and Evensong on another Sunday, as well as Services at the Baths on both these Sundays.

Much good work has been put in here by the former curate of S. Mary's, Port Elizabeth, and it is a pleasure to find at least a dozen Communicants at each Celebration, and an average of thirty adults at Evensong.

I was glad of the opportunity of meeting here Mrs. Price, who did so much for the Mission and the children at Commadagga.

Our sympathy goes out to two families well known along the line, in their sad bereavement. On Thursday, May 9th, at Middleton, there passed to her rest in her eighteenth year Vivien Ashcroft Anderson. Contracting her disease just over twelve months ago she has lingered on, patiently bearing the cross laid upon her. Ever since I have been on the Mission I have had frequent enquiries up and down the line after Vivien Anderson, which goes to show how much she was esteemed by many people. Her mental and physical talents were beyond the ordinary for a girl of her age. At the Training College although in residence less than a year, her abilities soon won for her a name, and in her favourite game of tennis, her rival had little hopes of victory. But what made her really popular and loved by all, was the sweetness of her character. On April 1st she received the Blessed Sacrament for the last time. Her Master has seen fit to remove her ere she entered upon her life of service on earth, only we believe to give a wider and fuller ministry in Paradise.

At Alicedale, on May 23rd, the beautiful and hopeful words of our Burial Service were read over the body of Margaret Fridey, aged 67, the first part taking place in S. Barnabas Church. An old and much respected inhabitant of Alicedale, as was her husband whom she survived by only a year, she will be sorely missed in the Camp. Although a sufferer for the greater part of her life, it was only the last ten or twelve days that she was confined to her bed, and only a fortnight before the end she was contemplating a holiday at Cape-town. To her children she was always the ideal mother, and although their sorrow is bitter, it is sweetened by the thought that she has now joined her husband whom she loved so much. "In Jesus' keeping we are safe and they."

Cookhouse has seen the removal of Mr. Lovegrove who has been transferred to Norvals Pont. Zealous and hard-working, he did much for both the
English and Native Churches, being Churchwarden of the former and treasurer of the latter. We miss him sorely.

At Barkly Bridge the McKinnons, who always did all in their power to help forward the Services there, have been removed to Indwe. We welcome in their place Mr. Bennett and his family, who have been keen supporters of the Church at Addo.

From the Balance Sheet printed below, it will be seen that the sum of £3 15s. 9d. is still needed to pay off the debt on the organ at St. Paul's. Mr. Cowling is arranging a small concert, which will probably have been held by the time that this is in print, and I hope will have realised the needed sum. Our best thanks are due to all who have helped in different ways, especially to Dr. Jones' niece for collecting as well as to the subscribers themselves.

SIRWY R. GROGG.

CHURCH of S. PAUL THE TRAVELLER,
Cookhouse.

ORGAN FUND BALANCE SHEET.

Dr.       £ s. d. £ s. d.

To "Social" ... ... 6 3 0
" Sale of Work ... 4 11 3
" Sale of old Organ... 6 0 0

Subscriptions:
" "Alter Ego" ... 10 0
Mrs. Anderson ... 12 6
Miss Beckwith ... 7 0
Mrs. Boyd ... 2 6
Mrs. Bromfield ... 2 6
Nurse Brownlow... 10 0
Mrs. Bühler ... 5 0
Mr. Jas. Burchell 3 3 0
Mr. G. Burls ... 2 6
Mrs. Cooney ... 3 0
Mr. Donaldson ... 5 0
Mr. Durie ... 2 6
Mr. Fraser ... 2 6
Miss Gash ... 3 0
Rev. S. R. Griggs 1 1 0
Mrs. Hindwood ... 10 0
Mrs. Levine ... 2 6
Mrs. Lewis ... 10 6
Mr. Lovegrove ... 5 0
Mrs. McDonald ... 2 6
Mr. Parker ... 5 0
Miss Tamblyn ... 5 0
Miss Trumble ... 5 0

Mrs. Vaale ... 10 6
Mrs. Vincent ... 2 6
Miss Zahn ... 3 0

10 13 6

Deficit, due to Rev. S. R. Griggs ... 3 15 9

£31 3 6

Cr.

By Galpin Bros. for Organ ... 30 0 0
" "Social" Expenses ... 15 0
" Carriage on Organ ... 7 4
" Postage ... 1 2

£31 3 6

EASTERN SECTION, C.P.

The chief incident this quarter was the visit to the construction camp at Melk in March. Since my previous visit in July, last year, quite a village has sprung up, though a large part of it is down by the spruit, about a mile from the station.

Having the Mission coach with me I spent two days at the camp, and I think I managed to see everybody. At the suggestion of some of the men we had an al fresco Service on the banks of the spruit on Sunday morning, to which the natives were invited. There were several hundred boys on the construction; some forty of them turned up, and I dare say more would have come had not the camp been so scattered. There were about twenty white folk as well, including some from a neighbouring farm. We had a few prayers and some familiar hymns. Two of the men kindly led the singing, while the native boys chimed in with a kind of subdued hum. One man was kind enough to interpret my address into Sesuto. The boys were a mixed lot—Kafirs, Basuto, Zulus, Mashonas, etc., and as one of them said after-
wards, though they did not all understand with the head, they did with their hearts. After the last hymn the natives gave us a voluntary singing in different tongues. Then came photographs, and I went for a scramble up a glorious kloof, the rocks towering up for 400 feet. Some day there may be a railway bridge across this, and it should be one of the biggest in Africa. I returned to dinner with the contractor in his shanty.

In the evening we had a Lantern Service at the Station in a large iron shed half filled with barrels of Portland cement. Owing to the distance between the two parts of the camp and the fact that there was no moon, the attendance was somewhat small.

I heartily thank all those who so readily gave me help and hospitality. Lantern Services have also been held at Henning, Essex and Bowkers Park. I regret that once or twice the Service was curtailed or started late owing to the vagaries of the gas generator. Ordinary Services have taken place at Thebus, Schoombie, Berlin, Dolne and Kubusie.

The cottage visiting has gone on steadily. This is always a pleasant, if somewhat laborious, task. All the cottages between Sterkstroom and Maclear, Amabele and Butterworth, Aliwal North and Burghersdorp, as well as some on the main line have been visited.

Some of the people living near the line between Amabele and Komga have been called on, also the farms round Halseton. Everyone has been extremely kind, but many are rather loath to take advantage of the opportunities offered for united worship.

I have been reluctantly compelled to cancel several Services owing to personal indisposition, but I hope to make up for lost time during the coming quarter.

G. S. Harris.

WOMEN’S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Since the last issue of Light for the Line I have paid some visits on the Alexandria, Avontuur and Graaff-Reinet lines, though most of my time has been devoted to the Midland. Good Friday I spent between COOHOUSE and Middleton, attending three Services at the former place including the last sacred hour from 2 to 3 p.m., when a small number assembled in devotion before the Cross. In the evening I showed the Passiontide slides twice over in MIDDLETON, first to the Natives in their School, and then to the children and their friends of the Railway School; both appreciative audiences, who joined heartily in the hymns in their different languages. Easter Eve I returned to COOKHOUSE, where, with some kind gifts of flowers and pampas grass from Somerset East and the help of a few zealous decorators, the little Church soon assumed its most festive aspect. That evening was a preparation Service, and on the great Festival itself nearly all the Communicants of the Camp met at the Altar and all the Services were very bright and hearty with the help of the new organ, though there is still need of many more to attend the choir practices regularly and join in the singing.

Whitsuntide I was at SANDFLATS where there were a good number of Communicants at the two Celebrations. A Festival Frontal, presented by the Railway Mission, was used for the first time, and the altar vases appropriately filled with tall red aloes, found on the veld by the little candidates. Next it was my good fortune to attend a family festival at MIDDLETON on June 4th, when the wedding of two well-known and universally popular inhabitants took place—Miss Hetty Hughes to Mr. Gordon Jennings. In spite of the early hour—8 a.m.—fixed
for the service, everyone was punctual and representatives from each family in the Camp were present to join in the solemn prayers and sing the bridal hymn, which was played, as well as the wedding march, by Mr. McGregor. Afterwards the whole party were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Sparks at the hotel, where a charmingly-arranged wedding breakfast was spread, and everything went merrily as the proverbial marriage bell, including the time-honoured speeches and toasts and jokes, till the train appeared to carry away the happy couple on their honey-moon amid showers of confetti, waving of arum lilies by the children and the good wishes of all their friends, who had the satisfaction of feeling they should soon be able to welcome them back again.

Last in date, but by no means in importance, comes the Confirmation at ALICEDALE on June 14th. This had been looked forward to for some time past by a small band of candidates, some of whom were able to assemble at the time appointed. Simple and short as the Service was few either of the candidates or congregation could fail to carry away a life-long impression of the solemnity of the occasion, and to remember the words of practical counsel given to all by the Bishop in his beautiful address on the Fatherly Hand ever over us, the example of Christ's earthly life ever before us, and the power of the Holy Spirit ever with us. He concluded with an earnest exhortation on the subject of the Holy Eucharist; so let us hope that the result of this inspiring Service may be a permanent increase in the number of regular Communicants in this Camp.

M. JOSEPHINE BECKWITH.

WORK COMPETITION.

Open to all. Special Prizes to G.F.S. Members and Candidates given by vote.

Bags of all shapes and sizes—made in any material and for any purpose.

To be sent in by the end of August, addressed either to Miss Beckwith or Miss Glasier, The Hermitage, Grahamstown.

Proceeds of sale of bags for G.F.S. blind Member.

With the exception of those on the Graaff-Reinet line I think I have now been to all the Stations on our Section and am quite a well-known figure in the camps. Now that Miss Beckwith has launched me forth alone we are able to visit the different places more frequently and see a lot more of the people. Much time lately has been given to starting the children on the new Bible Reading portions and we are arranging that whenever we have a Bible Talk in school it shall be on the subject lately read by them. We think this will be a help and encourage them to keep it up. A really good number have started and we want to help them as much as we can. So they must be sure and ask us anything they want to know about in their readings.

The Confirmation at Alicedale is the greatest event there this quarter and I wish I could have been present. To the candidates it is a milestone in their spiritual lives and everything in the Service should help them to realise it. It is the only time in our lives when we need the offices of our Bishop. We can be baptised, married and buried by the chaplain, but for this great service, which marks the coming of age of the Church's children, we need our Bishop, that through his prayers and blessing God may vouchsafe to pour His Spirit in Its fullest measure upon us.

It is not too far back to write about our Coach tour before Easter, when Miss Beckwith and I visited Zuney and Kinkelbosch and spent a day at each of all the other small stations up the main line. We were able to show the Passiontide lantern slides at all of them and everywhere they were much appreciated. It was my first experi-
ence of a movable house and what with cleaning, cooking, visits and children's classes during the day and the Lantern Service almost every night we had quite a busy time. All the children seem to think we bring the coach round for their special amusement, and tea or Bible Class seems quite different there to what is is anywhere else. We hope to have another trip during August, and this will include the Graaff-Reinet line.

I paid a flying visit to Loerie where on Saturday evening I showed the lantern with all the children's stories to a roomful of people—their only regret was that there were not more to be seen, even after some of the pictures had been shown twice. The result was a splendid collection for our G.F.S. blind member, now learning hand-weaving in Port Elizabeth.

P. Glasier.

WOMEN'S WORK.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.

The nicest thing I have to chronicle this quarter is the progress of the Sunday-schools in different places.

Thanks to the interest and keenness of Mr. and Mrs. Barratt and Mr. Perman at VEREENIGING there are now 40 names on the books, and this is a place which also has its regular Wesleyan and Dutch Sunday-schools. I was at a pleasant picnic in the Park one Saturday afternoon at which not only children, but also many parents were evidently enjoying themselves. The great feature of the day was the appearance of the newly-formed troop of Boy Scouts, all very smart in their new uniforms. I foresee there will soon be keen competition between them and their comrades on the other side of the Vaal.

At VILJOEN'S DRIFT the Sunday-school will now be held regularly every Sunday, which will be a great boon to the place. So many children come regularly to our monthly Children's Service (71 last time) that it has been very sad to think of the many Sundays on which there was nothing for them, but now that Mrs. Herrmannsen is taking charge there will be an opportunity for all, and I hope that all parents will see that their children take full advantage of it.

AT WOLVEHOEK the class started by Mrs. Dumant for her own little ones is now absorbing the younger members of other families on the station, and in many places where there is no regular Sunday-school mothers and aunts and elder sisters are trying to help themselves and give the children some religious teaching, at any rate on Sundays.

The effect of the Victoria Bible Examination in raising the standard of religious knowledge is becoming quite evident. A large number of children have started on next year's work, and I hope they will persevere right up to next May, and not drop off for various bad reasons in the horribly slack way which has annoyed and disappointed me so often.

At Viljoen's Drift badges were given to the following members of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, who had evidently tried hard to keep the rules:—Janie, Aileen and Violet Darlington, Kathleen Padoa, Isabella and Agnes McKelvin, Gladys de Buys, Harold Shepstone and Harry Smith. Badges were also sent to Kathleen and Rosie van der Riet, who were admitted at Viljoen's Drift, but are now at Melville, near Coega. As usual there are many changes on the Line and many friends have moved, some to larger centres with churches of their own, to which I hope they will transfer their interest while still keeping a friendly feeling for the Railway Mission.

Much sympathy has gone out to Mrs. Burgess and her little daughter in their great sorrow: the suddenness of Mr. Burgess' death made the blow still more overwhelming. K. Y. Ramadge.
7, Monument Road, 
Bloemfontein.

I have seen and done so much during this last quarter that it seems to me more like six months than three. I made two pilgrimages with the coach, which enabled me to pay a lot of visits, also journeys down the new line to Reitz and Wepener, where I found and made many new friends as well as stumbled unexpectedly on some old ones. At nearly every place one of my objects was to start the children with their reading for next year’s Victoria Bible Examination, and I hope that quite a good number on my section are going in for it, that is, if they can keep up their energy and interest for a whole year. Don’t feel hurt, children, if you think we are rubbing it in a little too much (for I feel pretty sure that one or two other members of the Staff will say the same thing in their letters). I know it is hard not to get slack if there is no one to compete with all the long months. Slackness is one of our great failings in the O.F.S., and if only we could overcome that and be much more diligent in everything, prayers, reading, school work, etc., we should find that next year there would be more prizes and certificates in this part of the country, and there would be more members of the Guild of the Good Shepherd who would early earn their badges, which can only be given to those who can honestly say that they have kept the rules for a whole year. Only five of the children I know as members, have been able to claim their badges at present, but there are several more who I quite hope and think will have earned them by Christmas-time. Let us all take for our motto, “Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

M. E. WATSON.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

WESTERN TRANSVAAL.

There does not seem to be very much of interest to record this quarter. With Mr. Boon’s departure a fresh division of the lines was made, and fresh Sunday centres have been fixed upon. Canada, Natal Spruit and Delmas have all had regular monthly Services, and Nancefield, Roodekop, Kendall and Marico have also had Services. We cannot truthfully say that the new experiment has been a success, save in the case of Delmas, where the Services have as a rule been well attended. One bright feature, however, is the presence of several candidates at Natal Spruit, Leeuwoord and Kingswood and Roodekop, whom we hope to be able to present shortly for Confirmation. The coach has not been in use much along these lines this quarter save for a short visit down the lower part of the Fourteen Streams line and along the Zeerust section.

A. R. THURLow.

WATERVAL BOVEN DISTRICT.

Services were held at Belfast on Easter Day: there were good congregations morning and evening, but the number of communicants was smaller than last year. The connection of Belfast with the Railway Mission will, I am afraid, cease in July: the Bishop wishes the Rector of Lydenburg, part of whose district is being formed into a separate parish, to be responsible for Services at Belfast. I shall be very sorry to give up a place where the Church is so well supported, and in which I have experienced many kindnesses, and made many friends. Still the loss of Belfast should give me more time at other places which need Sunday Services.

During Eastertide celebrations o’
the Holy Communion were held at a few different places. In the course of the quarter I have visited practically every place between Pretoria and Komati Poort, holding Services wherever possible. A good deal of time has also been spent in preparing candidates for Confirmation in the Waterval Boven district. Sunday Services were held for the first time at Rayton, and the results justify a quarterly visit. Nelspruit has also asked for a quarterly Service, for which I also hope to find time.

At Waterval Boven the past quarter has been uneventful. As is usually the case we have suffered from removals and transfers. We have lost Mrs. Pollin, who very ably carried on the work of the Sunday-school, which must always be a most important part of Church work in any place. Starting fifteen months ago with half a dozen, the Sunday-school now numbers forty children. The elder ones are now taught by Mrs. Colburn and Mrs. Lee, while Mona Watts takes the infants: so we can be sure that the good work is being carried on. The attendance at Services continues to be fairly good, but that in the morning might well be better. Why cannot we give the best and freshest part of the day to God, instead of the 'fag-end' when we are often tired and have our minds occupied with other matters?

By the time this is in print a great event in the history of Waterval Boven will have taken place. The Bishop hopes to take a Confirmation here on June 23rd. Though the number of candidates is very small, the presence of our Bishop in our midst ought to give us new courage and enthusiasm. Clergy and laity alike are apt to grow sleepy, but the vigorous personality of the Bishop of Pretoria should give us a thorough rousing. By God's help his visit may be the beginning of new things at Boven.

T. G. Hopkyns.

**DIOCESE OF MASHONALAND AND N. RHODESIA.**

Since I wrote last quarter I have continued with the same Sunday centres: Plumtree on the first Sunday in the month, Broken Hill on the third, and Wankies on the last Sunday in the month, and the fourth Sunday in the months when there are five Sundays is given to Elisabethville and neighbourhood. This leaves the second Sunday in every month free for smaller places: during the quarter the second Sunday has been spent at the Victoria Falls in April, Kafue in May, and Nyamandlovu in June.

**PLUMTREE.** We are hoping to start a sustentation fund here and Mr. B. K. Castor has kindly promised to act as treasurer.

**BROKEN HILL.** We are hoping to have Services in future in the Courthouse. The last Sunday we had a very fair attendance, and it was decided that as it was rather a scattered place, morning Services only would be held. The Sunday-school has increased now to ten and Mrs. Phillips has kindly promised to teach.

**WANKIES.** The congregation here still maintains a very fair average. We regret the loss of Mr. Smith and Mr. Fry from the choir, the latter, however, only temporarily, while he is at home on leave. The idea of purchasing an organ has, for the time being, been dropped.

**ELISABETHVILLE.** The same arrangements as in the previous quarter held good again, with the addition of a Native Service for Christian boys from Likoma, and this month we hope to have a Celebration for them as well. It was a great pleasure and privilege to me to be able to do something for them, as they all knew and many had been taught at Likoma by my cousin (The Rev. Arthur Douglas), who was killed in Nyasaland last November.
Easter Day was spent at THE FALLS, but there were not a great number of churchpeople there, although the hotel was more than full (I had to sleep in the billiard-room). In May a Service was held at KAFUE, when it was possible to meet many of the settlers in the district, and it is hoped that it will be possible to hold Services there whenever the Farmers' Association meets. Yesterday we had Services at NYAMANDLOVU, which, considering the smallness of the population, were very well attended (one family motored in twenty miles for the Morning Service). Mr. Brewster had taken great pains to make the goods shed comfortable. Mr. Mugridge of the Police acted as organist and we were able to sing the whole Service at Mattins and Evensong. Would that there were a few more Navanandlovus! Weekday Services have also been held at BWAXA MKTIBUSA twice, PEMBA and MALINDI. Visits have been paid also to LUSAKAS and MAZABUKA.

The travelling library has been much appreciated and the difficulty has been to give people a chance of changing their books often enough.

C. G. DOUGLAS.

BULAWAYO-VRYBURG SECTION.

This quarter all the principal stations have been visited every month. The most encouraging response has been at MAGALAPYE, where we have had well-attended Services each time.

PALAPYE ROAD stands next. Mr. Golanos, although not of British nationality, nor of our division of Christianity, has done all in his power to help us and to secure order and decency for the Services. We are very grateful to him. When his new hotel is complete we shall have a much more convenient and commodious dining-room at our disposal.

I have not yet managed to get to Vryburg, but I am purposing to go down early in June. Whether there will be any places suitable for Services on this piece of line remains to be seen.

RAMATHLABAMA was visited about two months ago, and the residents there expressed a desire for a Service. On my next tour I hope to give them one. I have never held Services there, for there has always seemed some drawback; but now the population has increased and a school has been started, so there should be an opening.

Journeys have been made to FIGTREE, MARULA and SYRINGA in the northern direction. At the first place they have asked for a Sunday visit, when the farmers in the neighbourhood might be got together; and I am keeping this in mind, with the hope of providing it later on.

Pay-train trips, at any rate for the whole length, are now out of the question; but every endeavour is made to baptize children in out-of-the-way places as soon as possible after I am informed of their existence. I hope also sometimes to run over certain portions with the Inspector in his trolley. If I can do this I shall be able to see the gangers less hurriedly than is possible on the pay train.

JAMES TOY.

BULAWAYO TO BEIRA SECTION.

I am afraid I have not been able to do as much itinerating work as I ought during the last quarter, as I have had to spend two Sundays a month at SELUKWE and one at BEIRA. At each of these places, however, there is a considerable number of Railway people who are, I am glad to say, active members of the Church. For instance, both our organists are Railway men. A great deal of time is necessarily wasted on the train and most of the larger stations on this section are visited by the parochial clergy,
OODZI being the only one at which I have held Service. During the five days a month which I get at Beira I manage to visit most of the men, but the women folk are most difficult to find, the houses seem in such queer places. On my last visit I found quite a number of Chinese who were churchmen, some of whom are employed as carpenters on the station, while many of the gangers are Italians.

In addition to the ordinary work I have visited some of the boats in the harbour, and I have hopes next month of getting up the Buzi River where there is a little colony of English.

My other centre at present is Selukwe where I have been taking Sunday Services twice a month in the absence of the Vicar. It is one of the most lovely places in Southern Rhodesia, and the parish is of enormous extent containing a large native reserve.

There are many difficulties in the work here, but we pray that before long the way may be opened for better things.

WALTER LACK.

Note.—The Editor regrets that up to the time of going to press no Nauwpoort news has been received for this quarter.

CHURCH of the GOOD SHEPHERD,
FORDSBURG.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING.

This picnic was run primarily as an outing for the Sunday School children, but tickets were sold to any parents or friends of the children who wished to come. We started from Fordsburg Church at about 9 o'clock, a hundred and thirty strong, with five wagons, one of which was laden with nothing but food and the various impediments of the picnic. Early in the morning it was cold, but the sun came out and when we left the Church the weather was ideal. Our destination was Mr. Tucker's farm at Booysens, about four and a half miles away, and we did it in quite good time. On our arrival we discovered that the place we had come to was quite splendidly adapted for our purpose, with plenty of shade and grass, and those who had taken upon themselves the task of providing food for us, immediately got to work, whilst the children were given light refreshments. We then began to amuse ourselves and Mr. Thomas and Mr. Skey, the latter of whom had kindly come over from Germiston for the day, arrived on bicycles. At about 12 o'clock the children were called in from their several occupations to take their midday meal and directly they had finished, and had disappeared, the adults sat down to a most sumptuous repast of hot steak and tomatoes, sandwiches, sweets and fruit of all kinds. Soon after this meal was over we started our sports, the boys' obstacle race and the adults' cigarette and tie race causing a great deal of enjoyment. Besides these races there were two for infants, a long race for the boys, and two races for girls. After these were over we all went back to games, most of the boys turning themselves into scalp-hunting Red Indians, whilst the adults devoted themselves to more sober (?) pastimes. Tea was the next item on the programme, and here once again our commissariat department surprised everybody by the wonderful quantity and quality of the food they put before us—cold meat and salad, hot vegetables, and again sandwiches and fruit of all kinds. It was then about 4.30, and we began to turn our thoughts towards home, and having thanked Mr. Tucker for his kindness in throwing open his beautiful grounds to us, we stowed ourselves in the wagons. All the food that was left over, of which there were three big boxes full, we took to St. Mary's Orphanage. The fact that the whole
picnic was such a thorough success, was greatly due to the wonderful way in which everybody did their bit towards helping those who organised it, and so it would not be fitting for us to single out anybody to whom to apportion special praise. I think, however, that all who were at the picnic will agree with me that the gratitude of the whole company is due to Miss Noyce, our Sunday School Superintendent, and to Mr. Blake, one of our good Churchwardens, and Mrs. Blake his energetic wife. To say that they were kept going from the time we got there to the time we left is the very least we can say, and I expect few, who have not tried it, can realise the amount of work an outing of this description entails, some weeks before the actual event takes place, and it fell almost entirely on the shoulders of these three. Undoubtedly this picnic (which is an annual function) was from all points of view a thorough success.

C. C. Tugman.

Railway Lads’ Club, Braamfontein.

CONFIRMATION.

Part 1.

In the April issue of Light for the Line, there is an article on “Holy Baptism,” or—to speak more literally—the first part of Holy Baptism, for, as we shall see presently, the Sacrament of Baptism is divided into two parts. This article is to deal with “Confirmation.” Let us first remember the important points about Baptism: it is not merely something which is usually “done” to infants—like vaccination—but is a divinely appointed ceremony, whereby a person (no matter whether baptized when an infant or adult) becomes an actual part of Christ: this is what is meant by the phrase in the Catechism, “a member of Christ,” because the word “member” means an “actual part of.” We use the word member sometimes when we say one of our limbs is a “member” of our body. “I am the Vine, ye are the branches,” says Christ. “You who are baptised are actual parts of Me.” Baptism is said to bring about regeneration: this is only another way of saying we become members of Christ: for, as our birth into the world makes us a member or “actual part of” humanity, so our “new birth” (this is what the word regeneration means) makes us a member or “actual part of” Christ.

It is from this teaching that we learn that beautiful doctrine of the Communion of Saints: for if Baptism brings us into spiritual touch with Christ (and henceforth we remain so), it must also bring us into spiritual touch with every other baptised person, whether on earth or departed, for the death of the body cannot cease to make us members of Christ’s body (see e.g.: I Corinth. xii. 13, 14, 27).

Before coming on to speak of what is involved in Confirmation, it is necessary to have quite clear in our minds the Bible authority for all that our Church teaches about Confirmation. For convenience sake, the important texts will be printed in full, but you would find it a helpful study to look up all the texts quoted.

Confirmation is referred to in the Bible under different names: sometimes it is called a “sealing” (Eph. i. 13, 14: iv. 30), sometimes an “unction” (I S. John, ii. 20), but its most common name is “the laying on of hands”; thus in Acts viii. 17, we find “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (Read all this chapter.) The outline of the story is this: Philip, one of the seven Deacons, had been sent to a district called Samaria in order to preach the Gospel and Baptize those who accepted the Gospel, but, being only a deacon, he was not authorised to perform the rite whereby the Holy Ghost comes; this was the function of the Apostles.
Accordingly two of them—St. Peter and St. John—came to Samaria and when they had prayed, they laid their hands upon those baptised by Philip, and they received the Holy Ghost. The successors of the Apostles are the Bishops, and so it is only the Bishops nowadays who have the authority to perform the "laying on of hands."

Let us look at another Confirmation Service, this time in Acts xix. 1-6: "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them." St. Paul had come to the city of Ephesus, and he finds certain people who had been baptised by John the Baptist; this baptism was not the full Sacrament ordained by Christ, for Christ had not instituted it when John the Baptist started baptising, so what St. Paul does is to first baptise them in the way laid down by Christ, and then confirm them by the laying on of hands.

In these two sets of verses, then, we find three Apostles who thought that Baptism merely by water was not enough; they felt that another rite (or Service) was necessary in order to complete their Baptism, and when they performed that rite—namely, the laying on of hands—the Holy Ghost came upon those on whom they laid their hands.

One of the difficulties to a good many people about Confirmation is, that there is no mention of it in the Gospels; if, they say, Confirmation is so important, how is it that there is not some teaching of Christ upon it? Is not this idea brought out in the case of our Blessed Lord's life? In some degree His birth into the world corresponded to our regeneration, for He was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, yet He did not receive the fulness of the Spirit until He was about to start His Ministry at 30 years of age (see St. Luke iii. 21, 22), and so the normal time for Confirmation is when the boy or girl is about to leave school and start on life's work.

This article will be continued in the next number, and some of the objections which are often felt will be answered. In the meantime, if you are not Confirmed think over carefully what has been said, but above all, pray that God will give you the necessary courage to offer yourself for Confirmation; and if you are, let these words remind you of that red-letter day in your life, when you received that greatest of all Gifts through the laying on of the Bishop's hands, that Holy Spirit which enabled Christ to fulfil His Ministry; the same Spirit which enabled Saints to go through the fires of martyrdom: the same Spirit which has been guiding the Church for nineteen centuries.

**Guild of the Good Shepherd.**

**New Members.**

**Fordsburg:** Leonard Timbrell, Desmond Taylor, Fred Rogers, Rhoda Timbrell, Victoria Timbrell, Gwen Smith, True Boffey.

**Theunissen:** Ralph Cross, Rudolph Cross.

**Gunhill, Hoopstad:** Harriet, Frank and Lena Wiggill.
**CHILDREN'S PAGE.**

My dear Children,

You are some of you well on with your Bible reading for the next Victoria Bible Prize Examination. A great many names have been sent to me and I hope very many more will come in before next March. The year 1912 is fast speeding on its way and we must all get as much done as we can before Christmas comes round. Only a few names have come in for letters this quarter and Miss Minto wants lots more. In your holidays you would find it a good occupation if only you would once begin. The children in England are wanting to hear about your country and they would tell you lots of interesting things about what they see and do in their holidays.

I had a nicely written letter from a little boy the other day telling me how eagerly he looks out for the letters from his little correspondent in England and what a joy it is when the letters come. So there is lots of pleasure as well as some trouble.

I am glad to find that a great many of you have been getting Good Shepherd Guild medals. That means that you have been keeping on steadily and not forgetting the rule of the Guild. I wonder if some of you have thought to pray for the poor widows and children whose husbands and fathers were drowned in the cold Atlantic ocean the other day. Lots of people, men, women and children all going along so happily in a beautiful big ship and then a great iceberg appeared and the vessel was soon seen to go to the bottom, before half the people could be got off.

Even you, children, must sometimes think about sad things like this. And the best way for us all to think about a terrible accident like that is to pray—first of all to pray for the poor mothers and children who are left with no husbands and fathers, and then to ask God that all people, young or old, may try to live so that when they die they may not be afraid because of their sins.

A number of you are being prepared for Confirmation. May you value as a very great privilege the help of this holy rite, and make up your minds to serve God truly until your lives' end.

Your friend,

The Editor.

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**BAPTISMS.**

**DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.**

March.

13—Sannie Magdalene van Niekerk.
19—Michael Philip Siqumba.
19—Klaas Charles Mahaneso.
31—Olive Hughes.

April.

12—Christopher Hatton Ashwell.
21—Cyril Arthur Magxaka.
21—Nellie Sonto.
21—Martha Mitye Ntseungeo.

May.

14—Lewies Roland Stock.

**DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.**

**WATERVAL BOVEN DISTRICT.**

March.

31—Isabella Mona Knight, Delmas.
31—Evelyn Frances Maud Godrichj Bronkhorstspruit.
31—Dorothy Mabel Inglethorpe, Argent.
31—Albert Edgar Stanley Inglethorpe, Argent.

April.

26—Esther Gerbregda Tosen, Wilge River.
28—Emily Adelaide Peachey, Delmas.

May.

12—James Ashley, Waterval Boven.
21—Carl Wilhelm Johannes Saunders, Trichardts.

June.

2—Reginald Hector McPhee, Belfast.
9—William George Foster, Belfast.
9—Wilfred Arthur Hines, Waterval Boven.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
FORDSBURG.

May.

12—Aileen Elizabeth Shaw.
12—Frederick John Lenyon Carr.
BURIALS.

April 22. At Fordsburg, Transvaal, Basil Edward Blake, aged 5 months.
May 23. At Alicedale, C.P., Margaret Friday, aged 66.
June 2. At Cookhouse, C.P., Cyril Arthur Magxaka, aged 2 months.
June 7. At Waterval Boven, Florence Edith Hurley, aged 9 months.

CONFIRMATION.

At Fordsburg, Transvaal, May 22. Irene Faulkner.

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. F. A. ROGERS, The Hermitage, Grahamstown.

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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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April.—Ripon, 8/—; Coega, 2/—; 'Limehurst,' 14/6; Berlin, 7/—.
May.—Mortimer, 6/10; Witmoss, 4/6; Middleton, 2/9; Commadagga, 7/1; Barkly Bridge, 2/5; Ripon, 4/8; Sheldon, 9/10; Coega, 13/6; Schoombie, 15/6; Dohne, 2/9.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.
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April.—Victoria Falls, £1 18/—; Broken Hill, 8/—; Bwana M'kubwa, £1 17/6; Elisabethville, £9 0/6; Wankies, £9.
May.—Plumtree, 17/6; Malindi, 9d.; Kafue, £3 10/9; Pemba, 10/-; Broken Hill, £2 8/—; Bwana M'kubwa, 5/3; Wankies, £1 19/9.
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The Misses Luscombe (Graaff-Reinet), £2.
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Fees, £2 4/9.

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