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LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

The Vicarage,
Germiston,
Transvaal.

May all our readers have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! It is an old greeting of Christians, and the fact that the common meaning of the word merry has become narrowed in recent years should be only a spur to us to restore it all it should imply. There is a natural merriment which springs only from a clear conscience. There is an unnatural merriment which may be produced in many ways. I wish you the former, not the latter. We want to be merry in the sense that the Israelites were merry when Solomon had built the Temple, kept the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Dedication, and “sent the people away glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the Lord had shewn unto them.” (II Chron. vii, 10.) “Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God, let them also be merry and joyful.” We have a greater Feast than those which the Israelites had, and if we have prepared our hearts to receive Him Whose birth it commemorates, if we can join in the old Christmas carol, “Thou didst leave Thy Throne and Thy Kingly crown, When Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem’s home there was found no room For Thy holy nativity. O, come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for Thee.” we can spend a merry Christmas, and be sure of a happy new year. The response to my question in the last number of Light for the Line has proved that there are a large number of people who do really value it and it encourages me to persevere in trying to find some way by which we may continue to publish and distribute it at less cost. The greatest help is that its readers should pay their subscriptions regularly.

I am thankful to say that there has been no change in our staff since the last quarter. With the beginning of the new year we hope to welcome the Rev. E. F. Winnington-Ingram from Swindon, and Miss Holmes and Miss Watson who return to us after their holiday. I need not ask you to show that you are glad to extend an equally warm welcome to both new and old friends.

Talking of old friends, a single day’s post brought me letters from Mr. H. B. Ellison, Mr. Goldring, Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Knapp Fisher, but alas! none of them mentioned the date when they hoped to come back. “One change will take place at the beginning of the year which will, I know, cause much sorrow at Fordsburg, Brixton, and Vrededorp.

Miss Attlee is coming to live at Germiston and will, I hope, be able to do a little itinerating along the line and to work among the large railway population in the town. It is a plan which has long been under consideration, and, now that Fordsburg, Brixton and Vrededorp are settling down as an established parish and other circumstances have combined to make it possible and desirable, the new year seems the right moment for the change.
The end of the year reminds one of many of the things that one has left undone, and amongst the many that occur to me is the thought of the friends who help our work without any adequate acknowledgment from me. Even now I only pick out one or two, and trust that they and all the others, doing the work for love of God and man, have their own reward. I would, however, just mention Miss Burt and her loyal band of "local agents," through whose efforts you get this magazine; Miss Edwards, Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Campbell and others who have kindly lent their drawing-rooms for meetings; the Children of the Veld and all who help them in giving the beautiful Christmas presents for the children along the line; the numbers of subscribers who regularly contribute to our work in our big towns, especially in Pretoria and Port Elizabeth; in particular I should like to mention a small guild of 10 or 12 old girls from a school who have this year sent me about £16 for a typewriter, on which it is a pleasure to write; and I must add two children, Olive Wilmot and Clement Rippon, who have collected respectively £2 14/- and £3 10/- for Christmas toys and presents for children in lonely places on the Line. But I could go on for ever, and there are other things to say.

There is one most important matter on which I want your help. You know the sort of life which the ordinary Railway Mission worker lives; we are constantly on the move, and though we may have time we have little opportunity of doing what every priest promises to do at his ordination, and what everyone who is trying to help others must do: it is summed up in the Bishop’s address to the candidates for ordination in these words: “Seeing that ye cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and framing the manner both of yourselves, and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures: and for this selfsame cause, how ye ought to forsake and set aside (as much as you may) all worldly cares and studies.”

We, more than other clergy and workers, perhaps, are continually trying to give out to others while we have little opportunity of taking in anything either intellectually or spiritually. For your sakes as well as for our own we must from time to time give up active work for a few days and devote ourselves to deepening (through the power of God the Holy Spirit) our own spiritual lives. This is generally called “going into a retreat.” It is an effort to get alone with God, and to review the past and to look to the future. The Railway Mission staff hope to have such a retreat from February 13th to 16th, and I would ask your help, not only by your willingness to go without services during those days, but by your prayers then and now, that this retreat may help us so to frame the manner of our lives that they may be better agents for the spread of the Gospel. After the retreat we hope also to have a conference about our work, to see how it may be made more efficient.

F. A. Rogers.
FAMILY PRAYER.

We have seen that prayer is speaking to God and listening for His answer; that it must be the outcome of love for God and man; that it consists in confession of sin, which shall bring us to a right attitude towards God; thanksgiving for what He has done for us; praise for what He is; meditation about Him, and lastly, petition for the bodily and spiritual needs of ourselves and others.

All such prayers should be of two kinds, public and private. God has told us that "when we pray to the Father in secret, our Father Who seeth in secret will reward us openly." He has also told us that "where two or three are gathered together in His Name, there is He in the midst of them." There is a special blessing then promised to those who worship together; and not only that, but united worship helps us to realise that we are members of the Body of Christ, bound together by a tie more sacred even than that of family; it reminds us that we are not fighting the battle against sin alone; that all around us, here on earth, there are other men and women with the same temptations, the same desire to overcome them, and the same help of God to do so; and further that we are "compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses," the innumerable hosts of Paradise and Heaven, our own friends and relations whom we have known and loved on earth, the great saints of the Bible and history of whom we have read, and the angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven with whose worship we unite our own.

But to many of us it is often quite impossible to attend any public services, and very few of us can attend any weekday services, so that it would be the greatest help if the head of the family, father or mother, would hold a short service of family prayer day by day at home. It would be a public testimony of our belief in God, it would ensure both ourselves and our children hearing God's Word, and it would sanctify our family life and our daily work.

The following form is suggested as a short and simple outline to which other prayers could be added.

All sitting, the reader shall choose some passage from Holy Scripture, and read it aloud slowly and clearly, the others following in their own Bibles. The passage might be the Gospel appointed in the Prayer Book on Sundays, and on weekdays either the morning or evening second lesson (to be found in the Calendar at the beginning of the Prayer Book) or some other passage from the Gospels.

Then all kneeling down, the reader shall say:—

MORNING PRAYER.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

A CONFESSION OF SIN (all together).

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; wherefore we pray God have mercy upon us.

May the Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all together).

Our Father . . .

Praise (alternate verses or all together).
Psalm xciv.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord... or some other psalm.

Petitions (the reader only).

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the rest Thou hast given us during the past night. Look graciously upon us, Thy servants, and keep us in peace under Thy protection. Help us to be diligent in our work, to be honest and true in everything. Help us to resist every temptation; to watch over our thoughts, words, deeds and tempers. Give Thy blessing to each member of this family and all we love or for whom we ought to pray, and keep us all good and pure and true, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Collect for Peace and Grace and the General Thanksgiving in the Book of Common Prayer can also be used.)

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us this day and for evermore. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

Passage from Holy Scripture (all sitting).

*Then (all kneeling) the reader shall say:

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Confession of Sin (all together).

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us. May the Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

All together. Our Father...

We thank Thee, O Lord, for Thy fatherly goodness towards us during the past day, and for all Thy mercies to us; and we pray Thee to protect us through the night; guard our bodies from all dangers, and our souls from all impure and bad thoughts: and if it please Thee to bring us to another day, grant that we may spend it aright: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember, O Lord, our relations and friends, and all who love us and have been kind to us. Give health to the sick, rest to the weary and heavy laden. Comfort the mourners. Give refreshment and light to the souls in Paradise. Defend and provide for the fatherless and widows. Uphold those that are tempted. Raise up those that are fallen into sin. Pardon and restore the penitent. Guide and bless the clergy, especially the Bishop of this Diocese, the vicar of the parish and all the workers on the Railway Mission. And make all of us such as Thou wouldst have us be, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord, this house and family; and drive far from us all snares of the enemy. May Thy Holy Angels dwell amongst us to preserve us in peace, and may Thy blessing be upon us evermore: for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us this day and for evermore. Amen.
ALICEDALE, COOKHOUSE AND MIDLAND SECTION.

ALICEDALE. A very sad drowning fatality took place here on October 17th. It appears that a young man named James Hurst, employed at the Station Refreshment-room, went down alone to bathe in the river; when others went down later they saw Hurst's clothes, but no trace of him. It was some time before the body was found. Hurst apparently could not swim, and it is conjectured that he either got out of his depth or was seized with cramp. I came down from Cookhouse on the Sunday to conduct the funeral service, the first part of which was held in Church; the choir was in attendance. The Head of the Mission—the Rev. F. A. Rogers—paid a visit to Alicedale on October 25th and 26th. As far as time would permit on the Saturday afternoon, he went round to visit old friends and make the acquaintance of new ones. On the Sunday he celebrated at 8 a.m., and preached to a fairly large congregation at Evensong; his visit was greatly appreciated.

October 16th saw Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harvey back again at the Camp after four months' absence. They appear to have made the very best possible use of their time and saw quite a lot of both England and Scotland, and their trip certainly seems to have done them both good: we rejoice to have them back.

Congratulations to Mr. Hubert Harvey on his marriage with Miss Ella Maude Maughan, of Grahamstown, which took place on November 20th. Congratulations also to Miss Edith Anderson (late of Middleton) on her engagement.

It is with very real regret that I have heard of the near departure of Mr. and Mrs. du Preez after a stay in Alicedale of about three years. Mrs. du Preez will be a real loss to St. Barnabas; she has undertaken many "jobs" in connection with the Church, but perhaps her loss will be felt most in the services themselves, her beautiful voice being of untold help in the musical portions. To consecrate to God the gift that He has given us and to use it for His glory is an ideal at which we all might aim: gifts vary, but God has given everyone at least one—the power of sympathy teaching, music, etc. Let us see that we use our gift to the glory of the Giver. Mr. du Preez has interested himself in everything that has been for the welfare of the place and has made himself universally popular: he has been promoted to the postmastership of Ladismith, Cape; we wish him and the family every blessing in their new home and life.

The Dean of Grahamstown was good enough to spend Sunday, November 23rd, at St. Barnabas'—the anniversary Sunday of the Alicedale Mission—thus reminding many of the resolutions which they made at that time and giving to our communicants the stimulus to reconsecrate their lives to God in the Blessed Sacrament. I was much pleased to hear that many availed themselves of this opportunity.

I have had occasion to refer to singing in Church. Mrs. du Preez set a good example by attending most regularly the choir practices. Would it not be possible for more of the members of the congregation to attend on Saturdays at 8? It would certainly make them better acquainted with the chants and new hymn tunes and enable them in the Service itself, to enter more into the meaning of the words which are being sung, instead of (as otherwise must be necessary) of thinking about the unfamiliar tune. Also would every-
one please sing out in the Service; there seems a fear of other people hearing our voices; but in the small congregation especially, everyone must feel that he or she has a definite part to take in the Service, and not leave it all to two or three; you would find that our Services would go much more heartily if you would only try.

A Confirmation was held in the Cathedral by the Bishop of the Diocese on Sunday, December 7th. Five candidates were presented from here, two females and three males.

The Priest-in-charge, together with the churchwardens, decided to have a ventilator placed in the roof of the Church; this has been done and the cost, together with certain repairs to the guttering, has been £8. A small sale of work and a lecture on Canterbury were given on September 26th, which realised the sum of £4 4s. 6d.; a few small donations have been received since, but there is still a balance. Will you help? The smallest donation will be gladly welcomed. We trust that the ventilator will take off some of the foul air and so make the Church less stifling in the summer evenings.

COOKHOUSE. A beautifully worked linen Chasuble, together with Amice and Maniple, has been presented to St. Paul's Church by a friend as a thank-offering to Almighty God for restoration to health after a severe illness. The vestments will be used for the first time at the Christmas Eucharist.

ALONG THE LINE. Since the last issue of Light for the Line, Services, generally Holy Communion and Evensong, have been held at MIDDLETON, BARKLY BRIDGE, COMMA DARAGA (where we welcome Mr. and Mrs. Brown, stationmaster, from Belmont), BUSHMAN'S RIVER, SHERBORNE, MORTIMER, HALESWEN, COTTAGE 12, COERNY, COEGA STATION and HOUGHAM PARK, WITMOSS and GLEN CON-

NAAUWPOORT.

During the past quarter things have been going on quietly in Naauwpoort. We are glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Clifton and their two little girls. Mr. Clifton has proved himself of great assistance to our choir, which has been further strengthened by the addition of Messrs. Lemon, Turner and Damant, Mrs. Harrison and the Misses Saunders, Fischer and Kelly. It is with great regret that we have to record the departure of so staunch and useful a member of the Church as Miss Saunders, who in the three months that she has been with us has entered so fully into the life of the Church and of the place generally. And to Miss Seabrooke also, who has been here so many years, and has endeared herself to so many in the camp—children, parents, fellow-teachers, members of the Church which she so faithfully served, and girls of the G.F.S whom she so conscientiously worked for—we have now to bid farewell.

Two very successful evenings in the Parish-room (on October 16th and No-
November 6th), kindly organised by Mrs. Ovens, assisted by Mesdames Viney, Craddock, Firling, Hitchcock, Leggett, Outrom, Metrowich and Jones, brought in just over £6, which, with the amount (£11) raised by a special appeal put forward by the church officers, enabled us to pay our Diocesan assessment, and leaves us with something to the good.

To Mrs. Ovens and the ladies of the congregation who worked so splendidly, to Mrs. Williams (of Achterlang) and Messrs. Cawood and Saunders, who kindly supplied the prizes, and to all those who contributed to the success of these evenings by taking tickets and attending, we are deeply grateful.

On Friday, October 31st, the eve of All Saints’ Day, the Church was, as in years past, decorated by loving hands for the Patronal Festival, which began that evening with Festal Evensong at 8 p.m. Eighty-five were present, and forty-five communions were made at the three celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days (a slight increase on the previous year), and the Services throughout the Festival, which was, of course, kept up over the Sunday in the Octave (November 9th), were, as befit the occasion (the birthday of our Church), full of the spirit of reverent thanksgiving and devotion. Organist and choirmaster (Mrs. and Mr. Hitchcock) and the choir generally worked well, with the result that the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and the Anthem (Lloyd’s ‘O sing unto the Lord’) were sung with feeling and accuracy, Miss Dorothy Firling taking the solo in the Anthem very creditably.

While on the subject of the choir, I would like to mention that after Evensong on Wednesday, December 10th, in the Parish-room, the junior members of the choir were presented with the usual Christmas gift of money, and the special prize for attendance, in the shape of a good reference Bible, was awarded to Willie Stiles, who has been marked absent only twice during the whole period.

The prize for the child who has answered best at the Children’s Service goes to Sigrid Salvesen, who is closely followed by Redvers Metrowich, only two marks behind.

On Sunday, November 9th, we had the good fortune to have with us the Warden of St. Peter’s Home, Grahamstown, the Rev. F. R. Phelps, who kindly preached both at the Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. and again at Evensong. His visit, needless to say, was much appreciated by all.

On November 16th, Mr. Coombs, and on November 23rd, Mr. Goldring—a former priest-in-charge here—both of whom are, of course, well known in Naauwpoort, kindly took the Services during my absence on a most enjoyable holiday in the Transvaal.

On Saturday, December 6th, after very short notice and in very sultry weather, our Bazaar took place in the Hutchison Hall. The Hall was opened for the sale of goods at 11 a.m., but the Bazaar was formally opened by Mr. Mitchell, A.R.M., who was supported on the platform by the Rev. Mr. Pienaar and the Rev. Mr. Ryall, Dr. Jones, R.M.O., Mr. Schmidt, the Priest-in-charge, and such of the church officers as could be present, at 3 p.m.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Mitchell and the other gentlemen: to the first-named for the kind, encouraging words with which he opened the Bazaar, and to all for their presence and support. The Bazaar, which, remember, was suggested only a month or two back, realised £50, a sum far exceeding our wildest hopes.

With this welcome addition to our ordinary Church funds, we shall now be in a position to deal fairly with the Railway Mission at the end of the year (the primary object for which this special effort was originally under-
taken) and start the New Year in a far healthier financial condition than we have for some years past.

For this happy result our thanks are chiefly due to the ladies, upon whom, as Mr. Mitchell in his opening speech shrewdly remarked, the bulk of the burden of all such ventures usually falls. To all who took stalls, sent contributions of money or articles for sale, or in any way assisted, and to Mrs. Ovens, the energetic secretary, I would here offer, both for my own part and for the churchwardens and sidesmen, our very best thanks.

The following were the stall-holders at the Bazaar: Fancy Stall, Madames Ovens, Cavers and Miss Cavers. Toys, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jacobs and the Misses Anderson and Smith. Refreshments, Mrs. Harrison and the Misses Sea- brooke, Johnson and Saunders. Flowers, Mrs. Viney, assisted by the Misses Salvesen, Kelly, Dorothy Fir ling, Grace Orton and Eunice Jones. Sweets, Mrs. and Miss Metrowieli. Produce, Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock. Photographic Studio, Mr. J. W. Smith. Dips, Messrs. Viney and Faunce. Shooting Gallery, Messrs. Leggett and Cavers. Aunt Sally, Messrs. Saunders and Gordon Francis. Electric Battery, etc., Messrs. Osborn and Fred Damant.

Miss Beckwith and Miss Wright en livened the proceedings during the afternoon and evening with a short duologue, which was well received.

We beg to gratefully acknowledge gifts of articles for the Bazaar from Mrs. Lovegrove (Norvals Pont), Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, Mr. Bishop, junr., the Misses Bishop, and the three little Misses Ewings (Taaibosch Station), Mrs. and Miss Disten (Taaiboschfontein), Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Blewett (Dwaal), Mr. Smith (Kleinfontein), a pig; Mr. van Braat (Carton), a lamb; Mr. Chris. Visser (Wonderheuvel), 10/-; Mr. Disten (Taaibosch), 10/6; per Miss E. Bishop (Taaibosch), 6/-.

THE RAMBLER.

Since the last issue of *Light for the Line* things have gone steadily on in the Orange Free State and on the other bits of line along which I ramble. Many new places have been visited, but I find it quite impossible to get to all the places I am, in a way, responsible for. Will those who feel a little neglected please be as charitable as they can about it? I really am doing my best. Most of you know about the accident I had with the gas generator, and I should like to thank those of you who were kind to me during the three weeks I was not feeling up to the mark. It is quite true I stuck to the work when, really speaking, I ought to have gone back to headquarters, but I felt that if I could keep going on it would be better for me. There has been a good deal of sickness among our railway friends; some have been very seriously ill indeed, and great anxiety has been felt for Mrs. Williams at Viljoen's Drift, Mr. Pearton at De Bruy, and for Mr. Strachan at Content, but we are thankful to know that they are all on the way to complete recovery.

The Rev. A. B. Pratt, the new Vicar of Vereeniging, is taking over the Church's work at Viljoen's Drift; for this I am very glad, as the communicants there and on the Cornelia Mine will be able to get their communions.

I should like to write a little report of all the places I have been to, but it would be too long, so you must be content with the list. I am not going to thank anybody by name this time for the many kindnesses bestowed upon me—you are all aware that I am most grateful for all that has been done for the Mission, for God and His Church, and for me.

Your sincere friend,

John J. Coombs.
I can hardly realise that I am at the end of my first three months' work along the line; it has been an exceedingly interesting and happy time, and I want to thank, very heartily, all those who have helped to make it so and who have lent me a helping hand in my new work.

I have not got through nearly as much work as I had hoped and intended, partly because I have been trying to keep things going in both Miss Ramadge's and Miss Watson's section, and that has necessitated a good deal of travelling between the two; also I am only just beginning to learn how to plan out my work to the best advantage. I have come to the conclusion that a special week, of more than seven days, should be provided for Railway Missioners; each Friday to Monday in the month is, as a rule, devoted to one of the "Sunday Centres," and that does not allow sufficient days to visit all the places which are not "Sunday Centres," as well as the scattered cottages along the line. I look forward to Miss Watson's return and I know everyone in her section is eagerly awaiting her coming; but it is with real regret that I shall say "good-bye" to the many friends I have made on the Bethlehem line! We shall still get tidings of each other, and hope for chance meetings along the line, and I trust if any of them are passing through Bloemfontein they will call at 7, Monument Road, on the chance of finding me at home; and for the rest we must say, with Bishop Wilkinson, "This life seems to be the place for making friendships. The next, we hope, will be for enjoying them."

Regular Sunday-schools have been held at Lindley Road, Venterburg Road and Viljoen's Drift, and at the Glen and Thaba 'Nchu on alternate months. The attendance has been most satisfactory and everyone seems to have come prepared to work hard. At Lindley Road some of the elder boys and girls have been helping me with the younger children, and this system seems to have worked so well that I hope to introduce it at the other centres. I want all the children along the line who have received toys this Christmas to know that, this year, almost all of these have come from the girls of St. Michael's School, Bloemfontein. They have worked splendidly for us, and I know all the railway children will want me to say "Thank you" for them.

I must end up with wishing everyone a very happy New Year. I think it cannot fail to be a happy one to each one of us if we go straight forward, resolved that we will do our best, by our work, our home life, and by our prayers, to make our section of the main line a real "Way of holiness." Do let us think of this sometimes as we stand at our doors and look up and down the line.

December 10th, 1913.

WOMEN'S WORK.

DIocese of Grahamstown.

Surely a unique wedding in the annals of the Midland Railway was that celebrated at Conway on November 27th, 1913. It was the happy combination of the Silver or 25th anniversary of our station-master, together with the marriage of his eldest son, who has already attained to that dignity on the Railway staff. Mr. and Mrs. William Dalziel, of Redhouse (married at Mossel Bay in 1888) brought their ten younger children to share in this great occasion, and received a hearty welcome from all their old friends at Conway, as well as from the present S.M. and
his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wadmore, who
helped Mr. and Mrs. Smit, parents of
the bride, in extending hospitality to
all their numerous guests. The day was
delightfully fine, and most fitly ushered
in by the real Thanksgiving Service
of an early Eucharist, when there were
ten communicants, and the hymn "O
perfect love" was sung. The school
(kindly lent for the day by Mr. Thomp­
son) was adorned with white flowers and
trailing greenery and well filled with
relations and friends for the actual
marriage ceremony at 2.30 p.m.

The officiating clergyman was the
Rev. W. B. Suter, Rector of Middel­
burg, in which parish Conway is situ­
ated. The whole wedding group was
most picturesque, including the tall,
commanding figures of the bride and
bridegroom (the former looking charm­
ing under her long flowing veil and
carrying a huge sheaf of lilies), two
bridesmaids (Miss J. Dalziel and Miss
A. Smit), two groomsmen in attendance
on them, and four small flower-girls
bearing baskets of pink and white car­
nations, the Misses T. and C. DalzieL,
Miss E. Smit and Miss M. Wadmore.

After the Service, which was choral,
two hymns being sung and the wedding
marches played on the piano, the whole
party adjourned to the bride's home
close at hand, where a happy afternoon
was spent in congratulating both the
wedding couples, toasting their healths
and tasting the two-tiered iced cake,
made by the (lever fingers of Mrs. Dal­
ziel, senior. There were presents of all
sorts, both useful and ornamental, to
be admired, but too numerous to men­
tion: also quite a large packet of tele­
grams to be read aloud. Mr. and Mrs.
Victor Dalziel left for their honeymoon
(as route for their new home at Ida
Station) by 103 down, with flags and
old shoes flying everywhere, detonators
sounding as the train moved away, and
amid the hearty good wishes of their
family and friends. Health and pros­
perity to both these happy couples!

After my holiday and attending the
confirmations at Ludwe and various
meetings at Grahamstown, it was a
pleasure to return to my usual rounds
on the line. This quarter I have given
lantern shows at Middelburg, Fish
River, Baroda, Mortimer, Middle­
drift, Thebus, Tafelberg, Sherborne, Coles­
berg Junction and Norval's Pont, and
at several other places both the lantern
and I were ready waiting, but heavy
storms prevented any audience from
assembling. At Nauwpoort we had a
pleasant G.F.S. Festival on November
8th, when we "drank the health in
cups of tea" of our sister members, also
assembled for the same purpose at
Alicedale. It was a matter for regret
that Miss Anderson could not be with
us on account of ill-health, also that
we should shortly lose Miss Seabrooke,
though we trust she will still remain
an Associate of the Society. Mr.
Faunce kindly arranged a special Ser­
cice in Church and gave a most inter­
esting address on "the threefold cord"
which is not quickly broken. The work
of the members this year has been to
make pinafores for St. Peter's Home.
The class at Cradock have actually
completed twelve in time for the com­
petition announced in the G.F.S.
Leaflet. Several scattered members on
the line have also sent some in, but the
result is not yet known. On November
27th I had the great pleasure of at­
tending the delightful Dalziel wedding
at Conway, which will be found else­
where described in our magazine.

Another red-letter day was the Sale
at Nauwpoort, when the whole camp
seemed to work so well and happily to­
gether with one object in view, and a
well-earned success was achieved in the
end. We all felt grateful for the tal­
ented help given by Miss Wright, of
Shrewsbury, who is now visiting this
country for the first time, and sincerely
hope this will not be her last appear­
ance on the line. Father Christmas
will be our next visitor, and during the
month of January the children may expect to see him in as many places as possible, and must remember those friends, both in South Africa and the Old Country, who have devoted much time to replenishing his varied store of toys, etc. Early in the new year we also hope to welcome back our old friend, Miss Holmes, who has already left England, but is spending a month at St. Helena en route.

M. JOSEPHINE BECKWITH.

At Alice dale, on November 8th, we had our G.F.S. Festival, in which the Sandflats branch joined. Unfortunately only two of these were able to come, but they were made very welcome. The picnic was prevented by the weather, but the Church Hall proved a very good shelter, and here we had lunch and games and no one knows how many teas between 1 o'clock and 6 o'clock, as so many friends had supplied us with good things to eat. After dispersing for a more solid meal at home, we met in Church for the Festival Service—the real object of our gathering. Mr. Griggs admitted two girls to be members and three younger ones to be candidates. This is a new departure for Alice dale, but I hope that many little girls will now attend the monthly meetings; a part of the time shall be devoted to their interest.

In the address Mr. Griggs spoke of what had been accomplished in Naaman's household by the little captive maid who tried to serve her God and help her mistress under very difficult circumstances.

Next we had the Dean's visit. It was just a year since he was with us before at the Mission, and I am sure his presence and helpful words stirred us up again to renewed efforts. "Lest we forget," and how easily we do forget the experiences of even such a time as that was! May his visit strengthen us in carrying out the resolutions then formed.

Last in point of time was the Confirmation at Grahamstown, at which I was glad to be present with our five candidates and watch the beautiful Service in the Cathedral and listen to our Bishop's helpful words. Another candidate from the district has been confirmed elsewhere. It is a great joy as each one comes forward for this rite and enters into the fuller privileges which the Church gives her children.

Of Cookhouse there is little to tell. The Juvenile Good Templars now number sixteen and most of them are keen on the meetings. Christmas entertainments are only just beginning—lantern lectures with the Christmas story and Christmas-trees again form part of the programme. So a busy time is before us—after that I go on holiday for a month.

I wish you all a happy New Year.

P. GLASIER.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

Waterval Boven,
Dec. 15th, 1913.

My first Sunday in the Transvaal was September 14th, divided between MACHADODORP and WATERVAL BOVEN, and in the three months that have passed since then I have gradually found my way to most of the Sunday centres on this section of railway, and to a good many of the smaller stations as well. There was no need for me to plan out the proportionate time to be allotted to the different places, as my predecessor, Mr. Hopkins, with three years' experience behind him, had mapped it all out for me.

I have had the warmest of welcomes from everybody I have come across, individually, and at Waterval Boven I thoroughly enjoyed a Social Evening at the Institute in honour of my arrival, containing an excellent musical
programme and ending up with a dance.

I had my first experience of the coach for three weeks this quarter, and found it invaluable for getting to places and stopping there, which is infinitely preferable to a long journey back to Boven to sleep there. On Tuesday, Nov. 25th, I went to CROCODILE POORT (whither the coach had been sent after the trip to TZANEEN, described in another letter). This was my first experience of a hot day, 109 deg. in the shade at Kaapmuiden, and I got very warm walking through the Gorge.

During the week I saw most of the gangers between NELSPRUIT and KOMATI POORT, and I was glad to find that this most important part of our work attracted me very much. I thoroughly enjoyed the talks, and I was made free of the billv-can, and found tea of all temperatures from hot to cold equally enjoyable when you are thirsty.

After a Sunday at Nelspruit, I got to BREYTON on Wednesday, and visited KRAZNPORR and KINROSS. Then a Sunday at BELFAST, after which I visited WONDERFONTEIN, PAN, BRONKHORSTSPRUIT and RAYTON.

As I am already late, I must conclude this letter without giving you any of my experiences of “dead ends” and shunting, etc.

E. G. K. ESDAILE.

Church of the Good Shepherd,
Fordsburg.

My dear Miss Burt,

This letter in Light for the Line will be once more a farewell to the church people of Fordsburg, Brixton and Vrededorp—but only partially so, for I am to work next year at Germiston, which is not a great distance from Johannesburg, so I hope from time to time to see old friends here who are very dear to me, and who I am so sorry to leave. I am sending names of eleven new members of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, and am only so sorry that already some of them have moved out of the neighbourhood: indeed, within the last three months we have lost twenty-two children from the Catechism and Guild owing to transfers to other localities. One member who went to Port Elizabeth, Doris Gainsford, was confirmed before she went.

The foundation stones of Brixton and Vrededorp Churches respectively are to be laid on the 13th and 20th of this month—events that will make us all very thankful.

Yours very sincerely,
MARY A. B. ATTLEE.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

My dear Children,

Another Christmas will have gone when you read this. And I know well how very happy a time it will have been to you all. Just a note of joy all along the Line for young and old alike, I hope. Lots of you will have had lovely dolls, balls and knives and games and toys of all sorts, some sent all the way from England by children who think of you and write to some of you—and others sent from children in different parts of South Africa—Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

I had a delightful visit the other day from Clement Rippon, who lives at Highlands, C.P. He had sent me £3 10s. which he collected from friends to buy toys and presents for the children along the Line who could not get into towns at Christmas to see all the beautiful things in the shop windows. Olive Wilmot, too, again this year brought money, £2 14s., collected for the same purpose. Louisa Schuch, who
lives near Pretoria, sent £1 14s. 3d. for the Railway Mission; she is such a faithful little friend and has for several years now sent a donation. Children can do much to show that they are willing to share in helping good works and are ready to take trouble and make some little sacrifice of time and thought to do what they can for others. Christmas is the season for enjoyment. It is the children's season, and everyone wants all the children to be as happy as possible then. But that does not mean that the children are to take all and give nothing. You will remember what our Lord said about that. And those of you who have been thinking of how you can make other people happy will yourselves have been happier than those who have thought only of what they could receive for themselves.

Another year is beginning. May you all use it well—better than the year that has now ended. It is good to begin again and get a new start. One thing you can all at once make up your minds to do better is the Bible Reading. I want lots of names for the examination which will be held in May.

A Happy New Year to you all, dear children, from

Your friend,

The Editor.

Guild of the Good Shepherd.

New Members.

Annie Miller, Willie Miller, Lizzie du Plessis, Ventersburg Road, and James Young, Theunissen.

Badge given to Gertrude Young, Theunissen.

At Church of Good Shepherd, Fordsburg: Edward and Ellen Gainsford, Stephen Petzen, Frank and Ivy Swain, Frederic Diffenthal, Victor, Fred and John Clench, Arthur and Winnie Taylor.

BAPTISMS.

Nov. At Naauwpoort:
5—Robert John Miller.
23—Frances Joyce Benn.
Dec.
7—John Kelly.
Sept.
15—Emily Jane Hornakbrook, at Middleton.
21—Maria Rachael Peters, at Cookhouse.
Jessie Christa Metywa, at Cookhouse.
Alfred Algebra Magxaka, at Cookhouse.
Nov.
4—Arthur Newton Comely, at Coega.
Robert Henry Comely, at Coega.
6—Wilbur Andrew Clark, at Aloe.
16—Marian Emily Bukly Shooter, at Cookhouse.
Willie Booi, at Cookhouse.
Nellie Nzeku, at Cookhouse.
19—Sylvia Mary Kirkup, at Glen Connor.

CONFIRMATIONS.

Dec. 7th, at Grahamstown:
Agnes Ruth Montgomery.
Mary Agnes Lear.
John David Ashwell.
Bertie William Fletcher.
Edward Bartenshaw Ashwell.
Dec. 10th, at Uitenhage:
Winifred Ferreira.

BURIAL.

Oct. 19th, at Alicedale: James Hurst, aged 24 years.

SERVICES AND COLLECTIONS.

Sept. 14—Dec. 14, 1913.—Machadodorp, £1/4/-; 13/9; 19/4; Waterval Boven, 11/3; £1/5/4; 12/7; 18/9; 14/9; Nelspruit, £2/7/3; £2/6/9; Belfast, £2/15/6; £2/15/-; £2/4/3; Bronkhorstspruit, £2/0/3; Malolane, 12/6; Tzaneen, £1/17/-.

Donations.—Low Veld, Anon, £1; Breyton, Mrs. Chambers, 5/-.

COLLECTIONS.

Middleton, 8/3; Barkly Bridge, 7/3; Komma-dagga, 8/11; Bushman's River, 4/8; Sherborne, 6/-; Mortimer, 7/-; Halesowen, 2/3; Bellevue, 2/-; Cottage 12, Coerney, 1/9; Coega, 4/9; Hougham Park, 12/6; Witmoss, 3/9; Glen Connor, 11/9. FEEs: £11/18/3. Total per S.R.G., Sept.—Nov., £18/19/1.
Donations.—Miss Chapman, 6/-; Miss Edmund, £10/10/-; Mrs. Howell, 2/6; Miss G. Ferreira, 5/-; Canon West, £1; Mrs. Vincent's Drawing-room Meeting at Denbigh, £2; Mrs. Jones, 2/6; Mrs. Thackham, 7/6; collections per Miss Glasier, 10/6.

September.—Vet River, 5/2; Eenesgevon—Jen; Bloemfontein, 2/7; Windsorton Road, 6/-; Content, 7/8; Fourteen Streams, 3/3; Pokwani, 6/9; Taungs, 15/7; Vryburg, 7/-; Mafeking; Ottehoop, £2/2/6; Woodbine; Groot Marico, 8/6; West Marico; Viljoen's Drift, 9/3.

October.—Paardeburg, 12/3; Kimberley; Windsorton Road, 6/-; Content, 7/8; Fourteen Streams, 3/3; Pokwani, 6/9; Taungs, 15/7; Vryburg, 7/-; Mafeking; Ottehoop, £2/2/6; Woodbine; Groot Marico, 8/6; West Marico; Viljoen's Drift, 9/3.

November.—Ventersburg Road, £1/2/6; Wolvehoek, 8/8; Greenslands, 10/-; Dover, 8/6; Kopjes, 2/8; Kaalasagte, 15/-; Lindley Road, 12/3; Denkerpoort, 4/9; Priors, 4/7. Donations.—5/-, 10/-; Baroda and Fish River, £1/2; Roodehoogte, 5/1.

Children's Donations, per Miss Louie Schuch, £1/14/3; per Clement Rippon, £3/10/-; per Olive Wilmot, £2/14/3.

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. 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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