



Light for the Line,

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION MAGAZINE.

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South African Church Railway Mission.

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

Figtree,

March 6th, 1920.

Dear Friends,

In many ways the New Year has opened more hopefully than we dared expect: since our last issue things have taken a real turn and a move has been made at last; Miss Millicent Porter arrived from England towards the end of January, and before we had time to get over this shock we had news that the Reverend C. W. S. Stenson and Miss Stenson were on the water coming out. Miss Porter is already at work on her Section—Division IV—East London to Cyphergat and lines branching from it, with Headquarters at Queenstown: Miss Beckwith kindly went over the ground with her in the first instance so that she might get a general idea of the needs of the Section and find out the places where she will

be most helpful. It is a pleasure to be able to place a Worker there, for it has been impossible since Miss Holmes was taken away, and justice could be done neither to the work nor the Workers trying to accomplish the impossible: nobody has been more conscious than they that despite the fatigue involved only the most superficial visits could be paid. This week I have been up at Bulawayo trying to fix up things for Mr. and Miss Stenson, but, unfortunately not with much success. It seemed best that they should not come up from the English winter directly from the boat on account of the climatic conditions: the rains were late in coming, but now that they have come they are of the best quality and quantity and are continuing longer than usual. The Stensons stayed over for Sunday at Mahalapye, while I came on, thinking to have everything nicely in order for them by Wednesday, but when I met them at the Station at 7.25 on Wednesday morning it was to tell them that I had entirely failed to find accommodation for them, so full is the town that every hotel, house and room seems to be occupied; but for the kindness of Mrs. Harker, Mrs. Winslow and the good Sisters at St. Gabriel's Home they might have been left on the street. However, for the present temporary arrangements have been made—Mr. Stenson will be at Mrs. Gradwell's house, Rhodes Street, 14th Avenue, and Miss Stenson will be at St. Gabriel's Home; but we sincerely hope it will not be long before

we can fix them up together and so together they may do the job for which they came out, viz., to carry on the work so devotedly done by Mr. Seacome and others before him. Our Workers have to rough it very often when they are out, so we like them when possible to have a little comfort *when* they get back to Headquarters. It was said that Bulawayo was going down: our experiences this week do not support that statement. We hope it will not be long before we are able to welcome Mr. Smith and to set him going on the Naauwpoort Section.

Miss Attlee's many friends in the Transvaal will be glad to know that her active interests are still with us: at the February meeting of the Committee she was elected as our London Secretary: it will be a great advantage to us to have as Secretary one who has lived and worked out here.

The Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, has appointed the Reverend E. F. Winnington Ingram to the Headship of the Christ Church Mission, Notting Hill. In this important position Mr. Ingram will have plenty of scope for all his energies and will find his hands full: we wish for him God's blessing to guide and help him in the difficulties which are before him.

We have not yet heard of successors for Miss Glasier and Mr. Esdaile. The former sailed early in January and the latter at the end of January, and each of them had finished six years' very faithful service with the Mission: for family reasons it is not likely that Miss

Glasier will be able to come out again to this country, but Mr. Esdaile hopes at the end of his holiday to return to South Africa and to throw in his lot in the ordinary Church work of the Province; meanwhile he is doing what he can to obtain help for us; we badly need four new priests just to *carry on*, without the thought of developing. We are indeed grateful to both Miss Glasier and Mr. Esdaile for the devotion with which they have given the best years of their lives to the Mission and we trust that God's blessing may be with them in the future work He has for them: they will be greatly missed by those who got to know them and to appreciate their work. Unfortunately the Priest we were hoping would be able to take up Mr. Esdaile's work has been appointed to another job for which he is specially needed.

The Memorial Fund which was opened with a view to enable us to place a stone cross over Mr. Willmott's grave and to put Sanctuary Windows in All Souls' Church, Naauwpoort, in memory of Miss Burt and Mr. Willmott is going well and we are hopeful that we shall be able to carry out the whole suggestion. It is very delightful to see the splendid way the Laymen at Naauwpoort are keeping the Lay Services going: we do appreciate their help and interest.

Bishop May, of Northern Rhodesia, hopes to dedicate the Church at Broken Hill on the 14th of this month: we trust the weather will be such as to allow him to keep to his plans; when

he fixed the date he was at the "Back o' Beyond" of North-East Rhodesia and the journey in during the rains is no easy matter.

The London Board of Directors of the Rhodesia Railways has very kindly granted us a site in the Camp at Raylton on which to build a Church: on Tuesday Archdeacons Etheridge and Harker with Mr. Holgate, the Engineer, and myself chose the spot—quite close to the Institute round which the Camp will grow; and we are agreed that no better site could be desired. The Board has very generously given us three years in which to put up a building, but all those who have the welfare of this project at heart feel that we ought to "get on to it" immediately. The Diocese of Southern Rhodesia has very generously placed at our disposal the £362 obtained in insurance money when the cottage was destroyed by fire some four years ago; this is a most useful beginning and will doubtless be an encouragement to push on. If any of our friends far or near would like to help us in this undertaking, contributions will be most gratefully received. Mr. Seacome would have been more than delighted with such a proposal: it is now intended to use the balance of the Seacome Memorial Fund by providing a Font for the new Church.

It is hardly necessary for me to remind our many friends to whom our Workers minister that the cost of working the Mission is now very much greater than it has been in the past: most people to-day are receiving con-

siderably more than they did formerly and we trust that they will not be unmindful of these things when they make their offerings—they ought to be more in proportion.

I had decided that I would not go to England this year while we are so short handed, though I am a year overdue, but the London Committee has some very important business on hand while the Bishops are in England for the Lambeth Conference, and the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, has written pressing me to go at all costs: after thinking the matter over carefully I feel it is my duty to go, so I expect to sail shortly after Easter.

All this week the good people of Bulawayo have been expecting the *Silver Queen*—South Africa's first aeroplane: she arrived at Livingstone on Monday and ever since then till yesterday morning we have been expecting to hear the "guns and hooters" which were to give the signal that she was within two hours of town; but three days passed and no guns and hooters sounded. The Natives, who had been in a state of fevered expectation, began to shake their heads and doubt the whole thing: but no wonder she had been delayed when $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fell in one day at Livingstone, making the ground too soft for the take-off—those who know what the ground up North is like after heavy rains will easily understand the condition of things. On Thursday night news came through that the ground was drying and the engines had been put in order,

so yesterday morning came with great expectations, and about 10 a.m. bang went the guns and hoot went the hooters: it was "down tools" then no matter who or what you were—even a humble Railway Chaplain—for all roads lead to the Racecourse, some two miles from town, which was the landing place. What a sight it was, all colours, shapes and sizes—it is not often one sees the good Sisters struggling to get the children under their care to the Racecourse, but they were doing so yesterday—every possible means of getting "there" were employed, and the main road reminded one more of Epsom, or Goodwood or the Derby than anything else has ever done in this country: you see, "it might get there before us," so it was a matter of pushing—personally I did not push, but went there as a lord, in somebody else's motor-car, of course. As the crowd gathered one could understand that there would be no rooms to let in Bulawayo: everybody was surprised to find "so many people." By no means the least expectant were the Natives, who needed no second word of permission to go, and they did go in their thousands. And so we waited for the *Silver Queen*, whose gallant crew of four—two South Africans and two Englishmen—were flying from England to the Cape: and we waited, then we heard she had passed Wankie at 10 o'clock—how the time hung—then they had passed Sawmills at 12.5; when all of a sudden out of the clouds right over the Grand Stand came the sight we had come for

—"there she is," and there she was a truly wonderful sight, and a more perfect landing could not have been made; we were proud of our countrymen, new and old, dignity went to the wind—well, never mind what happened, but we were not the last to shake hands with those brave men and to offer them our humble congratulations. Five thousand miles: well, it *was* something to have seen the approach and landing; what matter if the dinner had been forgotten and we had to "put up with scraps"? Some people are always scrapping.

The best of good wishes to you all for a very happy Easter.

R. THORNELY JONES.

St. Edmund's Vicarage,
Forest Gate,
London, E.7,
Feb. 29th, 1920.

My dear friends,

I have no real excuse for writing you a line, but on the other hand there is no valid reason why I should *not*! Perhaps there may be a fragment of an excuse in the fact that you do not know the above address, so there it is—my permanent abode as far as I can see ahead of me at the present. If you want to know what it's like, the best way to describe it would be to say that it is exactly the opposite of Mamabula or Tropsi, or some other halting-places in Bech. Prot. Instead of having no families or one or two, there is a population of 13,000 souls. Instead of no streets there are plenty, some of them running into 400 houses. Instead of a clear and sparkling atmosphere in which you can see objects miles away, we would call it a bright day here if you could see from end to end of a

street. And many another distinction might be drawn.

I am living with the Vicar and working as assistant-priest—the Church holding about 700 adjoins the Vicarage. If as big a percentage of the population turned out to Church as they do on a South African Railway Station, of course the Church would nothing like hold them. But such is not the case. There is room and to spare. And you cannot help feeling that there is a huge mass of religious indifference round about you. Not that that is to make us down-hearted: in fact, it is one of the very reasons for our vocation into union with Christ, that we may act as leaven in the lump and let our light shine before men, or rather His light in us.

This is a feeble little scribble, and you must excuse it; but it carries more than you would think of good-will and very affectionate remembrances.

Ever your sincere friend,

A. C. HOBSON.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

March 9th, 1920.

My dear Friends,

Though there is little of really outstanding interest to record this time, yet the work during the Quarter has gone ahead steadily and there have been many, very many, encouragements for which to thank God. One can really see progress, not only in the increase of congregations nearly everywhere throughout the Section, but also in the keenness of individuals and their readiness to help on the work in whatever way they can. This has been especially noticeable in connection with the various Sunday-Schools up and down the Line. Wherever there has been the merest handful of children someone has generally been found to undertake their instruction Sunday by Sunday between my visits. There is

very much to be thankful for in this, and even in those cases where there are children to be taught but no teacher is as yet forthcoming one is hopeful that the want will soon be supplied.

Since writing my December letter I have been able to hold Services (in most cases twice and in some three times) at the following places: WATERVAL BOVEN, MACHADODORP, RAYTON, BRONKHORSTSPRUIT, DELMAS, KINROSS, TRICHARDTS, HATHERLY, SILVERTON, DALMANUTHA, GODWAN RIVER, ELANDSHOEK, NELSPRUIT and MALELANE, while places visited without Service have been ARBOR, ELOFF, PAN, KOEDOESPOORT, WONDERFONTEIN, BONNEFOI and VAN DER MERWE.

At WATERVAL BOVEN the number of British residents seems to grow less and less. In spite of this fact, however, it is encouraging to notice that our congregations here show a distinct tendency to improve. The average attendance during the last few months has been somewhat better than in the days when the English Church population was almost twice as large!

We are very sorry to have to say "Goodbye" to Miss Parkins, who has worked so long and so devotedly in the Sunday School. We wish her all success and happiness in her new sphere of work in Pretoria. Her sister, Miss A. Parkins, has very kindly volunteered to fill her place.

The memorial to the men from Waterval Boven who gave their lives during the War has been erected for some time, but it was not till March 8th that we were able to hold a suitable Dedication Service in connection with it. We began with the hymn, "O God, our Help in ages past." This was followed by a short Lesson (Micah iv, 1-4) and another hymn (221 A. & M.). Then came a brief Address followed by the "Our Father" and a Prayer of Dedication. All joined in singing the Doxology and a verse of the National

Anthem, the Service being brought to a close by the sounding of the "Last Post" by members of the Boven Scouts.

MACHADODORP has at last been provided with an Evening Service. Hitherto only Morning Services could be held, lights not being allowed in the Court House, which has been the only available place of meeting. Now however we have been able to obtain the use of the School, and the first Service held there on the evening of Feb. 8th was excellently attended, forty-four people being present.

At RAYTON the re-opening of the Montrose Mine promises a considerable increase in the population of the district and also in our congregations there. The Sunday School has been lately revived under the superintendence of Mr. Oakley, and Miss Eileen Day has kindly undertaken to help with the younger children. It is difficult to imagine Rayton without Mr. and Mrs. Oakley! Their help has been given freely and gladly in so many ways, especially in all things connected with the children and young people of the place.

We held our Christmas Services at BRONKHORSTSPRUIT, while for the New Year I went down to GODWAN RIVER, only a tiny place but one where everybody who can possibly come to Service may be relied upon to do so! The same may be said of ELANDSHOEK, where on the occasion of my last visit Mr. and Mrs. Parsons kindly put me up.

My last Sunday visit to HATHERLY I managed to combine with one to SILVERTON, the two places being only a few miles apart. In my last letter I mentioned that our service-room at HATHERLY was then undergoing repair owing to the ravages of white ants. We "moved in" again in January and though I had been prepared for an improvement in the appearance of the room I had not expected the many additions to its

equipment, such as kneeling pads, new hymn books, Communion cloth, etc., collected for by Miss Gertrude Higgins! Hearty thanks are due to her for the splendid way she has worked both in connection with the Services and the Sunday School.

Talking of Sunday Schools reminds one that up till lately no provision could be made for the regular teaching of the English Church children at DELMAS. Now however Miss Brain has most kindly volunteered to run a weekly Sunday School for them. I hear that she has also started a Scout and Guide movement, so things are going ahead there in good earnest!

The experiment of a Sunday at TRICHARDTS fully justified itself. I had never been there before for Service though there are quite a number of British farmers in the district. Our morning congregation was very good, though owing to the scattered nature of the community, coupled with a very dark night, not many managed to turn up in the evening. A Children's Service in the afternoon (the first, I believe, ever held in the district) brought together eighteen children. There has never been a Sunday School in the place, but one hopes as time goes on that it may be possible to find someone who will undertake the work Sunday by Sunday. My thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Forster for their kindness in putting me up and helping me in my visiting around the district by the loan of horses, etc. My poor old bicycle seems to be getting on its last legs, or at any rate to need a more thorough overhaul than any it has yet experienced! After eleven years of hard wear I must not complain of it however. When is the R.M. going to supply its chaplains with an aeroplane apiece? One's area, however large, would then at least become manageable! Perhaps though, judging from certain unpromising African flying records which have been filling the papers of late, our Head is wise in staying his hand as

regards *literal* "sky pilots" for the present!

DALMANUTHA is a tiny place but keen. We always have the larger proportion of its inhabitants at service, and the singing is hearty. It is a pleasure to see Mr. Hall, the Station Master, back again after his recent severe illness.

NELSPRUIT in the old days used to be a somewhat lethargic place for its size, at any rate as regards attendance at Services. I remember that it was with difficulty on one occasion that we raised fifteen people for a Confirmation Service, the first, too, which had ever been held there! Of late however a welcome change seems to have taken place this being largely due to the influx of a few keen spirits. In consequence I am looking forward to quite good congregations there in future. My last visit was quite encouraging.

There is always a good attendance at Tomango, a few miles away, but my visit there this quarter had to be postponed.

When its new Irrigation Scheme is complete, MALELANE, at present one of the smallest of the Low Veld centres, will probably be numbered among the largest, the anticipation being that fruit-growers in large numbers will then take up land down there. At present the white population is very small indeed and widely scattered. Much of the country is still wild as in the days before the white man came. To the lover of Nature the Malelane district presents charms second only to those of the Selati country, the remotest eastern corner of the Transvaal. To stand at sunrise and look away across the tree-covered plains to the rugged distant hills, clothed in bush to their very tops and bathed in the early sunlight; to turn one's gaze then to where the Crocodile River flows close by between its reedy banks and to watch the herds of wild game feeding on the further side, zebra, wildebeeste, water-

buck and many another of God's created things—such moments are always a joy and are never to be forgotten.

VERNON ROSSBOROUGH.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Bulawayo,
March 8th, 1920.

At last! After months of waiting Miss Stenson and I have arrived. It was a dreadful scramble at the last to get off: but January 23rd saw us embarked on the *Kinfauns Castle*, which eventually brought us to Capetown on February 9th. We stayed in the Colony for about a fortnight getting acclimated.

On our way up we called at Mahalapye, where the people all made us welcome. We had Evensong in the dining-room of the hotel on Sunday, February 29th, and it was splendid to see how many turned up. Next morning we had a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Schoolroom, and then continued our way to Bulawayo. At present we are trying to settle down, and get things in order.

On March 7th we had Services at St. Cyril's Bulawayo: Holy Eucharist 7.30; Children's Service 3; Evensong 7.30 p.m.

I hope to write a longer letter next quarter.

Your sincere friend,
C. W. S. STENSON.

WOMEN'S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

There seem to be several pleasant events to record during this first quarter, which we trust are of good augury for the rest of the year. The first week

in January I spent on the Kowie Line with our good Local Secretary as a companion, Miss Booth, who has distributed our Magazine for many years both in and around Grahamstown City. We went to Bathurst for the Sunday Services, and were hospitably entertained there both at the Rectory and by Railway friends. This Church is the oldest in our Diocese, and is of special interest in this centenary year of the British Settlers because some of their families took refuge there during a Kaffir rising in 1846—Mrs. Booth being among the number.

In the middle of the month came the welcome arrival of our long-expected Worker, Miss Porter, whose return to these shores has only been delayed by the difficulty of getting berths on the boats. After meeting her in Algoa Bay she spent a short time in Grahams-town at St. Peter's Home (where her twin sister Winifred is a member of the Community), while I took the Coach up to Klipplaat Junction and Aberdeen Road, etc., returning by the end of the month to Sandflats for a very important function for which preparations had been made for some weeks previously. This was the performance of a charming Children's Cantata, specially suited to Epiphanytide and entitled "The Story of the Star." Although the numbers taking part were comparatively few and all of them of tender years, the small performers acquitted themselves most creditably, thanks to those who had trained them with much care and patience, Mrs. Plumridge in the choruses and Mrs. Walker in the recitations. The carols (which had already been sung in Church for the Christmas Services on December 21st) were part of the programme, and at the close several sacred songs were given by adults, which made an appropriate ending to the evening's entertainment. The financial result was also most gratifying to all concerned as over £10 was realized (including the sale of some fruit and home-made sweets, etc.), £8

being donated to the starving children of Europe, and the remainder reserved for the local Sunday School Fund.

It is much to be hoped that other Camps and Sunday Schools will follow this good lead as certainly the careful training of children in this way is well worth all the time and trouble expended upon them.

During the entire month of February I was travelling with Miss Porter on her new Section (the Eastern Line with its branches) in the Mission Coach, 404, which has already seen so many trial trips. Would that we could one day read its autobiography!

Among its adventures we can now add a Flood, a Fire and a Fall, but fortunately none of these were serious in their consequences. Certainly our escape from the landslip on the Butterworth Line was among the many mercies which we are constantly experiencing on our travels. This was of course the result of recent rains, but another was that the whole countryside was looking absolutely green and lovely and in many places like a flower garden. Both the stations Spiral and Zigzag seem well named as the descent and ascent from the Kei River are something wonderful in the engineering line.

We spent Sunday in the capital of Tembuland, Umtata, where there is a fine spacious Cathedral, built on Gothic lines of stone of the country, fashioned by native labourers under the supervision of a Scotch overseer. It contains a beautiful Reredos (both the carving and painting coming from England), also a large organ, which is played by the Station Master.

We showed the Passiontide Slides in several places, and during the month of March I am carrying them about to as many small stations as possible on the Midland system. May their message indeed sink into some hearts and bear fruit in some lives is our constant prayer. May the great forty days of Easter joy also have such an influence

on our hearts and lives that we may all enter into the joy of our Lord and realize more fully that "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah viii), as the Seer of old told his people, and as the poets remind us also—

"Every joy is gain,
And gain is gain however small."

Browning.

"Thou hast proved that purest joy is
Duty."

H. Coleridge.

M. JOSEPHINE BECKWITH.

Grahamstown,
March 12th, 1920.

My dear Friends,

It seems as if I shall never be able to cover the whole extent of my Section: for whenever I make plans to cover new ground, something is sure to come in the way of carrying them out. For the past month I have been travelling in Natal and the Transvaal, and naturally this has cut my quarter very short. I am so glad to be back on my section, and I am encouraged to see how my friends have worked to keep the Sunday Schools open each Sunday—only one Sunday was not provided for.

NAAUWPOORT. Early in the new year, or rather at the end of the old year, the girls of the G.F.S. gave a little play in the Railway Institute to which all friends were invited; after the play the scholars of All Souls' Sunday School were presented with prizes. Mrs. Willmott, wife of our late Chaplain, presented the prizes, and we were so glad to have her with us again. The little play entitled "The Song of the West Wind" was very well done by the children; it was quite a short play, but each child put her best into the part given to her; it took them exactly five days to get ready, and I was very pleased with the result, and I think that the children enjoyed acting while they pleased the audience, who listened to the message of the West Wind, "Go

ye into all the world and preach the gospel." The children arranged the stage most beautifully, without any "grown-up aid," and at night it was very effective. We had hoped to stage the first part of the Pilgrim's Progress during Lent, but with my hasty departure for the coast, things had to be put off; however, I hope that we will be able to stage it in Naauwpoort within a few months. One gets so much help from this little story of Christian's progress that will help us all on our way to win the Crown of Everlasting Life, by the same hard fight for perseverance in our lives.

In this Camp the Sunday Services have been fairly well attended, yet there is room for improvement; on Old Year's Night it was encouraging to see that so many people made a response to the Mid-night Service. Our Churchwardens and Sidesmen are deserving of our support and attendance in their effort to keep the Worship of Almighty God in His House Sunday after Sunday. Canon J. K. Mather has arranged to take Services in All Souls' on Wednesday, 17th, and I expect that the Services will be well attended; also the infant babies of Mrs. Lear, Mrs. Deacon and Mrs. Hebusch will be baptised on St. Patrick's Day. It is a great joy to be able to tell you that two ladies—Mrs. Steinhoffel and Mrs. Ehrich—have undertaken the Church cleaning. Mr. Steinhoffel has also given of his time and skill of repairing the mat in the aisle, which looks as good as a new one, also he has offered to mend the broken chairs in the Church and Parish Room.

The memorial fund which Canon Jones told us was being started to place a cross over the last resting-place of our late Chaplain Edgar Thomas Willmott, has begun well, and if any friend would like to give to this object, will you please give your donation to Mr. Lemon, who is Hon. Treasurer, or to the lady sustentation collector? Mrs.

Lemon has taken on all the sustentation collecting, and I believe that it is a better plan and saves over-lapping: the members can help to make it easier for her by having their donations ready each month.

We have to say farewell to one of our keenest families through sickness. Mr. and Mrs. Growden have been transferred to Elliott and our very best wishes will go with them; it will be a great loss to the Camp, because they were always so keen to do things, no matter what they were asked, and we shall miss them dreadfully.

During Mrs. Hitchcock's absence, Mrs. Juby has given of her services at the organ, and we have to thank her very much for all that she has done to make the Services more beautiful, and worthy of offering to God. Mrs. Hitchcock has returned, but will not be able to take the organ over yet, and this leaves us with the difficulty of finding someone else.

Services will be as usual each Sunday, and I hope that everyone will do their best to be present.

During the absence of a Priest, Mr. Ehrich has been given the work of Mission Warden, and is in charge of Mission work.

COOKHOUSE. Since our big effort in December I have not been able to put in much time at Cookhouse. On January 15th Services were held and a good number of members were present; altogether we had a happy day. In the afternoon the Sunday School children received their prizes. The promised tea-party to the children who took part in the play is still a treat to come. I have been off the Section for so long that it will take me some time to catch up again. Canon Mather has had Services at Cookhouse during the past month, and there is no doubt that a good attendance welcomed him. Since I last wrote our good friends the Churchwarden and his wife and little child have come home after a nice holi-

day, and we are so glad to hear of the encouraging improvement in little Gracie's health.

HANOVER ROAD. Here Canon Jones was able to have Service in January for our friends the Station Master and his wife; a few days afterwards I had a Lantern Service which was well attended, the collection going towards the Children's Memorial Fund. Next day I left for Riet for the first time, and there found old friends of the Mission; back to Taaibosch, where Mrs. Bishop so kindly put me up for the night: we had a Lantern in preparation for the great feast of Christmas.

CONWAY. It was arranged that a Lantern should be given, but sickness prevented my having it, but I hope that at a later date it will be given. Mr. Smit has been ill for some time, and it was a happy release from all his suffering when God called him on February 5th unto himself; our thoughts are with those who are left. I spent a few days on a farm of an old friend near Conway, and came back on to the Rails thoroughly refreshed.

CYPHERGAT. Services on the 1st February were well attended and the Lantern earlier in the month was thoroughly appreciated by the children. The people of this district gave a good offering towards the Memorial Cross.

STORMBERG. I was so glad to be able to have the opportunity of a real visit; Mrs. Marais kindly put me up. In the evening a Lantern was given, and there was a good attendance. On the following Sunday Evensong was held in the Schoolroom by Canon Jones. It is joy to welcome back Mrs. Roberts, and we hope that her health will continue to be good; already we see that the children have been interested in the Victoria Bible Reading, and a number of answers have been received. A separate paper is published for the children each quarter, and I do hope that all mothers and teachers will encourage the children in every way to be interested in the

work we are trying to do for the good of the children.

ELSIE M. ANDREWARTHA.

Nearly three years ago I met Miss Beckwith in England and after seeing her offered myself to the Committee to come and work on the Railway Mission. It was impossible to get a passage until Christmas Eve, 1919, and on January 17th my hopes were realized and I landed at Port Elizabeth, where Miss Beckwith met me, and a few days later Canon Thornely Jones gave me a warm welcome in Grahamstown. The Eastern Section of the Railway is to be the scene of my labours, and I have just spent a month in the Mission Coach 404 with Miss Beckwith, to whom I am most grateful for the splendid help she has given me, and I was very sorry indeed when the time came for us to go our different ways. The country is looking beautiful after the rains, and it is hard to believe that such a short time ago it was so burnt and brown. First impressions are often lasting, and I have been very much impressed by the friendly way in which people have received me all along the Line. We were most grateful too for the presents of milk, butter, eggs and fruit, which helped to replenish our larder.

At Imvani it was interesting to find a school had been opened this term and we were able to give a Lantern Service, which was well attended. We also visited Tylden, Thomas River, Toise River, Amabele, Blaney and East London, giving a Lantern Service at each station. It was not possible to stay long at each place as we had to go up to Umtata, but I hope soon to be able to visit each station again and also to go to the places we were obliged, for various reasons, to leave out this time. After leaving East London we went up to Umtata and, as many of you know, passed through most beautiful scenery. At Umtata we had a most interesting visit. The Cathedral is very fine in-

deed, and we were told that all the stone was cut by the natives under a Scotch foreman and that it was built in eighteen months. The proportions are splendid and altogether very impressive as the Mother Church of such a vast native territory. We also had the privilege of going to Evensong at St. John's College for Native boys, and one realized what a wonderful work for good they would be able to do when they returned to their homes. We also visited Bityi, Idutywa and Butterworth on our way down.

I hope soon to be able to start a class for children at two or three of the stations and shall look to other Church-people for help to carry on between my visits, which must of necessity be rather far between. I hope Mrs. Bean will have every success in and blessing on the Sunday School she has started at Thomas River. It must be such a joy to our Lord when He sees the children He loves so much being cared for in this way.

At present I have not been able to find rooms in Queenstown, but I am most grateful to the Sisters at St. Monica's Home for their kindness in giving me hospitality.

Many thanks to the following for gifts: Mesdames Brown, Crocker, Barrick, Dicken, Gerber, Grierson, Holmes, Hornby, McLachlan, Snowgrove, Smith, Rose-Innes, and Miss Leary.

MILLCENT PORTER.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

My dear Children,

I hope that the magazine this quarter will be out in time to wish you all a happy Easter.

I wonder how many gave their mothers the little Christmas Card on Christmas Day. All? I sent the other cards which you had made, one to each little girl at Woodville Orphanage

(Middle School). They were so pleased and thanked you all very nicely.

You will see this time that there are several Saints' and Holy days. St. George's Day is on April 23rd. Those who like can read Sir Walter Scott's *The Talisman*, which is a story about the time of the Crusades. Look up in a dictionary the words *Crusade*, *Patron Saint*, *historian*, *legend*, and of course any other word of which you do not know the meaning!

I am very sorry that Horace Morgan's name did not appear in the list of last quarter's marks. I have added it this time.

Many thanks to David Marais for sending the riddles. You will see that I have used two.

I believe I addressed Johannes Schmidt as Miss Johanna Schmidt when I sent his card. You must have been very much amused. I won't do it again!

The questions this quarter are very few, but that is because I want you to study the back work and be prepared to write the final examination at the end of May or the beginning of June.

As things are so expensive we must economise too and there will be fewer prizes this year. So let everybody do their very best and those who deserve it shall get the prizes. I hope there will be a great number of entries.

Your affectionate friend,

THE EDITOR.

P.S.—Several answers to the questions were late this quarter. Marks therefore had to be taken off.

March 21st

was the Fifth Sunday in Lent, and the first day of Passion week.

The word "passion" has two meanings. Most of you will know one of these meanings—for we all know what it is to give away to angry passions. But this word has another meaning;

when we speak of "the passion of our Lord" we mean the pain and the suffering which our Lord bore to save us from our sins.

The Fifth Sunday is called "Passion Sunday" because the Gospel of the day tells us how the Jews, who hated our Lord, took up stones to cast at Him.

THE ANNUNCIATION, March 25.

On this day the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell the Virgin Mary that Christ was to be born and the Old Testament prophecy fulfilled.

PALM SUNDAY, March 28th,

is the Sixth Sunday in Lent. On this day we call to remembrance the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, when the people strewed the way with palms and cried "Hosanna."

HOLY WEEK.

This is a very solemn time, during which each one of us should try to follow our Lord in His suffering.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd.

I expect a great number of children will wonder why this day is called "Good Friday." In so many ways it is such a sad day, especially when we think of all the sin and cruelty which crucified our Lord. And yet, it is really a very *good* Friday. It speaks to us all of the wonderful Love of God, who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the Cross. Yes, it was for *us* He died, and that is why it is such a good Friday for us.

It is a day to be spent very quietly, and let each one of us put aside all noisy games and amusements on this holy day. It is not a day of pleasure, though it is a holiday, but it is not made so that we may take pleasure, but it is given in order that we might try to realize that our Saviour died upon the Cross.

It was from the Cross that our Lord and Saviour spoke the Seven Words of Love. I want you to read those words

for yourselves and think about the meaning of each. Read St. Luke's Gospel, chap. 33, v. 33-46.

EASTER DAY, April 4th.

This is the most beautiful and happiest, and brightest day in the whole year. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Read for yourselves the account of the first Easter Day in the Gospels. St. Matthew, chap. 28; St. Mark, chap. 16; St. Luke, chap. 24.

Easter should make us all glad because it brings the promise of life everlasting. When our Saviour rose from the dead He opened the gates of everlasting life to us His children.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY, April 23rd.

St. George belonged to a noble Capadocian family; his father was a wealthy imperial officer, and died when George was ten years old. St. George himself became a soldier, and was distinguished for his beauty and personal courage. One of the many legends about this splendid soldier gives a wonderful account of his adventure with a dragon. By the City of Silene was a huge pond like a sea, wherein was a dragon who by simply breathing on the people poisoned them. The people were naturally very afraid and though many had set out to kill the dragon no one had succeeded, because as soon as they saw the dragon they ran away terrified. The townspeople, who were all heathen, decided at last that they would sacrifice someone to the dragon and then perhaps he would leave them alone. Lots were drawn and the lot fell to the King's beautiful daughter. The King was very sorrowful and offered gold and silver if they would only leave him his daughter; but the people were afraid and so they insisted that the princess must be sacrificed. On her way to the dragon St. George sees the young princess and, like a brave man will always do, he goes to her to try and help her. He tells her to go home again and not to

be afraid for in the name of Jesus Christ he will fight the dragon and conquer him.

This he does, and St. George's faith is rewarded. In the name of Jesus Christ he fought and slew the dragon. We hope that this wonderful act of faith brought all those people to know Christ and to become Christians.

During the Crusades our men who went to fight in the Holy Land heard about St. George's bravery and they expressed their admiration for his bravery by taking him to be their "Patron Saint," and to-day after all these hundreds of years St. George is still the patron saint of soldiers.

ROGATION SUNDAY, May 9th.

Perhaps you have noticed that each great Festival has before it a solemn season. Before Christmas comes Advent; before Easter, Lent. Ascension Day is a great Festival, and it has before it three solemn days called "Rogation days." Rogation really means "asking." It is told by old writers that these days were first ordered to be kept in the year A.D. 452 by a good French Bishop named Mammertus. There had been great troubles in his country, so he set apart the three days before Ascension Day as a solemn time, and the people went through the country singing litanies, and praying that God would take their troubles away. In England in these days it is the custom for the Minister of God and the people to go around the parish,—beating the bounds, it is called. This is done as an act of prayer to God for His blessing on the fruits of the earth, upon the fields and the crops.

ASCENSION DAY, May 13th.

After His resurrection our Lord continued to appear to his disciples from time to time and to teach them. After about forty days He returned to Heaven, in all His glory, but not before He had promised to send to them a Comforter.

WHITSUN DAY.

This day is the birthday of the Church. On this day was Christ's promise fulfilled and He sent His Holy Spirit the Comforter, the Guide and the Teacher of His Holy Catholic Church. Read Acts, chap. ii, v. 1-16.

WHIT MONDAY AND EMPIRE DAY,

May 24th.

Let us think to-day of how it is by the help of the Holy Spirit that we try and sometimes succeed in being better boys or girls; for it is God the Holy Spirit who makes us true and loyal members of our Empire. So on Empire Day kneel down each one of you and ask the Holy Spirit in a few simple words to be better children so that you may all grow up to be worthy citizens of the Empire to which you belong.

* * * *

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."—St. Luke, ii, 51-52.

When the Holy Family were in exile in Egypt, St. Joseph has a vision and he learns that he is to take the young Child and His mother, and return to the land of Israel, "For they are dead which sought the young Child's life." And Joseph arose, and goes northward to Galilee. On the sloping sunny hills on which the little city rests, we all can picture to ourselves the picture of the home which gives us the beautiful story of the opening year of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. We shall find many lessons to re-learn as we think on this home of love. We may think first of the things that occupied the mind of Jesus before He entered school. Like all little children, I am sure He was interested in Nature and her laws. The daily work of men in the fields, ploughing, sowing, harvesting. The shepherds and the sheep would be of great interest and delight to Him because of all the stories that had been told to Him of His ancestors, and no doubt Jesus

had friends amongst the shepherd lads who would tell Him thrilling stories of wolves slain when attempting to raid their flocks. Then the birds of the air and their habits must have delighted him, and the beautiful flowers that grew all around, and how glad He would be to pluck the flowers and take them to His mother as a gift of love. Mountains, streams, meadows, showers and dew; lighting and clouds, the sun, the moon and stars would make Him think of His Father in Heaven. So little children when we look around and see the beauty of all things that God has made, let us thank our Heavenly Father for all His gifts. Secondly, let us think of Jesus' share in the work of the household in Nazareth. We can picture Him sweeping up the chips in St. Joseph's workshop and carrying faggots for His mother; this should help us all to realize the beauty of labour and usefulness in our own homes.

Only one picture is given to us by sacred Scripture of the childhood of Jesus. It was the custom of the Holy Family to go up to Jerusalem to the Passover. The story begins after the Feast, when the boy Jesus was twelve years old. This no doubt was the age when all Jewish boys were eligible for admission to the full privileges of Bar Mitsvah, which means "Son of the Covenant."

The child was missed by St. Mary after they had been travelling a whole day, and we see her seeking Jesus among his kinsfolk, but He is not there. He is in His Father's House. After a long search He is found sitting in the midst of the grave and learned Jewish Rabbis and all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers, but the mother's heart was grieved and she asks, "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? Behold, Thy Father and I have sought Thee sorrowing." And Jesus makes the answer simply. (St. Luke ii, verse 49.)

Let us take one more look into the House of the Holy Family. There are many lessons that we can learn, but the chief is that Jesus was subject to earthly authority—"He was subject unto them," and Christ Jesus pleased not Himself.

As Jesus advanced in manhood, He took His place in the synagogue on the Sabbath days as one of the Readers. And I am sure as he read aloud to the people, fresh light must have lit up those Bible Lessons which they had so often heard before. So let us learn in our hearts to say,

O, Majesty Divine,
Who stooping low
Came down to save and serve
And love me so.

Rules for Victoria Bible Reading.

1. Write *clearly* your name and address at the top right-hand corner of the page.
2. Below your name give your age, date of your birthday, and the standard you are in at school.
3. In the left-hand corner of the page give the name of your school.
4. Send in your answers *before* May 10th, to The Children's Secretary, P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown, C.P.

Notice:—Marks will be taken off if there are signs of carelessness in the reading of the questions. Untidy writing and insufficient postage on the envelope (which you must address yourself) will also lose marks. Bibles and Prayer Books may be used when answering questions.

VICTORIA BIBLE READING.

JUNIORS.

Read Isaiah, chap. vii, 10-15; Micah, chap. v, 2; Hosea, chap. ii, 1; St. Matthew, chap. ii.

Tell me why it was necessary that our Lord Jesus Christ should have been

- a. Born of a Virgin.
- b. Born at Bethlehem.
- c. Taken to Egypt.
- d. Brought up in Nazareth.
- e. In what province is Nazareth?

Print in pencil or crayons St. Matthew, chap. ii, verses 5 and 6.

Question 2.

Read St. Luke, chap. ii.

Learn by heart St. Luke, chap. ii, verses 49 to 52.

What is the great lesson we must all learn from these verses?

Jesus looked upon the Temple as His Father's House.

- a. Do we have a temple now?
- b. What name do we give it?
- c. Why do we meet together in our Father's House?

Next time you go to Sunday School, if you sing a hymn ask your teacher to let you sing hymn 242.

Question 3.

The Bible is the most wonderful and important book which has ever been written. It was not all written at the same time nor was it written in English. It has taken clever men years and years to translate it into English and Dutch. It is now printed in over 300 languages so that all people, who want to learn and study our Lord's life on earth, may have the opportunity of doing so for themselves. We ought to be most thankful to all those good men who have given most of their lives to this great work, for it helps us in our own lives more than we can tell.

- a. Into how many parts is the Bible divided?
- b. Name them.
- c. Which is the most important part of all?
- d. Why?

Question 4.

Read St. Matthew, chap. vi, verses 5 and 6, and St. John, chap. xvi, verses 23 and 24.

- a. In these two examples what has Christ taught us about our prayers?
- b. What other definite help did Christ give us with our prayers?

Revise :

Read Genesis, chap. xxviii, chap. xxix, verses 1-20.

Read I Samuel, chap. i, verses 27 and 28, and all chap. iii.

Read I Samuel, chap. xvi, verse 11 to end, and chap. xvii.

Read St. Matthew, chap. i, verse 17 to end, and chap. ii and chap. iii.

Read St. Mark, chap. i, verses 1-15.

Read St. Luke, chapters i, ii and iii to verse 23.

Read St. John, chap. i, verses 1-36.
Learn by heart Psalm 150.

SENIORS.

Question 1.

Read St. Matthew, chap. ii.

St. Matthew's Gospel has been called the "Gospel of fulfilled prophecy." How many prophecies were fulfilled in chap. ii? Write out the verse in each case.

Question 2.

Read Deuteronomy, chap. vi, notice verse 7; St. Luke, chap. ii, verses 41-52; St. Matthew, chap. v, notice verse 17.

God had commanded that all generations of Jews should be taught all things about Him and to keep His laws. Jesus being a Jew had learned the Old Testament well, and we read in the Bible that He knew when He was only twelve years old that God was His Father.

- a. Why had Jesus and His people gone to Jerusalem?
- b. Did this family only go?
- c. Give two example in which Jesus fulfilled the Jewish law before He was twelve years old.

Question 3.

Read St. Luke, chap. i, verses 5-13 and 59-79.

Describe fully in your own words what happened to Zacharias in the Temple. You will notice what a splendid historian St. Luke is. Notice for example how in verse 11 St. Luke tells us "there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the *right* hand of the altar." It is details like this that make St. Luke's Gospel so exact and interesting. I would like you all to find out what St. Luke had been trained to be. From verse 67 we have Zacharias' prophecy. At which service do we sing this, and what do we call the song?

Question 4.

Read St. Matthew, chap. iii; St. Mark, chap. i, verses 2-11; St. Luke, chap. iii, verses 2-17; St. John, chap. i, verses 19-36.

- a. Print in pencil or crayons the message which John the Baptist preached.
- b. What was the name of the river in which John baptised our Lord?
- c. What did St. John say to Jesus when He asked John to baptise Him?
- d. What was John's reply?

You will notice that St. Matthew is the only one who gives this account. It is very interesting when reading the different accounts in the four gospels to notice which points struck each of the writers as the most important.

Learn by heart Isaiah, chap. lii, verses 6-10.

Revision :

Read Genesis, chap. xxv, verses 30-34; chap. xxvii, chap. xxxii, verses 3-20; chap. xxix.

Learn by heart Isaiah, chap. ix, verses 2, 6, 7.

Read St. Matthew, chap. i, verse 17 to end; chap. ii, chap. iii; St. Mark, chap. i, verses 1-15; St. Luke, chap.

i, ii, iii to verse 23; St. John, chap. i, verses 1-36.

Learn by heart Psalm 150.

Results for the March Quarter.

SENIORS.

(Out of a possible 50.)

Edgar Hogg 39, Francis Killian 36, Wilhelmina Ferreira 40, Myrtle Lewis 39, Elsie Jones 30, Johannes Schmidt 32, Hendrina Grobler 40, Kathleen Jones 34, Andries Goosen 37, Lettie Goosen 29, Aubrey Leppan 38, Annie Grobler 30, Johanna van Wijk 33, Mary Watkins 40, Aletta Enslin 38, Albert du Preez 38.

JUNIORS.

(Out of a possible 50.)

Margiet Viljoen 39, Lionel Hogg 40, Enid Hogg 33, John Dobell 32, Avis Morgan 39, Marjorie Veitch 39, Florence Killian 37, Agnes Hind 30, Theunis Schmidt 43, Bertie Rudman 32, Theunis Goosen 39, Henry Meyer 30, Jean Jones 29, John le Roux 29, Nellie Grobler 39, Susan Opperman 38, Mary Brown 39, Susan Ehrich 43.

Lorna King 25, late for October; Horace Morgan 30, omitted last quarter.

RIDDLES.

What is a soldier's definition of a kiss? A report at headquarters.

What is a sailor's definition of a kiss? A pleasure smack.

A NAVAL KITTEN.

The sailors on one of the warships which took part in the battle in the Heligoland Bight have as their pet a little black kitten.

When the fight began the kitten was asleep under one of the big guns.

The first shot was fired and she started up and began to "spit," after the manner of cats. Then she thought better of it, and lay down again under her

gun. There she remained quite undisturbed all through the battle, while shells were bursting all round her on the deck.

"You may guess," wrote one of the bluejackets, "that we made a fuss of her when it was all over."

THE SWORDS OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

The Lord Mayor of London during the time he is Mayor, possesses four swords, all carefully preserved among the City regalia. The chief sword is the one which the Lord Mayor surrenders to the Sovereign when he enters the city at Temple Bar, thereby signifying that the Mayor gives up his power in his own "kingdom" to that of the Sovereign.

The "pearl" sword comes next in importance. It gets its name from the ornaments that cover it: it is carried before the Lord Mayor in all great ceremonies. That was the sword which was used when the King and Queen lunched at the Guildhall on the Saturday before the Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's.

The third sword is the one placed above the Lord Mayor's chair at the Central Criminal Court, where he presides as judge. The fourth sword is but rarely used. It is black, and is kept for days of public fasts: it was last used in public at the death of Queen Victoria.

SOME ANIMAL CURIOSITIES.

In many places on the whale's body his skin is two feet to three-quarters of a yard thick!

The giraffe, as we know, has an immensely long neck, and yet he has only as many joints in it as we have in our necks—that is to say, seven!

The parrot sometimes lives more than a hundred years!

The owl cannot move his eyes!

OBEDIENCE.

There were two children—one a boy, the other a girl—no relation to each other, and living in different parts of

England, who were well brought up and obedient. The girl had diphtheria, the boy scarlet fever; they were both as ill as they could be, and the doctors said that, under God, they owed their recovery entirely to their obedience. Though it was agony for them to swallow, they did so because they were told to do so, and were in the habit of obeying their parents.

* * *

There is a beautiful story that when St. Gregory became Bishop of Rome he had twelve poor men to dine with him daily. One night he saw thirteen, but his steward could only see twelve. Gregory thereupon asked the thirteenth who he was. "I am the beggar," came the answer, "whom thou didst relieve, but my name is Wonderful, and through Me thou shalt obtain whatever thou shalt ask of God." Then Gregory knew that in feeding the hungry he had entertained Christ Himself.

* * *

Let me fail in trying to do something rather than sit still and do nothing.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY TRAINING HOUSE.

For some time the English Church of South Africa in different fields has been feeling the need for a centre where women desirous of serving in any diocese among natives or coloured people or in general parish work could have time for the necessary study and for spiritual and practical preparation. A capable head has now been found in Miss Miles, who knows South Africa and has experience and done good service in England. Also a house in Capetown, suitable for making a start, has been offered to the Committee appointed by the Archbishop, on favourable terms for 18 months from April next. Candidates would pay a moderate charge for their maintenance and train-

ing. Enquiries should be made of the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. A. Anderson, Fortingall, Craigrownie Road, Sea Point, Capetown; or of the Chairman, The Coadjutor Bishop of Capetown, Belmont Avenue, Capetown.

BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort, February 22:

Neville Royce Hitchcock.

March 17th:

William Charles Patrick Deacon.

Stella Matilde Huebsch.

Leslie Lionel Lear.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

COLLECTIONS.—Ripon, 5/3; Commadagga, 5/2; Saltaire, 5/10.

DONATIONS.—Mrs. Howell, 4/-; Mrs. Campbell, 2/-; Rev. E. T. Willmott's Memorial, from Ganger Dobell, 5/-.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Collections, etc., for Quarter ending March 9th, 1920 (excluding Waterval Boven).

COLLECTIONS.—Rayton, £3/8/2; Delmas, £2/17/-; Trichardt's, £1/15/-; Kinross, 18/3; Bronkhorstspuit, £1/11/3; Silverton, 15/-; Godwan River, £3/13/6; Nelspruit, 14/1; Elandschoek, £1/15/6; Hatherly £2/14/9; Dalmanutha, 19/9; Machadodorp, £3/3/1; Malelane, 1/13/3.

Collections total £25/18/7.

SUSTENTATION FUNDS (excluding Waterval Boven).—Bronkhorstspuit (Nov. to Feb.), £4/5/-; Machadodorp (Dec. and Jan.), £3/12/6.

Offerings, £1/2/6; *Light for the Line*, £2/7/6; Contributions, 11/-; Sale of books, 13/6.

Grand total, £38/10/7.

Local Agents "Light for the Line."

GRAHAMSTOWN DIOCESE.

Grahamstown—Miss Booth, Worcester Street.

Alicedale—Rev. G. A. Lejeune.

Cookhouse—Mrs. Wise.

Craddock—Mrs. Judd.

Naauwpoort—Mrs. Williamson.

Port Elizabeth—Miss Hannam, Sundridge, Park Drive.

Pyott's

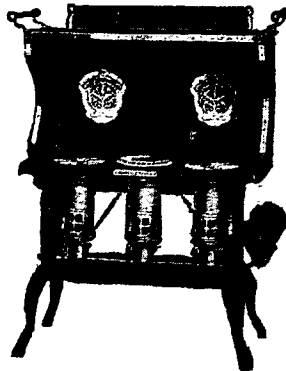
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