South African Church Railway Mission.

STAFF.

Head of the Mission: The REV. CANON R. THORNELY JONES, M.A., P.O. Box 133, Diocesan Office, Grahamstown.

Postal Address.

Venerable Archdeacon Rogers, M.A.

Reverend C. W. S. Stenson ... ... Poste Restante, Bulawayo.
Miss O. Stenson-Stenson ... ... Poste Restante, Bulawayo.

Reverend E. D. Smith ... ... The Parsonage, Naauwpoort.
Miss E. Andrewartha ... ... The Haven, 7 Henry St., Grahamstown.
Miss M. Porter ... ... St. Monica’s Home, Queenstown.
Miss Norah Short ... ... 2, Cuyler Crescent, Port Elizabeth.

Miss J. Batcham ... ... Cathedral Cottage, Bloemfontein.

Reverend Edward Herbert ... ... Waterval Boven, Transvaal.
Miss K. Gardner ... ... Waterval Boven, Transvaal.
Reverend I. W. Peppercorn ... ... Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia.

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Light for the Line.

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

Grahamstown,
December 7, 1921.

Dear Friends,

Lest I should forget later on I will at once offer you all my very best wishes for the New Year: the outlook is nowhere very promising at present and doubtless there will be difficulties ahead for most of us, but life without hope is hardly worth living and so, with hope, I wish you all the best of good wishes for 1922.

I have just returned from a fairly long trek up as far as La Panda, in the Congo, and round by Pretoria; while on the way I have been so greatly surprised to find how very little is known of the Mission, and how it is run, by those with whom we work that it seems really necessary that I should state quite clearly the exact position of things. For instance, it came up in conversation quite casually that our Workers were paid by “the Government,” whether by the British Government or the Union Government I do not know. Then just afterwards one of the Chaplains told me that certain of our Railway Friends, during a conversation, and in quite a friendly way, said “well, that is what we pay you fellows for, isn’t it?” And in his astonishment the Chaplain replied, “You pay us?” and to this the answer was—“well, not we but the Railways.” If this is the general idea held by those to whom we minister it is little wonder that so often it is those who are content to strike to obtain fair conditions and adequate pay are content to utterly “underpay,” by the smallness of their offerings, those who minister to them in spiritual things. I have often wondered whether some of our friends who have some idea of right and justice ever stop to think how the Members of the Mission Staff are paid, for they must know by the actual amount they themselves offer, most frequently, that if our Workers are to depend on these contributions it would mean want and starvation, for we are never where the crowd is but out among the isolated and scattered members of the community. How is it that those who demand for themselves are content to let others serve them and be content to know such Workers cannot possibly live by what is offered? But, of course, if our friends think that the British or some other Government provides the
stipends, and what they offer is a kind of—say—pipe and baccy money, then
the position can be easily understood.
Let me say at once and quite plainly
and clearly, the Mission and not one of
the Workers ever receives by any
chance or mistake one single penny
from any Government or Railway or
by anyone else of the sort: we are de­
pendant entirely off the voluntary offer­
ings of the people and the very kind
and generous contributions of other
friends in Africa and in the Old Coun­
try who stand by us, and have stood for
so many years. We receive, roughly,
about £1,000 from England each year:
friends at Port Elizabeth have sent us
£115; Pretoria has given us about £75;
Yeoville £35, and so on. Those who
are out to work for the Mission are not
allowed to—and in no case could they
—depend on any off chance for getting
the means to live: what is received by
the Workers is always sent to me here
and the Mission provides for the actual
means of living, no matter whether the
amount sent in is great or small. I
hope these words will not be misunder­
stood by any, and especially not by
those who do their best, by giving a
fair proportion of their means—as they
do for, say; rent and to pay the butcher
and draper—for the religious privileges
provided for them. Personally I should
not have thought this statement of the
exact state of things was necessary but
for what I heard on my last trek.
It was with the idea of increasing
knowledge, interest and help for us to
keep things going that His Royal
Highness, Prince Arthur of Con­
nought, so very kindly arranged for us
to have a meeting at Government
House, Pretoria, on Thursday last,
December 1, over which he most graci­
ously presided. In opening the meet­
ing he was most kind in his remarks
and showed quite clearly that he had,
in a wonderful way, taken in the condi­tions of this vast country through which
he has done some considerable travel­
during the year he has been out as
Governor-General.
He said: Canon Jones, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
It gives me very great pleasure to
welcome you all here this afternoon,
and to open this Conference of the
Church Railway Mission.
Since I have been in Africa I have
travelled many hundreds of miles by
railway, and have been much affected
by the desperate loneliness of some of
our out-back Stations. I have seen for
myself the vast field in which this
Mission labours, and am, therefore, in
a position to appreciate the great work
it is carrying on.
When a country like Africa is being
opened up brave-hearted men are re­
quired to live and work in the more
remote places, and although volunteers
are always available for these posts the
intense loneliness soon begins to op­
press their spirits as day after day they
carry on with a pathetic courage.
Those of us who have always lived
within easy reach of large cities find it
difficult to realise the life on a wayside
Station like Artesia, half way between
Mafeking and Bulawayo.
The view is shut out by miles upon
miles of stunted forest, the total white
population seldom exceeds three or four souls, and except for passengers by the few trains a week no civilised society is encountered there.

Thanks to the self-sacrifice of the Church Railway Missionaries religious consolation and a human fellowship have been brought within reach of many isolated families.

Members of the Mission Staff visit these places, baptize the children, hold Church Services, bring comfort to the afflicted, and generally enliven the existence of these pioneers, some of whom have been brought up and educated in public schools and universities, and who feel acutely the social isolation in which they live. Canon Jones himself, for instance, has just returned from a charitable pilgrimage into the Congo hinterland.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I want to congratulate you on what you have accomplished in the past, and I earnestly hope that still further successes will reward your efforts in the future.

After reading the above speech Prince Arthur spoke a few kind words which showed that he had had his eyes pretty wide open in his travels; then Mr. Herbert and Miss Gardner gave us an account of what they are trying to do in the Eastern Transvaal, and Mr. Wallace, Chief Civil Engineer of the Railways, gave us all encouragement when, as an “outsider” he told of what he had seen of the Mission’s work, especially mentioning what Mr. Esdaile did up in South West Africa.

After Mr. Esdaile had spoken Canon Wyche, our Treasurer, provided the necessary “ginger” to warm and wake us all up; and I took the opportunity, after apologising for the unavoidable absence of the Bishop of Pretoria and Sir William Hoy, of bidding farewell and wishing Godspeed to our friend of many, many years, Archdeacon Rogers who is leaving the country on the 23rd to take up an appointment in England in connection with S.P.G. Few men there are who have so given the best years of their lives to minister to the isolated and lonely in this vast country or who know it so widely and well; his name will live long years after he has gone, as his father’s does in that part of it which is now the Diocese of George—though it was in 1868 that he had to return to England on account of ill-health. We shall certainly miss him but we shall as certainly know that while losing a friend in Africa we shall gain a very valued one in England. Archdeacon Rogers proposed a vote of thanks to those who had helped us with the arrangements for and during the meeting. When that was over we were all taken to the dining-room where tea was provided, very welcome it was too, and we were splendidly looked after by Lady Evelyn Farquhar and Miss Brangetayn.

The Almanacs for the year have arrived and as usual will go out with this issue of the Magazine: if any additional copies are wanted application should be made to one of the Workers or to the Office at Grahamstown.

Since I last wrote to you we have received encouraging help from one or
two places, for which we wish to express our grateful thanks: St. Saviour’s, East London, King’s Messengers very kindly sent us, through their Leader, Sister Mary Joyce, £5 10/6: money which was raised by the Children’s own effort; Mrs. Beckingliain, still standing at our side, sent £35 18/9 from the Yeoville C.O.V.’s; and Coerney through, through Mrs. Clack, sent us £20 8/3 (being half the amount raised by a special effort; the other half was for the Railway and Harbour Orphanages) a really wonderful amount for so small a place.

Miss Short, Mrs. Clack and their friends must have got busy to have done so splendidly. Our friends at Port Elizabeth, through Mrs. Ball, not content with the £100 they sent us earlier added to it by sending an additional £15 15/-. Many, many thanks.

Miss Andrewartha will have finished her term of work at the end of February: during the time she has been with us she has not in the least spared herself nor counted the cost in the strain the work entails, and is needing rest and refreshment: she will probably be going to England very shortly. We are hopeful, however, that it may be possible for her to come back to “carry on” if the rest and change proves to be what we hope for. Miss Stenson has not been up to the mark for some little time and was sent down to Knysna, from where we have had most hopeful and cheering accounts. If it does for her what it did for Mr. Stenson she will return with more energy than ever.

A very handsome gift of Altar furniture has been received from Mrs. Seacome for the new Church at Essexvale. Unfortunately the work of building has had to stand till the rains are over, but we are hopeful that a real push will be made as soon as conditions allow. The Children at Waterval Boven have provided a pair of very nice Altar vases for use of the Church there.

During October I had the great joy and pleasure of meeting and welcoming the Reverend J. W. Peppercorn who has come out for the Northern Rhodesia and Congo Section. Right from the landing he had a strenuous time. First he was rushed up to Grahamstown to see the way of working the business side of things and then up to Johannesburg and on to Mr. Stenson in Bechuanaland so that he could get into the way of the road and then, after a Sunday at Broken Hill I picked him up and together we visited the Congo. We received a very warm and hearty welcome and everywhere much kindness and hospitality was provided for us: it was a happy and encouraging trek and it now remains for the good folk on the Section to make full use of their Chaplain. We are grateful to Mr. Peppercorn for coming out to join up with us in the job and we trust he will be very happy while with us and when his term of service is over that he will have pleasant memories of it.

We have just had to pay over £110 for printing Light for the Line for three quarters, so please send in the 1922 subscription to the Office or hand
it to one of the Workers as soon as you can conveniently do so.

News has just been received that Mr. Eve, Post Master at Cookhouse, is to be transferred to Capetown owing to regrading at Nauwpoort and Cookhouse following on the Railway taking over the telegraphic work. Mr. and Mrs. Eve have for many years taken a very lively interest in the Church life of Cookhouse and were ever ready cheerfully to take in hand anything asked of them for the well being of the Church or in the interests of the Mission. We are grateful to them for many kindnesses and much help; we shall indeed miss them very much, and in their going they will know they do so with our good will and best wishes.

There are many more things I should like to write to you about but dare not take up any more space now, so I will stop, with the best of good wishes to you all for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,
R. Thornely Jones.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN

The Parsonage,
Nauwpoort,
9th Dec., 1921.

My dear Friends,

When this letter appears in print Christmas will be a memory and I trust a happy one. Still we greet you all with the compliments of the season and with best wishes for happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Happiness and prosperity do not depend so very much on material wealth and the wise man shows his wisdom when he pray (Proverbs 30-8) "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me." The old year came in and found us contented and with sufficient means. It leaves us with depression and unemployment. So with our New-Year Greetings and resolutions let us bear in mind and carry about with us the words of the psalmist (Psalm 146).

Blessed (the word means Happy) is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help; and whose hope is in the Lord his God; who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever; who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong: who feedeth the hungry."

LENT AND EASTER. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on March 1st. And then:

"Once more the solemn season calls
A holy fast to keep."

Fasting after the ancient custom, viz., in the abstinence from meat, is often difficult in South Africa, yet if we bear in mind the underlying principle, viz., the curbing of the appetites and desires in order that we may realise more fully the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ and what He endured because of our sins and to win for us our redemption, we shall find countless ways of self-sacrifice and self-denial of this or that luxury or pleasure for His sake Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

And with our self-denial there must be some saving of money. This should not be spent on ourselves when Lent is over, but devoted to the Service of Him for whose sake we denied ourselves. And the many Funds of the Diocese provide ample scope for the distribution of our Lenten Savings.

For example such Funds for
1. Church Extension;
2. The Ministry;
3. Native Missions;
DIOCESAN GIFT. Then I must remind you that at the last Synod Chapter IV, Section 20 of Acts and Resolutions was deleted and a new section inserted, so that we no longer collect "Lenten Half-crowns" but a "Diocesan Gift." This gift must not be confused with the Lenten Savings. It is something over and above, given as a gift—a freewill offering.

The new section reads as follows:—

"An annual voluntary contribution from every member of the Church, whether male or female, should be given to the Diocese, to be called the Diocesan Gift: and not less than 1/- per annum from each adult Native should be looked for from the Native Congregations: these gifts being collected and remitted to the Diocesan Board of Finance previous to Easter in each year. The officiating Minister and Churchwardens shall be held responsible for the collection of this gift, which shall not be used in payment of the Diocesan Assessment, nor be itself assessable."

We shall arrange for the collection of this gift and trust it will meet with a generous response.

NAAUWPOORT. The chief event at Naauwpoort during the past quarter has been our Patronal Festival. Special services were arranged, viz., Holy Communion on All Saint's Day and Festal Evensong at 8 p.m., and on All Souls' Day two celebrations of Holy Communion and in the evening a Social for Church people was held in the Hutchinson Hall.

It is gratifying to report a fair attendance at the Church Services and we are informed that those who came to the Social had an enjoyable evening.

The Bridge Tournament arranged by Mrs. Williamson for October 3rd had to be postponed owing to the welcome heavy rains which fell almost ceaselessly during the day and night. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Williamson for her kind effort and to many friends who promised refreshments. And we hope on some occasion in the near future to fix upon a date for this Tournament, the proceeds of which will be given to the Church Railway Mission Funds.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jenner, Mr. and Mrs. Money, Mr. and Mrs. Homan, Mr. and Mrs. Victor, and Mr. and Mrs. Willett on the occasion of the Baptism of their infant daughters.

Mrs. Smith joins with me in thanking our many friends for much kindness and many expressions of goodwill and for the welcome extended to Kathleen Monica. She was born on October 29th. Canon R. Thornely Jones spent the Second Sunday in Advent at Naauwpoort and officiated at her Baptism. The Service of Holy Baptism is always a beautiful and impressive one. We felt this one to be particularly so, and we appreciate and thank the Choir for its service.

ROSSMEAD JUNCTION. The monthly services have been held regularly in spite of the difficulty of fitting them in. The response, however, has not been as great as we expected. Let us begin the New Year with a resolution to use the opportunities of worship more frequently, more regularly, more faithfully.

COOKHOUSE. The Village Market held on Sept. 3rd and briefly referred to by me last quarter was fully reported by Miss Andrewartha. It was a splendid effort. Thank you very much, all who helped to make it a success.

We are sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Eve from Cookhouse after seven or eight years of faithful service to the Church and to the public as Post Master. We hope they will find a happy and useful sphere in Capetown, where we understand Mr. Eve is about to be transferred.

CYPHERGAT and STORMBERG. Stormberg was visited on Sunday, Sept. 25th, and we once more enjoyed the kind hospitality provided by Mr.
and Mrs. Hogg. We were glad to find Miss Hind once more convalescent. Mr. Hind very kindly motored me over to Stormberg thus making it possible to have a Sunday Evensong again with Holy Communion next morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashbourne and family have been transferred to East London from Cyphergat and we hear that Mrs. Roberts, Principal of Stormberg School, is shortly retiring on pension.

THEBUS. Our usual services were held at Thebus on Oct. 24th when the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ren Southey was baptized. We are sorry to learn that the elder son Richard is down with enteric. We wish him a speedy recovery.

HOFMEYR. The Quarterly Services were held on 16th Oct. and were well attended. Here as everywhere we found changes. Mr. Wilson Trollip has gone to Port Elizabeth; Constable Rayner has been transferred and we had to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Bath from Clanwilliam at which place they knew our late Chaplain and Mrs. Willmott.

Once more and in conclusion all good wishes to you for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND D. SMITH.

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DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

9th Avenue,
Bulawayo,
Nov. 29th, 1921.

My dear Friends,

I guess I’d better go right back to the beginning of things, and start from there. Oct. 2nd saw me back in Bulawayo from my enjoyable time at Knyana, feeling like a “giant refreshed,” so to speak. Oct. 3rd, the usual services at St. Cyril’s. Oct. 4 to Gwanda where, as always, splendid numbers rolled up for services in the Court-House, while here I baptised the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Hill (P.W.I.) in Mr. Gordon’s (station-master) house.

Gwanda folk have promised to support the Mission by having a sustentation fund, and Mr. Gordon has kindly undertaken to act as Collector and Secretary. As it was pointed out, the Railway Mission is not exclusively “Railway,” nor a Company thing, but an organisation which seeks to bring spiritual things to all white people who dwell on the Line or veld (if accessible), and where no Church is.

People who live in a town support some Church, by giving so much per month towards it, it is only by this means that the Churches live, and it can only be so with the Church Railway Mission.

I trolleyed from Gwanda to the Jessie Mine, visiting the cottages on the way. At the JESSIE, Jessie Adela Hopkins, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins was baptised. I stayed the night with Mr. Rogers at West Nicholson and returned to Bulawayo.

Oct. 13th I was at SHASHI, I cycled out to TONOTO and baptised the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips who are quite alone out there.

Next day, Mass and baptism at 182 Cottage, MACLOUTSI.

Oct. 15th at Palapye Road, where I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkham. PALAPYE too have started the Sustentation Fund, Mr. Barlow (Stationmaster) being Secretary and Collector.

I was a MAHALAPE, Oct. 19th: the Lord Bishop of Kimberley came and held Confirmation, three Candidates were presented. We prayed that they may by Divine Guidance always be faithful.

We had Evensong the next night and the Bishop preached a very helpful sermon on “The Light of the World.”
Splendid numbers turned up to the Celebrations of Holy Communion. Miss Hoare is Collector for Mahalape.

Mr. Peppercorn, the new padre for the Northern Section, met me at MAHALAPYE, and after our enjoyable time (thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hoare) and the services were over, we started in the Coach for FIGTREE.

On the way, while the engine was taking water at MARULA I baptised babies Hester Sarah Olivier and Arthur Alfred Meyer.

At Figtree we had very nice services and Mr. Peppercorn preached an inspiring sermon "Now are we the Sons of God":

Mrs. Jowett has promised to collect here for the Sustentation Fund.

After a few days in town (which were spent by Mr. Peppercorn in getting things in order and ready for life up North) we journeyed on for Wankie, however, we were held up at DETT for about 36 hours.

I had time to visit round, Mrs. O'Sullivan has had a very bad time in hospital, but we are glad to say that she is recovering rapidly.

Mr. Pollard was in hospital too, in Bulawayo. He is out again now, and Mrs. Pollard and he have gone to the coast to get braced up again.

I had the usual services at Wankie, and then on to the VICTORIA FALLS where we had two days for Mr. Peppercorn to absorb some of the beauty and grandeur of that wonderful sight. While there we had services at which the residents came and the few visitors there were.

We started off on Nov. 2nd and eventually reached BROKEN HILL on Nov. 4. On the journey up I was able to introduce Mr. Peppercorn to many people at the different Sidings and Stations.

At Broken Hill we visited round for a couple of days, and I'm quite sure I speak correctly that Mr. Peppercorn already feels "at home" though in a country that is strange to him at present!

One really can't feel lonely for long where there is such splendid welcome.

I left Broken Hill on Nov. 8th, and Mr. Peppercorn went with the HEAD on to the Congo.

It seemed that I was never going to get down; I was held up at WANKIE but I didn't mind so much as it gave me an opportunity to visit a few people I hadn't seen for some time. Wankie is a big place these days and a visit of a day or so gives little time for visiting and its impossible to see everyone.

I was due at SAWMILLS for service, but owing to cancellation of train I had only opportunity of staying for a few hours and seeing the residents.

I reached NYMANDHLOVU for Sunday, Nov. 13th, and had good services and two baptisms. I arrived in Bulawayo on that Sunday night, in time to attend the Armistice service at the Parish Church. It is nice and very helpful occasionally being able to attend a service and not having to do anything!

On Nov. 15th at St. John's (Parish) Church, I officiated at the wedding of Mr. Jack Mares, of Broken Hill, to Miss Albertina Frances Botha, of Rayton.

The friends of both will echo my wishes that they will be very happy.

I have paid short visits to BELLE VUE, ESSEXVALE, MARULA: having services at the last two places.

I had a good long talk with the Marula School Children and found them very smart and intelligent in their answers.

It was now time for Wankie's monthly service, so I went up on the mail, and on the way back called at MALINDI.

... This is where I must stop relating of journeys and services, etc. It is wonderfully like what has been written before: There is a sameness true, and there is a sameness to anyone
who does these journeys, but believe me they are worth doing. Some appreciate the fact that public worship of God is offered them, others don't. But, of course, we are going on offering the opportunity to those who choose to take it.

Wherever there is a Railway Chaplain he is there for whatever need you want him, you've only to send along a line and he'll be right there. The parson is there not to create a need, but to help you to satisfy your need of God.

I mentioned at the beginning of this letter that the Church Railway Mission was out for the Spiritual welfare of all: and that it cannot exist without material support. It can't.

I have addressed you as friends because I know the majority of you so well . . . . it is because of that I dare say what I am saying.

Do you honestly think you are supporting the Church as you should? Do you think its worth supporting? Should people in the Old Country have to support Christian work among white or coloured people out here? Isn't there more urgent need at Home? The crowds of starving children, children who live in crowded tenaments who scarcely see God's own sunlight, apart from being underfed and underclad. I have had pitiable letters from my own part in Cornwall, men who sang in my Choir at Church, singing in the streets for bread. Blame the War, blame the industrial unrest, blame the slump in the price of tin; but don't blame them. Oh, I could go on talking about these things and you know it's true.

Christ's work must be done wherever it is, but I know you agree with me when I say people are infinitely better off on the whole out in this wonderful country, plenty of food and clothing, and glorious climate.

True: many are on the veld and lead lonely lives and there are no Churches, but how much better off than living in a crowded street and children barefoot and shivering in the ice and snow?

We want to play the game, do a square deal. God has given you much.

What are you giving to God? Support the Church, and free Home people from any obligation: for they truly have their own burdens and those who are well enough off should know that "Charity begins at home." . . .

It will be too late to give you Christmas wishes, but the message of that Holy Day is for all times, "It is a true saying and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." . . . Its the same message that has been ringing down the ages, and has never lost its mystery and wonderment.

May its appeal never be lost on us.

The New Year is with us, and what are we doing?

"Father let me dedicate,
All this year to Thee,
In whatever worldly state
Thou wilt have me be:
Not from sorrow, pain or care
Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer,
Glorify Thy Name."

Can we say that?

Then the year will bring us supreme happiness, and the "peace which the world cannot give."

A word more, if there's no authorised Collector near you, please send a donation for the work of the Church to:

The Secretary,
S.A.C. Church Railway Mission
Box 133,
Grahamstown.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

C. W. S. Stenson.
SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION QUARTERLY.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

Mazabuka,
Nov. 28th, 1921.

This is my first letter to the Light for the Line Magazine and that means that I am very young. So I am because I saw South Africa for the first time on Oct. 10th at Capetown and made my official entry at Port Elizabeth on the following Thursday. Since then I feel I have been a continual source of worry. I seem to be a precocious child; I will ask questions; I will enter into discussions and even express an opinion by a process of deduction from the first impressions of things as I see them but about which I know nothing!! "Shs! little boys should be seen and not heard"!! Now, I plead for your patience under such trying conditions. I am always anxious to learn to know and this is my way of doing it. More especially, perhaps, would I ask you to be lenient in judgment because I must tell you I have had a former existence; I have lived for a good many years in another land and, during that time, have cultivated certain customs, habits and opinions and a certain fashion of life from which I may find it difficult, if at all possible, to deviate. I am not possessed of the powers of a chameleon!

You, yes, tu quoque; and so we shall meet together not to quarrel and find fault with each other; not to criticise and lay emphasis on what we consider to be the other's short-comings but in order to seek to find out what are the universal and common bases of belief and practice which are essential and without which no man can ever hope to reach the high standard which, almost instinctively, every man is prompted to reach. I am very thankful to all those who have given me such a good welcome to Africa and my own particular section and who have led me already to know that I am by no means alone in an effort to help others, myself included, in this great quest. God does not pauperise or patronise his creatures by giving them even that which is essential without an effort on their part, He expects their co-operation. So, likewise, we will not attempt to pauperise and patronise God by working without Him but will try to work together with Him and each other for the common weal and the edification and extension of His Kingdom.

J. W. PEPPERCORN.

WOMEN'S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Haven,
Grahamstown,
Dec. 14th, 1921.

My dear Friends,

Before I begin my budget of news of the last three months I am warned off the field by the Editor who says that so many have written interesting letters and I must write a short one! I suppose she thinks that mine will not be very interesting, however as you know Editors are a trial so I'll get on with my news.

This issue of the Magazine must strike very deeply the note of thankfulness for all the help we have received from our friends along the "Line" during the year 1921. In our work on the Railway there always seems to be a "Next Big Thing" for which to prepare and it is with great thankfulness that we look back and see how much has been accomplished in the life of the different Camps by the unceasing zeal of the many along the Line.
It was with much sorrow that we heard of Mr. Eve’s transfer to Somerset East at the end of the year, for both he and Mrs. Eve will be missed in the life of the Camp, and the congregation of the Church of St. Paul the Traveller, Cookhouse, and the Mission will lose a devoted Churchwarden and friend. Well, the “Next Big Thing” is that the Camp are busy with preparations for a farewell gathering to show their and our appreciation for all they have done in the time they have been in Cookhouse. We wish them all prosperity and happiness in their new home at Somerset East.

Since I last wrote I have been for a rest to the Transvaal so list of places visited this quarter is short in consequence. It has been a joy to me to go back to Pretoria and Johannesburg and see some of my old friends, and to look up some of my Railway friends from my section. The Clarks, of Thebus, are now settled in their new house in Heriot Street, Malvern, Johannesburg, and when we met they wanted all the news of their old friends down here.

We have to congratulate the Chaplain and Mrs. Smith on the birth of another daughter, who was baptised at Naauwpoort on the 4th Dec. by the Head of the Mission.

Visits have been given to HANOVER ROAD, THEBUS, STORMBERG, BURGHERSDORP, DE AAR, and the usual monthly duties at ROSMEAD, COOKHOUSE and NAUWPOORT. Naauwpoort is busy preparing for a Sunday School surprise on Boxing Day for all the Church Children. Cookhouse Girl Guides and Brownies have caught the spirit of the Guide Law, and so at this Christmastime they proposed to have a huge Christmas tree for all the Children in the Camp and District. It was held on Dec. 13th, and was a huge success, and the Guides and their leaders are to be congratulated on the happy way in which everything was carried out for the visitors enjoyment. 143 children received presents from Father Christmas who had just arrived by airplane by invitation of the Girl Guides. After the distribution of the gifts tea and cakes were provided. I don’t believe that the little Church Hall has ever before held so many people.

Miss Beckwith writes cheerfully of all her doings in England, and wishes me to let you know of her changed address which is

The County Bank,
Victoria Branch,
London, S.W., 1.

Write to her sometimes, for she never forgets old friends along the Railway Lines in Africa.

This will reach you in the New Year and it will bring you all my best wishes for a Prosperous New Year.

ELsie M. Andrewartha.

St. Monica’s Home,
Queenstown,
C.P.,
Dec. 6th, 1921.

My dear Friends,

When you receive this number of the Magazine Christmas will have passed with all its tokens of love and good-will shown between friend and friend but it will have been a very sad time for our Greatest Friend if we did not think to give Him some gift on His Birthday. I expect He has received many gifts through kindness shown to others or a promise to try and give Him more Love, but the greatest joy to Him is to meet us in the Holy Communion to worship Him and thank Him for all His gifts.

The New Year will be full of great things for us all especially as the work goes on towards a lasting Peace and we must each do our best to help on this great ideal.

The last three months have seen a good deal of real hard work done by
the Guides, six girls having passed the Tenderfoot test and now their efforts are being quite unexpectedly rewarded.

Six Lone Guides are invited to the Queenstown Guide Camp and Miss Peacock is very generously paying the 2nd class train fare! We are most grateful and look forward to a very happy time.

When in East London I saw Lieut. Col. Smedley Williams, Scout Commissioner, and he was very kind indeed when I told him about my young friends along the Line. He not only arranged for me to have a Commission but also promised help from the East London Association. This is really a splendid opportunity for the boys who will, I feel sure, take full advantage of all that lies before them.

I hope the parents of the Guides and the Scouts will take great interest in the work and encourage the young people to be loyal to the promises they make and also come and see them at work.

Sunday School work is going on well on the whole. The attendance at Imvani and Dohne is splendid and, especially at Dohne the children show great earnestness by the first rate way they learn the lessons set for them. Tylden is not so good in spite of the splendid way Miss B. Deblin sticks to her guns. We are very grateful to her for giving her time on Sunday after teaching all the week.

During this last quarter I have covered most of my Section on the Main Line and the Maclear Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Probert have returned from their visit to the Old Country and we are very pleased to have them back again. Mr. and Mrs. Witcombe have also returned after a very enjoyable trip and they travelled out with Mr. Peppercorn whose praises were sung, or rather shouted, to me one night standing on the platform on 4 up.

During November I was fortunate in having Coach A21614 and I was very sorry indeed to pass it on in spite of the fact that it did not prove water-tight. It was such a comfort not having to constantly pack and unpack and also it was possible to visit places which are obliged to be passed over as a rule.

Lantern Services or Socials have been given at Imvani, Tylden, Cathcart, Thomas River, Toise River, Amabele, Stockton, Kubusie, Dohne, Navar, Ryno, Elliot and Maclear.

An impromptu Social at Amabele and also at Toise River enabled us to send about £7 to the Railway and Harbours Orphanages.

As the New Year is beginning I should like to put a suggestion before you about our Sustentation Fund. A few places have supported our work splendidly—Imvani, Dohne, Waku and Toise River. What about our other friends—Will you help?

Finance is not a subject about which I like to talk, but if every family who receives any help from the Mission, whether social or directly spiritual, would give sixpence a month what support we should have. Will you try? Ask your Stationmaster to have a Sustentation Fund Card or Box so that you can leave your sixpence there. Send a postcard to me and I will supply the Official Card.

To-day I have sent off 10 parcels of books to various Stations and Cottages and I am most grateful to Miss Hubbark, Head Mistress of St. Margaret's School, Umtata, for sending us such a splendid present. Miss Fowler, Maclear, has also given me a delightful box of "surprises." These will have to find homes later on.

Last week I thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Pretoria to attend the meeting at Government House on behalf of the Mission. I had no idea Pretoria was such a lovely place.

All good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

MILICENT PORTER.
Travelling,
Dec. 5th, 1921.

Dear Friends,

A Happy New Year to you! and may it be a prosperous one in the best sense of the word. The weather looks auspicious for our material welfare as the much-needed rains have come and even the dry Free State is looking fresh and green. We have just crossed the Orange River winding along in beautiful and luxuriant fashion. I am returning from Pretoria, where, through the kindness of our Head, all the Workers met together on the occasion of the General Meeting. Some of us met for the first time and it was helpful and interesting to have an opportunity of comparing experiences. Pretoria was a picture of colour with its green trees and lawns, fresh after the recent rains, its rich red soil and the pale blue of the jacaranda-lined avenues. I have greatly enjoyed my visit and I'm now enjoying the feeling that I shall soon be "home" on my own Section again!

Before going any further I want to apologise for the wrong spelling of a name in my last letter. "Miss Maguire" should have read "Miss Magniac."

During the quarter visits have been paid to Alicedale, Sandflats, Barkly Bridge, Mimosa, Coerney, Sheldon, Tootabi, Zuney, Kenkelbosch, Thornhill, Kariega, Glencouner, Wolvelfontein, Barroe, George, Aberdeen Road, Marais, Kendrew, Graaff-Reinet, Bethesda Road, Roodehoogte, and Klipplaat.

SANDFLATS, Oct. 7th, was a red-letter day for Sandflats, when Mrs. Scale, the Divisional Commissioner, came to inspect our little troop of Girl Guides, and four recruits were enrolled. Sports were arranged for all children after tea and altogether we had a very jolly day. About 60 children turned up and the entries for events were numerous. Practically everybody took a share in the preparations, and everybody came and everybody enjoyed themselves. Thanks are due to Mr. Walker and Mr. van der Merwe for the indefatigable way in which they managed the sports, to Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Plumbridge for hospitality, to Mrs. Charlie Bruton for all the tea arrangements and to Mrs. Walker for kindly distributing the prizes, towards which everybody again had contributed.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Walker still continues to be very frail and Mrs. Anderson is in charge of the Sunday School. I've just heard that this most faithful friend has now sprained her ankle. We offer her our real sympathy. Three new arrivals must be welcomed at Sandflats, Baby Hultzer, Baby Le Roux and Baby Slabbert. The Guides will have no excuse for not winning their Baby Care Badges.

COERNEY. The Bazaar and Dance at Coerney went off well on Oct. 22nd. When the notices were first given out, strange remarks were made, eyebrows were raised and people asked, "What can Coerney do?" while someone queried softly—as well they might—"Where is Coerney?" Coerney is on the main line between Addo and Sandflats and there are four houses there. For months beforehand, the Stationmaster and Mrs. Clack were at work writing all around and getting friends on outlying farms to help. They responded nobly. I arrived on the night before the Bazaar and the next morning was like Christmas Day. Of course we could not eat any breakfast for parcels were arriving in shoals at both front and back doors.

The Goods Shed was festooned in pink and green—the work of Mr. Roberts, the foreman—while what we should have done without Ganger Clarke and his men to blow up the balloons, I do not know! A very pretty dance followed in the evening when friends from Addo and Sandflats were welcomed. Great thanks are due to Mrs.
Clack and all who helped at the Stalls and the piano, and to Mr. Robartes, who always seemed to be just where he was wanted most. The proceeds of the day amounted to over £40, which was divided equally between the Railway Orphanages and the S.A. Church Railway Mission. I think this answers the question, "What can Coerney do"? May others be encouraged to follow their example!

ALICEDALE. Alicedale, too, has been "getting busy." I could wish to see a steadier attendance in Sunday School. To put it quite mildly, it is lacking in courtesy to have your name on a register and turn up when you think you will, especially if you consider that a very busy man is setting aside part of his day of rest to teach you. Perhaps the children do not realise this? Could the parents help them?

Great efforts are being made to meet the Church expenses which are heavier than can be managed at present by regular subscriptions and collections. We are not a big Church family at Alicedale at present, and we are suffering from an "ebb" of members, but we want to be ready for the "flow" by and bye. As the result of a Congregational Meeting on Nov. 11th, a small Fair was held on Dec. 1st and £31 was raised. There were Stalls for Cakes, Sweets, Toys, Needlework, Flowers, Refreshments, a choice of most exciting competitions and Dips. Thanks are due to Mrs. Torrance as chief organiser, and to Mrs. MacAdam, and the Misses Harvey, Fairbanks and Nel for able assistance. But this is not the end! It is hoped to have special "Harvest Festival" Services, on Sunday, March 5th, and on Monday, 6th, to hold a Sale of Work and Entertainment. Will everyone please come to Alicedale for their winter shopping?

The great event of October in Alicedale was the marriage of Miss May Pearce to Mr. Penny. It was one of the prettiest weddings Alicedale has ever known. The Church was beautifully decorated by Mrs. George Harvey and practically all Alicedale turned out. In Miss Pearce the Church loses its organist but the loss is more widely felt than this, for "Miss May" as the little ones call her, was born at Alicedale and grew up in the love and affection of all around. Later, after her training, she came back to teach another generation, endearing herself to them all in her sweet, quiet way. She carries with her to her new home, the very real love and good wishes of Alicedale.

KLIPPLAAT. On Oct. 27th, eleven recruits were admitted as Girl Guides at Klipplaat. This week-end was one of the happiest I have had since I've been in this country. The keenness and interest of the parents and friends who came to our meeting, the careful way in which the Guides had been prepared, the fine spirit of fellowship among them made one very thankful.

Miss Thelma Heath has worked very hard with these recruits and they do her credit.

Miss Mary Howell has left Klipplaat to take up work in which she is very happy. We were sorry to lose her in the Sunday School. Mrs. Theron most kindly came forward to help and is carrying on at present with the assistance of Miss Heath. We generally manage to have a Children's Service, also, during my visits. There are now fourteen Members of the Guild of the Good Shepherd in the Camp.

Through the kindness of the Stationmaster we had our last Lantern Service in the beautiful new Railway Hall at Klipplaat. A good congregation turned up which resulted in splendid singing.

We are glad to welcome Miss Potgieter to Klipplaat, as the bride of our old friend, Guard Potgieter. We wish them a long and happy married life. It is very nice indeed to have Guard and Mrs. Delport in our midst again. To the regret of all, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt and Leslie are leaving for Uitenhage shortly.
Lantern Services have been held in quite a number of places this quarter and I should like to mention specially BARKLY BRIDGE, where I stayed with S.M. and Mrs. Dewar and their jolly family, SHELDON, where we were able to have the big Goods Shed and the natives came in too, and KARIEGA, where we had a very hearty Service packed tight in the Schoolroom.

MOTHERS' UNION. Just one word to those of you who are Members of the Mothers' Union. Since our last issue appeared, the news has come of the passing to her rest of Mary Sumner, the foundress of this great Society. It is nearly 40 years since Mrs. Sumner first started the Mothers' Union in her husband's parish among a few mothers. They met together for prayer and to discuss their various problems and difficulties. The plan grew among some of Mrs. Sumner's friends in neighbouring parishes, until the Bishop heard of it, and he asked her to speak at an important Diocesan Meeting, so that others might hear of the work. But Mrs. Sumner, young and shy and sweet, shrank from appearing in public and it was only when the Bishop laid his commands upon her that she consented. From that meeting, the Mothers' Union spread all over the world and now, as you know, the Members number over half a million. From that time, also, to within a year or two of her death Mrs. Sumner was a most eloquent Speaker. Before I left England, almost a year ago, she wrote to me, giving me a message for you. "Tell them," she wrote, "that I cannot speak any longer, I can write very little, but I live in prayer for them. They are all in my heart, and I pray that they may live faithful married lives, reverencing the immortality of each child given to them by Our Heavenly Father, and training them to be His faithful soldiers and servants to their live's end." Those of you who know the Mothers' Union and value its membership know also where the strength of it lies. We know that it is a Society whose keynote is prayer and example. That is what the dear Foundress meant it to be—a life of simple trust in God and of communion with Him in our daily prayer life, so that He may shine through us to show the children and all whom we meet, "Whose we are and Whom we serve."

When this reaches you we shall still be in the midst of Christmas joys and activities, with the message of the festal season, echoing in our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, goodwill towards men." And some of us feel that there is not much "peace" and very little "goodwill." We would do anything to help get the world straight. If we look quietly into our own hearts, may we not find that the trouble lies chiefly in the fact that we are inclined to forget the first part of the message on which the other two parts depend? "Glory to God in the highest."

GOD FIRST. One is sometimes struck by the number of people who want to "keep in" with God. It isn't enough. God must be first, His Service must be our ruling motive, then all will be well for all other things will fall into their places, and He will give us "the peace . . . which passeth all understanding."

Yours sincerely.

NoraH W. SHORT.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.

Cathedral Cottage,
Bloemfontein,
Nov. 24th, 1921.

Dear Friends,

This quarter must bring you all a New Year Greeting for happiness and peace, in spite of the changes which are bound to come. This has been a very strenuous and eventful quarter. On Sept. 22nd, the last of this year's
candidates were Confirmed in the Cathedral by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and Sarah Jubba, and the following morning made their first Communion.

In his address to those Confirmed, the Bishop told them that our Lord touches each one of us, at least three times in our lives: 1st He says, “FOLLOW ME”; 2nd by “WORK FOR ME”; 3rd “DIE FOR ME.”

Perhaps you may like to think these over, and ask yourselves whether you are prepared to do either during the year we are all beginning.

The Sale at Wolverhoek was quite a success. Mrs. Johnson organised it months back, so on October 8th Mr. George Fair came up and opened it, telling us of the work being done at the various Railway Children’s Homes; also emphasising the need for building up and moulding the Christian character—care for soul and body.

It was interesting to know how the Homes are financed, i.e., by the voluntary 1/- or more contributions of the majority of railway men.

I am glad to say, there has been slow, but steady response to try and finance our Church Railway Mission Work—like everything else we value what we have to pay for, and it is up to every Christian to see that the Church is able to keep out of debt. Mrs. Johnson handed half of the proceeds of the Sale to the Church Railway Mission Funds—as you will see from appended Balance Sheet. I know every one had a busy time; and I hope the “Sale” and all that followed will have been a means of blessing to all who took part in it.

On top of this Mrs. May at Venter­sburg Road gave me £2 10/-, the results of work made and sold in spare moments; I have been there only three times this year; and it is encouraging to know there are those who understand why there are long intervals in between visits.

There is something I want to say about the COTTAGES. As you know on the main line North of Bloemfontein, most of the Cottages have been moved on to the Stations. This is better for schools and doctors’ visits; but from the religious point of view it is more difficult. For instance, I found myself at a Station for a Lantern Service and Sunday School, to find the Dutch Predikant, and Ministers of two other denominations, and in 24 hours four people teaching Christian truths in different days had had services.

Up to the present I have aimed at getting into touch whenever possible with all the Cottages, and am prepared to go on doing so whenever sickness, or trouble calls me, but apart from that I find that more and more we must keep in touch with our bona-fide Church people, welcoming all, but concentrating on those who will make the effort; so that through the keen ones, the luke-warm may become enthusiastic.

Those who are entirely Dutch-speaking know they can get into touch with Rev. Latagan, Box T. Kroonstad, and with Rev. J. Koeleman, 27, Alexandria Avenue, Bloemfontein, when they do not see any of us about in time of need.

There have been some rapid changes. I shall miss Mr. Thomas at Viljoen’s Drift; he always helped things along. Mr. Amm at Ficksburg, had a bad time in hospital, which ended in his arm having to be amputated above the wrist. Fortunately it is his left arm. Now Mr. Hyslop from Bethlehem is in hospital with a bad knee, due to a trolley accident. I hope to see him tomorrow.

Do not believe half you hear! I was told up and down the line that two Station Masters’ wives had died. I dared not write, so went off to find out, and am glad to say found them both hale and hearty. “Flu” has attacked quite a number, and Wolverhoek had more than its share.

On the Bethlehem Line MODDER-
POORT, TWEESPRUIT, MARSEILLES, WESTMINSTER, have had ordinary visits. I managed a short service at both of the Cottages at Marseilles; there are nine Communicants, waiting for the opportunity of another Celebration.

Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Joubert, the Principal of the School, whose wife died so suddenly. She was so fit and well when she came to the Mission Coach in May, to make her Easter Communion, her first for many years.

TWEESPRUIT is most enthusiastic—under the supervision of Mrs. Dick—a pack of Brownies are busy, and keen on “Girl Guides,” this helps to make them all-round keen.

On the main line North I have been busy too—WELGELGEN and VENTERSBURG ROAD have had Lantern Services, also DOVER last Sunday. THEUNISSEN asked for a Sunday, Mrs. Kernagham put me up, and Sergeant Hulse fitted up the Court House, and notified the people. It was a stormy night, but there were a good number of people, chiefly adults.

GREENLANDS, KARRE, BRANDFORT, GUNHILL have all been visited: rain spoiled the possibility of a Lantern Service at Greenlands, but I managed the Cottages.

At KOPJES I stayed the night, and started off at 9.30 a.m. in Mr. Harris’ car to the Irrigation Settlement—Mrs. Schooling walked round with me. We visited all the English Church folk, and arranged to fit in a Class for Confirmation candidates.

Then at KROONSTAD I found Mr. and Mrs. Suter, back in their house, and sad to say, the Camp Sunday School dispersed, the teacher has gone away indefinitely—and no one has offered to fill the gap.

At WHITE’S SIDING we have lost Mrs. Stapleton; for six months she had a Sunday Class. I was hoping I could leave White’s for some other centre, but will have to manage my visits as usual. Kimberley will gain what we lose.

VET RIVER and EENGEPONDEN are quite big centres nowadays. I spent a day at each visiting. Mr. and Mrs. Shiers were having a busy weekend when I was there, and I found a Dutch Sunday School going strong, over 22 children on the Station now.

After this I went off on new ground—from BETHLEHEM to FRANKFORT, then to Lindley Road, there have been changes there. Then on to Milner Bridge, this is a delightful spot, the Ganger’s cottage stands by itself about a mile from the river. We had a short Evening Service. Intercessions, and a Confirmation Class, then after a good night’s rest, I caught the train and managed to be at Vierfontein in time for breakfast with Mrs. Mackenzie. Here I ran into Father Amor, who offered to help by working in a visit to the G.C. for a service of Holy Communion.

After that I called at Bethany, and Edenburg, there had been sickness at both places.

Then on to Springfontein, where I found Ganger Christie and family thriving, and glad of the opportunity of Church services.

Then I went on to Jaggersfontein. Mrs. Gay has been very ill, the Station is two miles from the Town, and the spot seems very lonely—and the Station has a “lonely feel” and the Town is desolate with the mines silent.

From there I went to FAURESMITH, and looked up all the folk, and was sorry the trains did not fit in for Koffiefontein. Then I went on to the Kimberley Line and found two new Candidates waiting for Confirmation Classes. Mr. and Mrs. Worrell are there now, and were glad to be visited. The “goods train” picked me up. I managed to get to IMMIGRANT, where I found Mrs. Stokes weak, but certainly alive.

At the beginning of the year, I am leaving the Main Line for a bit, to do
some work on the following Lines:—Bethlehem-Van Reenan, and Frankfort, Modderpoort to Bethlehem, and the Kimberley Line. I am glad to say “transfers” so far have been within the section, so I keep running up against old faces.

I must stop now—perhaps with a parting shot—that we must aim at being centres of influence, not mere bundles of activity.

And let our influences take the form of prayer for others—for the homes in our dorps and towns, where the excessive drinking of liquor, the impurity of men and women; the gambling; and the selfishness of not paying what we owe our tradesman and neighbours is making it impossible for the Presence of Christ to be felt; and weakening the Cause of Christianity—separating from God if persisted in. At any rate, let us who are not tempted in any of these ways strengthen with our prayers those who are.

Yours sincerely,
J. Batcham.

BALANCE SHEET

of Bazaar and Concert held at Wolvehoek Station, 8th October, 1921.

Cr.
Sale of Work, etc., Mesdames Johnson and Duckitt £11 2 3
Tea and Minerals, Mesdames Louw and Van Niekerk 1 15 0
Sweets and Fruit, Mrs. Ralph 1 16 0
Sale of Tickets—
Miss Ralph £1 14 6
Door 2 19 6

4 14 0

Donation lists, per
Mrs. Johnson 3 15 6
Mr. Johnson 9 0 6
Mr. Ralph 3 8 9

16 4 9

£35 12 0

Dr.
To Hire of Piano £2 0 0
" Purchase of Minerals and Fruit 2 1 6
" Purchase of Sweets 11 0
" Purchase of Toys for Dips 1 1 0

Balance, net 5 13 6

£35 12 6

Disposal of Balance, net.
Paid in to credit of Children’s Homes £15 5 6
Paid in to credit of Railway Mission 14 13 0

£35 12 0

Dear Friends,
We must thank you one and all for the kind assistance given both personally and financially which has enabled us to be well satisfied with the results. It has been much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
E. Johnson (Mrs.),
Hon. Sec. and Treas.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Waterval Boven,
December, 1921.

Dear Friends,
A Happy New Year to you all!
Since the last issue of Light for the Line a few thing of interest have happened.
A Confirmation was held at Pretoria Cathedral on Nov. 28th. Five Candidates were able to come in from the country, and in spite of a very wet day we managed to keep dry; the rain ceasing at the right moments. We hope this day will always be remembered with joy by those who received the Gift of the Holy Spirit and that they will continue in His Power to bear witness for God.
The Machadodorprians are indefatigable—building funds increase almost daily—and the next enterprise will probably be the largest yet, for I hear
that on December 22nd at our bazaar anything and everything will be for sale, from Christmas cards to oxen and sheep—crawlers to cakes—so we expect a crowd of buyers with fat purses to arrive and to go away happy and armed with fat parcels.

A meeting of friends of the Church Railway Mission was held on Dec. 1st at Government House, Pretoria, when we had the pleasure of seeing again the lady workers of the Mission, only one, Miss Stenson, being absent. Canon Wyche from Grahamstown made of the financial statement a really amusing story while Canon Jones spoke, with others, for the Mission.

The people of Nelspruit have started collecting for the Church Railway Mission Sustentation Fund.

One little lad has been taken to join those who have gone before us—the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Vickers at Delmas—may God comfort them in their sorrow with comfort He alone can give, the certain hope of re-union and the knowledge of Life continued through eternity.

All good wishes,
Your sincere friend,
Kathleen Gardner.

DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.

Knysna,
C.P.,
Late November.

It is the first Sunday in Advent, the time when we think of the coming again of Our Lord, and a time of preparation for the festival of Christmas, when Christ came to us as a little child. I have returned from the Holy Encharist in the dear little old Parish Church of Knysna, and now after breakfast I am sitting by the river writing to you, my friends of the Line.

I came down here late in October for a rest and change and have found Knysna a wonderful place in which to recuperate. After the heat and dryness of Rhodesia it is glorious to see the greenness, the grass, the trees and the flowers again; still for all this I feel I belong to Rhodesia.

While I have been down here I have visited many beautiful and interesting places. The Heads, two gigantic points four miles away from Knysna, visible from almost any part of the village. Plettenburg Bay, twenty miles away. The Resident Magistrate and Mrs. Strong kindly motored me over. While calling at the Rectory I learned that Archdeacon Rogers was staying there for a few days, and though we were unable to meet that day we managed to do so a few days later at Knysna.

The Knysna Forest too is another great interest and wonderfully beautiful, many tourists come from afar to visit it.

On the 2nd Dec. I leave here with many regrets and with gratitude to everyone who has helped to make my holiday so very enjoyable. I hope to stay for a day or two at "Portland," a delightful residence built by the late the Hon. John Barrington. From this I stay one day to visit several friends at George and chiefly St. Winifreds to see several young friends. From here I go back to Bulawayo and duty—perfectly happy and ready for my work anew.

Unfortunately my quarterly letter for October Magazine was too late for publication, how it happened I know not, but I send to you all my apologies.

That month I visited NYMANDHLLOVU. How delightful to see the Resident Native Commissioner and Mrs. Jones back again after their wonderful tour through Europe and the Continent. Miss Day has now gone to teach at Umvuna and Mrs. Jones is now the mistress.

PLUMTREE. I spent two days here visiting the Village School and the Boys' School. Miss Muriel Cowling hopes to start a pack of Brownies in the New Year. She is herself quite an old Girl Guide!
GWANDA. Miss Norah Hunt is back again after her trip to the coast. I am sure the children are delighted!

Mrs. H. Walters and Dorothy Hill passed their 2nd class Guide Test. Congratulations!

How encouraging it is to see the keenness of several of my Confirmation Candidates. I wish all would realise the importance and seriousness of such a step, and begin by being more regular at the Preparation Classes.

On the 17th an "open air" dance was given in aid of the Mission Funds. It was a glorious night and the ground was delightful for dancing. Everything: music, refreshments, light and general comfort were perfect (as they always are in Gwanda); but somehow the enthusiasm of the dancers was not quite as keen as usual! Possibly the heat of the few previous days, although, this night was delightfully cool, told upon us all.

All my thanks go to Messrs. Gordon, Hill, Paxton, and Westland for all their preparation and general kindness throughout, and to all the ladies for the delicious refreshments. Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Baker and Miss Cohen kindly provided the music, which was really great as per usual! We must not forget the Doctor’s "Jazz Band," which tried to work up the spirit of the dancers! I assisted in playing in this occasionally. Mr. Gordon kindly handed to me the sum raised—£5 10s.—for which I was very grateful.

CEMENT SIDING. Unfortunately I was unable to get to the opening of the new Club. I was very sorry indeed, but it was quite unavoidable.

Now we are thinking of the big Festival Christmas.

This year I think we shall both, Mr. Stenson and I, be in for Services at St. Cyrils, Bulawayo; last year, if you remember, we were at Dett Station.¹

May you all have a Holy and very Happy Christmastide and with all wishes from the sea and beauties of Knysna.

Your friend,

OLIVE STENSON-STENSON.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE.

Box 133, Grahamstown,
Dec. 21st, 1921.

My dear Children,

Here I am back again and very glad to be on dry land.

I am sorry that the prizes have been so long in getting to you. But I hope that you will like them so much when you get them that it will quite make up for the long wait.

I see Mr. Watkins has again offered to give two prizes next year. It is most kind of him. I hope Georgenia Selley that you remembered to write and thank Mr. Watkins for your prize.

I am glad to welcome a number of new friends, and I shall hope to see answers from you all regularly every quarter.

The questions on the whole this quarter were well answered, but some were a little doubtful as to the answer to Who made up the Holy Family? One child said Caesar Augustus! Many said St. Mary and Joseph, but left out the Child Jesus.

Marks were lost in the cases where questions were unfinished. The Christmas cards were not so elaborate as last year's, but show that time and trouble have been taken.

By next quarter our friend and Children's Missioner, Miss Elsie Andrewartha, will be enjoying, we hope, a much needed change and rest. You will all, I am sure, join with me in wishing her a jolly holiday, and in expressing the hope that she will return to us recharged with enthusiasm and vigour. We shall all miss her cheering
and cheerful presence, and I for one will feel the loss of her ready help at Headquarters.

I am sorry that Elsie Jones has had measles; I hope you are better again? Thank you Harriet Killian for your change of address. I hope that you will all be very happy at Somerset East.

I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and that the New Year will bring with it many joys for all.

Your affectionate friend,

The Editor.

RESULTS ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR OCTOBER NUMBER.

SENIORS. Victoria Bible Reading.

Georgenia Selley 44. Laurence Cuthbert Hyslop 44.

Juniors.

Humphrey John Hyslop 38.

Victoria Bible Reading Examination.

OCTOBER RESULTS.

SENIORS (out of a possible 50).


Juniors (out of a possible 50).


VICTORIA BIBLE READING.

JANUARY, 1922.

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 your answers before March 10th, to The Children's Secretary, P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown, C.P.

SENIORS. Standard 5 and over.


(a) Whom did Our Lord choose to be with Him during the first days of his Ministry?

(b) Describe the conditions under which those first Disciples saw Jesus and followed Him.
(c) Who was the first Missionary amongst them?

   (a) What did Our Lord say to His Disciples that made them sure that they were to continue the work that He had begun?
   (b) How did Our Lord show that His Church-Kingdom—was to continue to the end of time?

   (a) Show that Our Lord appeared to His Apostles after He had risen to give them directions concerning the government of His—Church-Kingdom?
   (b) Who under Christ exercised the sole authority and government in the Church-Kingdom after He Ascended?

   (a) What is the meaning of “they continued in the Apostles’ Doctrine and Fellowship?”
   (b) Print the verse in I Corinthians 11, v. 26.
   (c) Where was the first Holy Communion celebrated?

5. Read St. Mark 14, v. 27-66.
   (a) Read very carefully the story told of the agony of Our Lord, and describe what happened in the Garden.
   (b) What is Our Lord’s answer to the High Priest?

   (a) Who is faithful and just to forgive us our sins?
   (b) Tell the story of the Prodigal Son.
   (c) What is required before we can be forgiven?

   (a) What happened on the first Good Friday?
   (b) How will you keep Good Friday?

8. (a) Print verse in Isaiah 53, v. 5.
   (b) Learn by heart Hymn “There is a green Hill far away.”

Juniors (under Standard 5).

1. Read St. Mark 1, v. 16-20.
   (a) How did Our Lord begin His Kingdom?
   (b) Which of the Disciples would you say was the Missionary, and why?

2. Read St. Matthew 10, v. 2-5.
   (a) Print the names of the Apostles.
   (b) Give me another name for St. Peter.

   (a) What is required before we are brought into the Kingdom?
   (b) Who were the first rulers of the Kingdom?

   (a) Who is the King of the Kingdom-Church?
   (b) Print Pilate’s question to Our Lord.

   (a) Describe very simply in your own words the account of the first Communion Service, noting carefully, the Disciples preparation and where.
   (b) Does the Church follow out the King’s command to keep His Feast?

   (a) What do you mean when you say “that they continued in the Apostles’ Fellowship?”
   (b) Who commanded Bread and Wine to be used in the King’s Feast?

7. Read Galatians 6, v. 14; Hebrews 12, v. 1, 2; St. John 16, v. 23.
   (a) Look up the meaning of the word Crucified in a dictionary. Print the meaning.
   (b) Why is the Cross the Gospel sign?
   (c) In whose name should we pray?
   (a) When Our Lord suffered on the Cross, what did He win for us?
   (b) What is the power given to the first rulers of the Kingdom?
   (c) Tell the story of the Prodigal Son.
   (d) What does this story teach us all?

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.

A Horse Which Earned the V.C.

Many of the British war horses deserve the V.C., according to our soldiers, but one was actually recommended by our men for this much-coveted honour. Our troops were engaged in a great fight. One rider, more daring than the rest, stood up urging his steed on the faster, when a shell laid him low. The horse, by some strange instinct, realised that his master was wounded, and, putting his head down, picked the man up by the clothes, and carried him away to safety. After the victory the men all flocked around the noble steed, gave him sugar, and in other ways showed their admiration of a splendid piece of rescue work. With one accord they resolved that the horse was deserving of the Victoria Cross.

It is nice to know that very great care is being taken of the faithful horses who suffered during the war. They have even their own Red Cross organisation and fund, though it is called by a different name for the sake of distinction.

In the Russian churches special prayers are being said for the “humble beasts” who suffer.

From Golden Sunbeams.

Q.—Why is a pelican like a man in debt?
A.—Because it is never seen without a big bill.

Q.—Why is a mouse like a carrot?
A.—Because the cattle eat it (cat’ll eat it).

Q.—What is the difference between a wet day and a whipped boy?
A.—A wet day pours with rain and a whipped boy roars with pain.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

SUSTENTATION FUND.
September-November inclusive

Subscriptions.—Dover (Mrs. Davies), 5/-; Marseilles (Mrs. Hartlief), 1/6; Bethany (Mrs. Herbst), 1/6; Wolvehoek (Mr. and Mrs. Johnson), £2/12/-; Bethlehem (Mr. Hyslop), £1/10/-; Wolvehoek Sale of Work, £14/13/-; Brandfort (Mrs. Webb), 2/6; Venterburg Road (per Mrs. May), £2/10/-; Waku, 8/-; Imvani, 6/-; per Mrs. Slater, Toise River, 2/-; Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, 7/6; Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, £1/10/-.

Signal Boxes.—Sarah Hartlief, Marseilles, 4/-; Mrs. Daniells, Bethany, 4/2; Leonard Forrester, Tweespruit, 5/-; Mrs. Brown, Mither Bridge, 1/7; S.S. Box, Wolvehoek, 10/-; Charlie Cooper, Brandfort, 10/-; Trappes Valley S.S., 12/7.

Collections at Lantern Services.—Theunissen, £1/0/1; Welgelegen, 4/9; Ventersburg Road, 13/5; also 19/10 for Native Missions, Cornelia Mine Lantern Entertainment.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.
Collections, £3/13/11; donations, 5/-.

DIOCESE OF ST. JOHN’S.
Collections, £2/15/7.

LANTERN COLLECTIONS DURING THE QUARTER.

Grahamstown Diocese: Aicedale, 1/7½; Barkly Bridge, 7/6; Loerie, 14/-; Sheldon, 8/-; Thornhill, 1/-; Glenconner, 10/-; Kareiga, 10/-; anon, donation, £1.

George Diocese: Klipplaat, 16/-; Klipplaat (Native Church), 1/9; Barroe, 7/1; Wolvefontein, 7/1.

Contribution: Mrs. Ramsey, Glenconner, 5/-. 
**HOLY BAPTISM.**

**DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

Oct. 9, at Gwanda:
Kenneth David Hill.

Oct. 10, at the Jessie Mine:
Jessie Adela Hopkins.

Oct. 12, at Bulawayo:
Walter Daniel Woodington Wood.

Oct. 13, at Tonoto:
Noel Ada Aldersey Phillips.

Oct. 15, at 182 Cottage, Macloutsi:
Martha Maria Dorothy Petersen.

Oct. 19, at Mahalapye:
Margaret Jacobs.

Oct. 21, at Marula:
Hester Sarah Olivier.
Arthur Alfred Meyer.

Oct. 30, at Wankie:
Walter Norman Buckle.

Nov. 13, at Nymandhlovu:
James Edward Bremner.

Nov. 27, at Wankie:
Agnes Hilda Webb.

At Naauwpoort:

Oct. 2.—Kathleen Esme Jenner.
Richard Henry Wilson Lawrence.

Oct. 25.—Henry Thomas Morey.

Oct. 30.—Winifred Stella Homan.
Phyliss Hilda Behrens.

Nov. 6.—Sarah Jane Mjezu.
Sophia Jessie Tshantshana.

Dec. 4.—Kathleen Monica Smith.
Phyllis Lorraine Willet.

At Cookhouse:

Sept. 4.—Caroline Eileen van der Merwe.

Oct. 9.—Tryphena Barbara Ngqongwa.

At Thebus:


**CONFIRMATIONS.**

Oct. 10, at Mahalapye:
Carl Maclean.
Ellen Becker.
Margaret Jacobs.

**HOLY MATRIMONY.**

Nov. 15, at Bulawayo:
Jack Mares to Albertina Frances Botha.

**BURIAL.**

Dec. 1, at Naauwpoort:
Sophia Mjezu, aged 26 years.

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Johannesburg—Miss K. Gardner, Waterval Boven.

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Bloemfontein—Miss Batcham, Cathedral Cottage.

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Johannesburg—Mrs Beckingham, 70 Muller Street, Yeoville.

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