Light for the Line,
THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION MAGAZINE.

No. LXXII. QUARTERLY. JANUARY, 1924. 2/- PER ANNUM, 2/6 POST FREE.

South African Church Railway Mission.

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LIGHT FOR THE LINE.

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PRAYER FOR THE MISSION.

O Lord Jesus Christ, whose love is never failing, make this day to be the day of Thy tender mercy towards this Mission. Listen to the prayers of all Thy children; be the Shepherd of the lost, the Guide and the Light of unbelievers, the Teacher of the simple, the Father of the fatherless, the Protector of the oppressed, the Physician of the suffering, the Comforter of the dying, and bring us all at last to Thee, our Refuge and eternal Rest, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

P.O. Box 1131,
Johannesburg,
12th December, 1923.

My dear Friends,

Since I last wrote I have managed to travel over a good deal of the line, and to see many of you in your homes as well as in church. Thank you all for the warm wel-
Capetown on the 15th of February, and will return at the end of August. Mr. Smith has just visited the N.C.C.R., and an account of his visit will be found on another page. The house at Naauwpoort is making steady progress and ought to be finished by the end of January. It is a jolly house of seven rooms, with a bathroom, pantry, kitchen, etc., and a comfortable stoep facing east. It will be a worthy memorial of Miss Elise Astley and of great value to the Mission. Of course it has to be paid for, and a lot of money is wanted yet. There may be some old friends of Miss Astley in the country who have not yet subscribed and would like to do so, and I should be only too pleased to send them a receipt for any amount. We want about another £650 in all. I hope some of you will be able to visit the house when it is completed. Mr. and Mrs. Smith hope to move in just before they leave for England, although Mr. Barnes will be the first one in real possession.

Miss Short is making steady progress towards recovery and is sailing for England on the GrantuUy Castle on the 30th of this month. I have every hope the trip home will set her up once more, and that she will be able to return full of vigour to work again on the Mission. Miss G. Raikes is arriving from England early in February to take up Miss Short's work, and I am very thankful to know that there will be no serious gap between Miss Short's going and the arrival of her successor. Miss Raikes is fully qualified in Guide work and many other things and will be able to carry on the work so ably organized by Miss Short. We shall all miss Miss Short, and no one is more sorry than I am that her health has broken down. She is going home because she felt it was the only way to get really fit again, and I agreed with her. My great hope is she will soon come back as we can ill afford to spare her.

I spent two days in Bloemfontein seeing our excellent friends of the Association there, and was ably piloted round by Miss Batcham, whose energy knows no bounds. Miss Batcham is doing splendid work on the line, and as there is enough work for a priest also, I am hoping I may soon hear of a man who will take up that section. The Association in Bloemfontein is very much alive and under the able care of Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Dawson and their many helpers matters are flourishing. It is a matter for congratulation that the Mission has so many staunch friends.

I was very pleased to be able to visit Miss Porter and her section for a few days. I had a right royal reception, and at Amabele I found myself the guest of honour at a delightful social. Amabele supports us well and I very much appreciated their kindly welcome. At Dohne, on Sunday, we had some splendid services and the congregation turned out in force. So did the wind, which gave me a very boisterous reception. I have met wind and I have met hail on various occasions, but I do not remember meeting a hailstorm of cinders from the railway track in quite the same way before. However, they seem quite used to such things at Dohne, as I gather they were visited by a cyclone a few years back which nearly wiped out the whole place, and made it very difficult to find even the station for a
few days. I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Bond and to Mr. and Mrs. West for looking after me and seeing I did not blow away.

In October I visited part of Mr. Herbert's section in the Eastern Transvaal, and spent a week-end at Waterval Boven. I think I must be a bit of a Jonah as the light failed on the Sunday evening just before the third collect and we had to proceed with the help of one lamp and some candles. The light did the same thing at another place the other day. I wonder if I was responsible for it. On the Saturday I had a couple of hours on the golf course, and felt rather like the Bishop who was making a lot of bad shots and was heard muttering under his breath every time he made a bad shot, "Tut, tut," and was reproved by his caddie thus, "I think, my lord, you would do better if you did not swear so much." I believe I got round the nine-hole course in something under five hundred. At Machado-dorp I had the company of Mr. Herbert. We did quite a lot of work together, and the lights did not go out. What a beautiful church they have, and paid for, too. To put up a church and pay for it all in eighteen months is a feat worthy to be recorded. The committee are to be congratulated and I trust will long be spared to work for the church. I really must utter a word of thanks to them and to Mr. Herbert on behalf of the Mission for the hard work they all put in, and also to those who gave so generously.

The Algoa Bay Association had their annual meeting on November 15th, and I had the pleasure of being present. The balance sheet showed they had paid in £110 this year to the Mission funds. All this sum was given in subscriptions without the aid of sales of work and such-like things. In Mr. and Mrs. Ball and Miss Keith we have some real organizers and zealous workers, and I am very grateful to them for their work. The meeting was a happy one, and after the business part was finished, Mr. Beresford, Mr. Perrott and I addressed the meeting.

I met Canon Jones at Grahamstown during the meeting of the Provincial Standing Committee, and we had a long talk together. His interest in the Mission is as keen as ever and he made many inquiries after old friends. I also had the opportunity of seeing Archdeacon Fogarty regarding the work in the South-West. He has been carrying on the work of the Mission for us during the shortage of Chaplains, and will soon write us an account of the work there. Our prayers will go out for him now on his elevation to the Episcopate. He will be the first Bishop of South-West Africa.

I spent a day at Cookhouse and found that it does not belie its name. I do not think I have been so hot for a long time. However, the heat does not seem to affect our good friends there, as they have recently had a bazaar and raised £73 for the Mission. Well done, Cookhouse.

Naauwpoort and Rosmead I have also visited and had a pleasant Sunday at each. I am hoping that Rosmead may soon be able to build their church, as there is a good deal of money in hand already and a little more will enable us to begin building.

I have not been to Rhodesia yet, but by
the time you read these notes I am hoping to have been to Bulawayo and some other of the stations. We have no Chaplains there now, although Mr. Hobson is looking after the Northern part as well as his own section, and Mr. Beresford has gone to the Southern part for two months whilst Mr. Barnes takes his place at Sandflats. I am hoping against hope to get another man soon, although I have no one in view at the moment of writing. A parson's job seems to be the only one for which there is not a queue waiting. Still, I do not want Rhodesians to feel I have forgotten them. Archdeacon Cameron of Johannesburg kindly went up for a month to Northern Rhodesia and the Congo, and I am very grateful to him. An account of his visit will be found on another page. Archdeacon Cameron is an old friend of the Mission, and when he goes home at the end of this year I hope he will be able to find us some men.

I am expecting to sail for England on the 22nd of February by the Balmoral Castle. The rules of the Mission say that the Head must go to England every three years, and it is four years since the last Head went Home. We depend upon the Old Country for men and for a good part of the money and so they like to see the Head sometimes. During my absence the Reverend F. A. Rogers will act as Vice-Head. He is well known to many of you and I am fortunate in securing his services.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

Yours sincerely,

H. P. Rolfe.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.

Capetown,
Dec. 17th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

My Kimberley address for the time being is Beaconsfield Rectory. At the present moment I am in Capetown enjoying the first little bit of my annual holiday, the rest to come in the New Year. I am trying not to enjoy it selfishly, that is to say the thought of you all up and down the line is ever with me. Every blow of sea-air and every bathe in the briny ocean makes me feel intensely sympathetic for the up-country dwellers who can't manage to get away. We get an annual free pass on the Railway Mission and I hope that we may use them in the only justifiable manner, that is to say, to make ourselves more fresh and fit for our real duty in life, which is ministering to you. As we go from place to place up and down our sections, visiting, preaching, teaching, giving services and Sacraments, we feel the absolute need of arriving at each place in the pink of condition. If we come along in fed-up fashion, spiritually and mentally run-down ourselves, we can't expect to do much in the way of giving others a spur on. So I do hope and trust that this little space of withdrawal from the line may redound to your benefit.

Still we hope on for this greatly desired increase in our Mission Staff. The Head is visiting England in February. May he be able to paint in most vivid colours the glories of South Africa, and so attract a few more priests to come over and help us. Or rather may he be able to draw some true-to-life sketches of the needs of lonely Christian folks in this land. That will bring the best ones to us. In the meantime I would like to say how grateful I feel towards you people in Bechuanaland and N. Rhodesia who accept in such a good spirit the very meagre ministry which is offered to you during these months of our short-
handedness. The devil might well suggest to you that it is not worth your while making any response to such rare offers of grace. But congratulations to you, you don’t seem to heed such a suggestion. Common-sense, reinforced by the assurance of the Holy Spirit in your heart, tells you that if you only use the opportunities which do come, you will thrive upon them. And that’s what you seem to be doing.

1924 will have dawned upon us when you read this—the New Year—the time for good resolutions. There is a saying, “The floor of Hell is paved with good resolutions.” I see what the author of the statement meant. Good resolutions are often so vague that they are ineffective; or more often still they are made without taking God into the business at all, and so they are futile. Now a really good, effective resolution should in the first place be taken from Heaven—all good stuff must come from the Heavenly store. I mean that our resolution must be taken out of the will of God. I will try to do this or that, refrain from this or that, because it’s God’s will. There you have a splendid start, the noblest motive possible to the human heart, the finest incentive to any action or effort—because it’s God’s will. Then we must make our resolution a subject of constant prayer. By praying about these things we turn all our efforts, so poor and weak by themselves, into an affair of cooperation with God.

“Coward, wayward and weak,
I change with the changing sky;
One day eager and brave,
The next not caring to try.
But He never gives in,
And we two shall win,
Jesus and I.”

The last line is the secret of all success in the Christian life. It is the secret of all joy too. Why should “trying to be good” so often be thought of as the equivalent of dullness? Why should it be reckoned so often as a method of life robbed of all the spice and spark of living? Why, because we forget Who it is we are trying to please, the most beautiful and fascinating Person who has ever walked this earth. We forget His companionship, His intense human sympathy, His devoted interest in us, His unerring readiness to forgive and forget, His constant renewals of power right from His own almighty and loving Self. We want to get well hold of this truth—our Christian life as a life of companionship with our Divine Lord. Those are fine words, “Duty,” “Right,” “Good,” but by themselves they are pagan. I am sure many an old heathen philosopher or soldier has said “I will do so and so because it is my duty.” A noble pagan like Socrates would always have stood for the right and the good as far as he knew how. Wherein, then does the Christian life differ from the noble heathen? Jesus Christ our Lord—there is the difference—Duty means pleasing Him, Right means what He wants done, Good means what He loves. So it is that when we read of the first Gospel preachers, the Apostles, going about their work, we do not read that they went about telling men to “be good.” They went about “preaching Jesus,” issuing His invitation to come unto Him, administering the grace of the new life He offers in His Divine Sacraments. And certainly I should not dare to traverse the railway lines telling people to be good—what consummate impudence from the likes of me! No, we simply travel as commissioned agents of our Lord, proclaiming “the only Name under heaven whereby we can be saved”; we are the “stewards of the mysteries of God,” the authorized dispensers of the means of Grace, the Sacraments by which men are brought into living touch with the living Christ, and maintained and strengthened in the life of union with Him.

Try then and make some New Year resolution with these thoughts in mind—a general and a particular resolution. A general resolution means some wide resolve such as more love for God, more keenness about religion, to think less of self and more of His Will, to put a new motive entirely into our existence. A particular resolution means something definite which
you can as it were put your finger upon. This I will do, that I will do, by God's help. It might concern the Sacraments, such as never to miss my Communion, to make my confession and ensure a good new start; it might concern prayer, to start and continue a few minutes' devotion in the morning, to make my night prayers no longer a form, but a positive reality of communing with God, to take a few verses of the Gospels and think over them each day or even each week; it might concern our conduct, reverence of speech, neighbourly charity, temperance, purity, honesty, generosity or such like. But all the way through let there run that sure conviction that anything apart from our Lord Himself is doomed to failure and nothingness. "Ye are my friends," He says Himself. Almost inconceivable is His condescension, yet we shall take Him at His word, and put all our highest efforts into this glorious personal relationship with the fairest of the sons of men, the Eternal Son of God Incarnate.

Blessing, health and happiness to you all.

Your affectionate friend and priest,

A. C. HOBSON.

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DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Parsonage,
Naauwpoort,
Dec. 11th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all, and may God richly prosper you in all goodness. We know that God has already blessed us, is continually blessing us and that if He withheld His blessing, even for a moment, we should come utterly to an end. Yet we do not always think of our good and gracious God. There is so much to do and occupy our time and attention that God somehow or other is crowded out: "God unseen yet ever near." We must get back to God and try to see Him. Most of us will, I expect, with the New Year, be saying "I must do this; I ought to do that." Let me give you one or two suggestions or rules for the New Year.

1. STOP—for a few moments every day whatever you may be doing; stop sports, business, family cares and anxieties to make a little time to be with God in prayer every morning and night. Stop every Sunday to come to God's House.

2. STUDY what God has to say to you every day. It really is worth while to stop and study God's Word every day because it will lead us on to know Him and to know Him better. There can be nothing more important in this world than to know God and what He has to say to us.

3. SERVE. This is the royal motto "Ich Dien." Prayer and Bible reading lead us on to know God; knowledge of God to love and love of God to do Him service.

What can I do for God?

God Himself will show us. Here is a motto text for 1924, taken from Psalm 46: "Be still then, and know that I am God." The idea is that of making time to think of and be with God. You cannot do this without special effort. That is why I have written: STOP, STUDY, SERVE. I remember years ago a young man exclaiming as an argument against special effort, "Oh, but we can worship God just as well in the veld." An old friend, since passed to his rest, replied, "Yes! but do we?" It is because of that query it is so tremendously important for us to make a plan: a special daily and weekly effort to "Be still and know that I am God."

Lent, which begins this year on March 5th, will provide us with an opportunity of taking stock and of seeing how we have kept our New Year resolutions and what progress we have made in the spiritual life.

NAAUWPOORT and COOKHOUSE are to be congratulated on their special efforts to raise money.

Cookhouse led the way on Wednesday, October 3rd, in bad weather—or rather not bad weather, for rain is always welcome in
South Africa—but not the best for a bazaar. Yet, in spite of the weather, which undoubtedly kept some of our friends away, we were able to send to Headquarters no less a sum than £73 16s. 9d., and our expenses were only £5 7s. 6d. Well done, Cookhouse, and many thanks to Mesdames Wise, Robson, Hubbard, Bosch, Wilson, Gunston, and the Misses Post, L. and M. Hubbard, Wilson, Gilmore; also the artistes who took part in the concert kindly arranged by Mrs. Percy Weddell and Mrs. Cree.

Naauwpoort did not put up a record on October 5th as we hoped; but nevertheless, did very well indeed in realising £85 16s. 7d., which has been placed to the credit of the Building Fund. Our best thanks are due to all who helped to make the bazaar such a success. A list of stallholders will be found below. We are unable to give details of the valuable assistance given by the gentlemen in the shooting and guessing competitions as their takings are included in the various stall totals. But to one and all, and especially Messrs. Cameron, Huebsch and Johnson, we offer our thanks.

The Elise Astley Memorial House proceeds apace and the walls are practically up to the roof, and the house should be completed by the end of February.

There must be many people along the line who remember the Rev. Percy Barnes. They will be glad to know that he is with us again and will be working for a time on the section below Cookhouse and later on will be relieving me when my leave begins on February 15th. It is a great joy to know that the work on this section will be carried on during my absence and a great pleasure to welcome back, if only for a short time, an old and tried worker. Will you please pray for him and us?

Mr. Rolfe very kindly took my duties at Naauwpoort and Rosmead in November while I was away on the New Cape Central Railway, and had a very happy if somewhat strenuous time.

Woodville Orphanage, Grahamstown. It is good news to record that Sister Florence Louisa has been amongst us again collecting for the Orphanage. In spite of many other calls upon our purses, Naauwpoort and Cookhouse both exceeded last year's contributions. The amounts were £6 14s. and £4 12s., for which Sister Florence says "Thank you very much indeed."

With prayers and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND D. SMITH.

Sandflats,
Dec. 18th, 1923.

I am asked to write my first letter for Light for the Line. To one new and fresh to the country such as I, it is difficult to know where to begin.

At present of course I am a novelty, and everyone is extraordinarily nice. I hope it may last! And also everything is a novelty to me. I landed in Capetown in October and after a couple of days there was taken to my district by the Head. I was to have gone to Rhodesia, but it was decided to break me in gently, and so I was placed on this very pleasant section. My main work is the district from Longhope to Aloes, which includes three little churches—at Alacedale, Sandflats and Addo. The existence of these churches makes my work more parochial than I had anticipated. Addo is not unlike a country parish at home. There is a good deal of scattered visiting to be done, and whenever I can borrow a horse I go round. I spent at least a week at Addo and during that time got up to both Selborne and Clevedon for a Communion Service. These farmhouse services are really very beautiful. Our holy religion must have begun in this way when "they broke the bread from house to house." It all seems so primitive and simple.

We had a very successful produce sale at Addo in October. It resulted in producing a sum of over £65, and this, added to the proceeds of a dance, will, I think, clear the church of debt. From now onwards we hope to pay our way by the much more healthy means of a sustentation fund.
There is always a feeling at the back of my mind that other means of paying our debts to God are unworthy. Far better and more satisfactory is it if we maintain our Church by regular subscriptions.

The chief event at Sandflats has been the opening of the new Dutch Reformed church. It is a substantial building, costing over £8,000, and when one sees the tiny population of Sandflats and Patterson, it really is a wonderful exhibition of self-denial on the part of the people who paid this large sum for their religion. It is the fashion with some to sneer at the Dutch, but as I sat with those strong, rugged men and women at their opening service and shared as best I could their worship in what was to me an unknown tongue, I felt a great regard and respect for them. There are many lessons we Churchmen may learn from Protestants.

I have moved my so-called headquarters (it really means a room where I can keep books and clothes) to Sandflats. On the whole it is more central, being in the middle of my three churches, but I do not expect to be there more than three or four days in the month.

My last word shall be of Alicedale, so dear to the heart of many a railwayman. I suppose hundreds of men scattered up and down the Union have worked there at one time or another. We have seen better days and a larger Church population. The fine array of boys' surplices in the vestry are seldom used now because there are no boys to fill them. But in spite of this we have some wonderfully cheerful Sundays, and it is a comfort to know that the forty-eight people we had in church last Sunday night comprised practically all the adult church-folk in the place as well as a sprinkling of non-Church-people.

I am very cheerful about things generally. Life here is a big change from London, but it is all very wonderful. I love the climate, the people and, most of all, my work. The other week I walked along the line with a railwayman who was a judge of stock. He told me at great length how much my predecessor, Mr. Thorne, had been appreciated.

I was so pleased to hear this and at the end ventured to say so and to add, "I hope you will like me also." "Yes, I think we shall," he replied. I looked up with grateful appreciation for his evident discernment of character. "Yes, I think we shall like you. You are nice and fat!"

Your sincere friend,

Paul Beresford.

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DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Dear Friends along the Line,

Since my last letter to our magazine Miss Barker has come out from England to take Miss Gardner's place as Lady-worker on our section. Most of you have met her and have shown in various ways your appreciation of her efforts to tackle this work. I am very well pleased with the start she has made and I feel sure that there will be plenty of work for her to do and that she will do it with good-will. She has picked up the threads of her work quite rapidly and her influence is already beginning to tell. Three fresh starts at Sunday School work are reported, and we sincerely hope that they will be carried on. I think one of the most difficult parts of our work lies in keeping the Sunday Schools going. So few people realize the importance of teaching the young; at any rate, they are content to leave it to the few. For instance, Waterval Boven has about seventy children's names on its books, chiefly the result of Mrs. Shaw's work. Mrs. Shaw has now left us and Mr. Roy Green has stepped in to help us. But just think of forty to seventy children of all ages having two teachers. It is impossible for them to do all that they wish as teachers. There should be two extra teachers at least in Boven Sunday School, then the work could be made interesting for teacher and scholar. I wish some of our men along the section would realize that this
might be a job for them. Perhaps Miss Barker will be able to prevail over some of our people to assist in this work.

Talking of Sunday School work brings to mind the work Mrs. Shaw did at Boven. The Sunday School there has been larger under the superintendency of Mrs. Shaw than ever before. Of course all the children were fond of her and were full of regrets when she left them—and not only the children; in fact, we all regret her departure from Boven. Her excuse for leaving was of course the best possible. Getting married is always an excuse which we must accept. The great event took place in our little church on November 3rd. Willing hands decorated the church, and a large crowd of friends and well-wishers turned up at the church to take part in the sacred service of marriage, and to join in prayer for God's blessing on the bridal pair. The large number of wedding gifts is a token of the high esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are held by their numerous friends, but I know that one of the gifts most prized is the gift of the Sunday School children. The table napkin rings engraved with the initials of the bride and bridegroom will be a lifelong reminder of the affection of the children of All Saints Sunday School for their teacher. May they enjoy long life, happiness and prosperity.

It is extremely encouraging to Miss Barker and to me to find our people along the line so keenly interested in our work. The latest evidence of this is shown by Erasmus. It is only a small dorp with about six communicants, but by their enthusiasm they worked up a social evening which resulted in a cheque to the Church Railway Mission for £24 3s. 6d. To raise this amount they had to gain the assistance and sympathy of other denominations. Miss Acutt, who organized the affair with the ready assistance of Mrs. Godrich, assures me that one and all were ready and willing to help, and they helped in a very practical manner. On behalf of the Church Railway Mission I must tender our most grateful thanks to all for the work they did to make the social evening such a remarkable success.

I have mentioned before that Delmas, one of our stations in the Johannesburg Diocese, has decided to work for a Church Hall: I am pleased to be able to state that there is now a sum of £100 towards this object. Mr. and Mrs. Beavers have been instrumental in raising this sum. Their last effort amounted to about £20. This is extremely good and it just shows what can be done when someone makes a move. We hope that further efforts will soon be made and that sufficient money will be raised to achieve the object in view.

Machadodorp, of which there is generally something to say each quarter, can now boast of having a font. This completes the essentials necessary for furnishing the church. Like everything else, it was paid for on delivery. Now we are looking forward to the consecration of the church by the Bishop. This he has promised to do on December 30th. The Bishop is paying a brief visit to our section and I hope to take him through to Komatipoort, Nelspruit and Machadodorp. His time is very limited, so I'm afraid we shall be unable to call at any other places along the line.

Christmas will have passed by the time this is published, but I wish all a very happy Christmas and much joy in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

E. Herbert.

WOMEN'S WORK.

Diocese of Grahamstown.

29 Ebden Street,
Queenstown,
Dec. 6th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

My very best wishes to you for the coming year, may it be full of good things for one and all. I suppose the best way of being sure of a certain amount of happiness
is by being a friend to others. It is so true that "if you would have friends you must be a friend—we can none of us do all the getting and none of the giving—it is not "playing the game" with our earthly friends and much less with our Great Friend Who does so much for us. You know I am still wishing that many more parents would take an interest in their children's religious education and just help them every Sunday for half an hour to do the Bible Questions in the Light for the Line. I know some mothers and children just love that time together, but how few! You can never help your children without learning something more about their little minds and also other things you may have forgotten.

These two and a half months have been very busy and happy ones, and thank you very much for the welcome you have given me after my long holiday. I should like to thank Mr. Hopkins and staff at Waku on behalf of the Mission for the splendid way they have continued their support to the Sustentation Fund during my absence, also Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, who, by the way, have left Dohne amid the regrets of their friends but with every good wish for health and happiness at Maclear. Mr. Munro and Mr. Wright at Tylden Station are doing most unselfish work among the boys as Scout-masters and are helping the Guides along. The thanks of the people of Tylden and the country at large are due to those who, after working hours, are ready to devote their time to the boys. The number of Lone Scouts and Guides along this section is growing, but some of the children sadly need a leader to help them between my visits. Anyone who takes up this valuable work will never regret it I am certain—lots of fun and lots of work.

Lantern evenings have been held at Imvani, Waku, Thomas River, Toise River, Komgha, Amabele, Kubusie, Bailey, Ida, Ryno and Maclear.

Mr. and Mrs. Engels made the evening at Ida a great success both financially and socially by their ever-ready enthusiasm. We thank them very much indeed. Mr. Trutter, head of the Maclear High School, enabled me to show my lantern at the school and said too many nice things about me, but showed his appreciation of the work the Mission is out to do. This last week-end Mr. Rolfe has been able to pay a flying visit to this section. Unfortunately his time was unavoidably cut short, so that Kubusi and Waku had to be disappointed, but shall be remembered next time. At Amabele we had a very enjoyable social evening. Mr. Barrichievie very kindly lent us the hall and many other things, and the good ladies of the camp made the hall look like fairyland with flowers, and were just busy bees seeing that everyone was happy. We were very glad to welcome the Rev. H. P. Rolfe as our new Head, and Canon Brown Ellis, an old friend to many of us. At Dohne on Sunday, December 2nd, we had beautiful services, but owing to the wet day many were prevented from coming. We hope before long it may be possible to have more frequent services along this section.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,
MILICENT PORTER.

2 Cuyler Crescent,
Port Elizabeth, C.P.,
14th December, 1925.

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all, and may it be a prosperous one in the best sense of the word. Changes seem to be in the air, both on the section and on the staff, and some of us feel a little regretful and a little timid—regretful because of the happiness we appear to leave behind, and timid because we know not what the future may hold. But change is mainly good, and is generally a sign of life, with new beginnings and fresh opportunities. I heard someone say the other day, "You might as well be in a grave as in a groove," and I heartily agree. Uprootings are painful but they are healthy. So again I wish you a prosperous New Year, and may we all learn
to appreciate the fact that we are alive and that we are God's children, privileged to love and serve Him.

I suppose most of you are acquainted with Peter Pan? Can you conjure up for yourselves the picture of the lonely little boy adrift on the rock in the lagoon, with no apparent chance of rescue, and as the water comes higher and higher, you can hear him say, in tones of wonder and awe, "To die will be an awfully big adventure!" Wonderful Peter Pan! To die is indeed a big adventure, but to live is surely a bigger one still. I don't believe we half appreciate the fact that we are alive in this beautiful world or realise clearly enough that we are put here to glorify God, and until we do realise this, life can never be the great thing it is meant to me. We grouse and grumble at our lot, about the work we have to do, and about the work we haven't got to do, and all the time we should be horrified and upset, if we hadn't a share in the service of God. After all, the privilege of being allowed to take part in serving God through one's fellows is immense, and there is no joy to be compared with it. Truly to live is a gloriously big adventure!

Congratulations to Addo and Cookhouse on their recent successes in bazaars for Church funds. In both cases the takings well exceeded expectations. It just shows what can be done when all work together with a good will.

The Guides and Brownies at Klipplaat have done their bit also to help the Mission Funds. Their entertainment in September was a great success and half the proceeds were handed over to the Mission, the other half being required for their own small exchequer. Congratulations are due to Miss Heath on her work in training the Guides, and to Miss Henrey for her willing help. We should also like to thank Miss Henrey for her work with the Sunday School during the past eighteen months. Her departure from Klipplaat is a cause for deep regret, but we wish her all good luck in her new work.

Quite a number of Guides and Brownies along the line shared in the welcome given to T.R.H. Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught on their recent tour through the Province, and we are very proud that the Lone Company at Cookhouse should have been specially congratulated on their smart appearance. Well done, Mrs. Cree!

I am sorry that it is so long since I have seen any of you, but unfortunately the doctor pounced on me at the end of September, and forbade work for a while. I am much better now, but it has been decided that I should take my furlough before returning to the line, so when you read this letter I shall probably be on the high seas, as I hope to leave Capetown on the 29th inst., on the Grantully Castle. The time I have spent with you has been a very happy one, and I am more than grateful for all you have done for me, and for all you have been and still are. We have had great times together and the memory of them will live long. And the bond between us has been that we have been out for the same thing, to learn more of our Lord, and, for my part, I can say that I have found Him, when and where I least expected, and often in the most desolate places, reflected in the lives of His children, probably quite unknown to themselves. That is as it should be, isn't it? If we cannot find Christ in the lives of His followers where shall we find Him? Here is a verse which puts what I mean quite clearly:

"And I hardly think I would ever have seen
The love of God so clear,
Unless the love of man had been
So visible and near."

It is a thought to be kept in the forefront of our minds—we are responsible for reflecting our Lord to our fellow-men.

You will like to hear of Mr. Hickson. He has had a splendid Mission in Australia and at the moment he is in New Zealand, which he pronounces to be the most beautiful country he has visited so far. There have been the same great crowds of sufferers attending the Healing Services, and the same sad sights as in this country last year,
but there have also been just as great blessings and wonderful spiritual uplift. We do not hear very much about the continuation of the work in South Africa, but we know that it is going on quietly and steadily in many places, among those who are willing to be simple enough and humble enough to believe that our Lord meant what He said. The following is an extract from one of Mr. Hickson's addresses given last month in New Zealand:

"Cling to the Man of Galilee, my friends. He is with us here to-day as much a living presence at this moment as He was in the days of old. Our religion is not a sentiment, but it is a fact, and we must take Him at His word. God has spoken to His Church and we cannot imagine that what God has said is not true. All He is asking of us is that we believe His promises. Our Lord never forced Himself on any man. Even when He was on earth, and in his own country, there were many He could not heal, because they would not receive Him. He is saying to all of us, 'Come unto Me.' No matter what a man is or has been, if he comes to God asking that he might become a better man, the arms of Christ are outstretched to take Him. Read the story of the prodigal son and it will give you some idea of the love of God. So He comes to us to-day and offers fully and freely more than we dare ask of Him. Just think what that means; take Him at His word and it will help you over many a trouble."

With every good wish that the best things may always be yours,

Yours sincerely,

Norah W. Short.

Diocese of Bloemfontein.

78 Douglas Street,

Bloemfontein,

8th Nov., 1923.

My dear Friends,

How quickly the time has gone since I sailed home and back again!

I hope Christmas has been both happy and peaceful and that the New Year will be progressive for you all.

After settling down, I had a three weeks' tour round the section. It was most encouraging; things had gone forward and not backward, and there were many little things which called for thankfulness.

Of course there are many changes. Viljoen's Drift is no longer a depot, and all the members of our Study Circle and Working Party are scattered, all out of the section.

I expect you will say I have left out some places. I shall have to leave something out in this Budget.

I started off for Sunday School at Tweespruit, and was much cheered; Miss Coetzee had kept the class going, and the children had given £1 10s. in collections during my absence. S.M. and Mrs. Cornestle had "flitted" to Rosmead, so we welcome S.M. and Mrs. Tubb, and Jimmy for Sunday School.

Marseilles, Modderpoort, Ladybrand, Ficksburg, Fouriesburg all had visits; then on to Bethlehem to catch the train to Lindley Road. I generally manage a few visits here in between trains, and this time I had to visit Master Mechim, who is a most friendly babe.

Lindley Road has also a new S.M., and is growing rapidly now the grain elevator is nearing completion. The Sunday School is kept going by Mrs. McArthur, and now they have a good supply of books to carry on, I hope they will keep going strong.

Senekal is as usual, though Mrs. Gay is feeling the altitude pretty badly.

Steyns Rust people are all well. S.M. and Mrs. Wadmore I expected to find at the coast, but not a bit of it; so long as there is a mealie sack to be trucked or in sight, there will be no move.

For the first time I jumped off at Gunhill to find Mr. and Mrs. Cooper there, then to Viljoen's Drift, where my heart sank on hearing of all the changes.

Wolvehoek, I am glad to say, is fixed up—at least the Rector of Heilbron hopes to
have a monthly week-day service there. All I can say is, I hope these services will be a real up-lift. The communicants there have been left to themselves, so now is their chance to get keen again. The Sunday School is also restarted.

Ventersburg Road had an unexpected visit, and I had an exceedingly pleasant surprise. In June, Mrs. May organised an evening for the Mission, and gave me the proceeds, £5, for the Mission. It does cheer one to know these things are being done when one is out of the country.

Then after this I went on to Milner Bridge Cottage. I had asked the Rector of Klerksdorp if he would present a Confirmation candidate, and to my joy I found he had prepared another. So Walter and Gladys Brown were confirmed at Klerksdorp on October 14th, and the Rector goes to the cottage and gives the family their monthly Communion. This is the second Priest in the Johannesburg Diocese who had made special efforts to help the Railway people in the Free State.

At Vierfontein everyone was thriving, and wanting a Lantern Service; they will have one next year.

I have just come back from Petrus and Paardeburg. Mrs. Worrall booked the Town Hall for a Lantern Service, the station buildings being so small. In spite of the dust, the people turned out, and we had the best collection a lantern has produced on the section, and we voted £1 to Missionary work amongst natives in the Lebombo Diocese.

Of more special news. We are all glad to know that Mr. Potter has made a good recovery from his accident last week. Bloemfontein had the pleasure of a visit from our new Head; he was able to visit most of the members of the Committee, and Mrs. Potter, as usual, gave us a delightful afternoon, and invited the Committee to meet him informally. Now we are looking forward to his next visit at our business meeting after Christmas.

In January I hope to go to the Girl Guide Training Week, in order to keep some of the Lone Guides and small companies going. Then we hope to revive the Railway Branch of the Mothers' Union, especially at centres, amongst the mothers of the Sunday School children, and where a regular monthly visit is paid by the clergy.

Two years ago Archdeacon Hulme asked for a list of Railway Communicants whom he would visit three times a year. Unfortunately he has only been able to get to some of the places once, some twice, and some not at all. Practically every journey brings me into touch with one or two confirmed people who have lost all desire for Communion, and one has to begin all over again to try and win them back. And I believe some, when they say they feel they have no standard to live up to when they give up preparation for regular Communion, if only quarterly. Each year has brought more confirmed members with less opportunity for pastoral and priestly visitation. And the need is becoming more and more necessary for this section to have its own Chaplain. Two years ago the statement was made than one could be done without. If we believe that the spiritual lives of our communicants must come first; then I cannot see how it can be considered waste of a Chaplain's life to minister to the ones and twos who are scattered over the whole 1,300 miles of the Free State section—and it has taken off a good weight of the strain to know that the Head of the Mission is going to try and bring out a Chaplain for us next year.

Now a word about £ s.d.

1. Several Light for the Line subscribers have not sent or given their subscriptions for 1923, a few still owe for 1922. Some of you are near post offices; it will be a help if you will send a postal order along.

2. One S.M. has promised £2 2s. a year for the Mission funds. Our Association in Bloemfontein wants new subscribers, and perhaps there are many of you who will join, and give at least 1/- a month. Judging from the way you have treated me you evidently appreciate the work of the
Mission. A Chaplain will mean more expense, but my experience is, unless you have the Church Railway Mission to minister to you, you will get little else; and it is not "playing the game" to let the whole burden fall on the few generous ones who feel that God's work must come first. Asking is necessary, but not pleasant! If you doubt, or criticise this appeal, look at

1. The demand made upon all Jews in the Old Testament.
2. Our Lord's payment of the Temple Tax.
3. The Sermon on the Mount.

Finally, let us all work together to put "first things first"—God and His service first during the coming year—and remember we are told to "Serve the Lord with gladness."

Yours sincerely,

Julienne Batcham.

Diocese of Pretoria.

Dear Friends,

It is hard to realise that I have been back in South Africa for three months and equally difficult to remember that there has been a break of ten years in my South African life. It was a very pleasant surprise to meet so many old Railway friends at Capetown, and somehow ten years has made very little difference either in their appearance or the warmth of their friendship. At Pretoria I found a good many changes; old houses had in many cases been pulled down and new ones erected, beautiful flowering trees had been planted along many of the streets, and at Rissik and Hatfield the open veld of ten years ago had been covered up by houses.

I started work a few days after my arrival at Pretoria and spent the second week-end at Waterval Boven, where Mr. Herbert introduced me to as many friends as possible. Since then I have worked round the section and have managed to pay a second visit to most of the places, and feel I can never be too grateful for all the help and friendliness that has been shown me everywhere.

Always meeting new friends and keeping them "sorted out" in one's mind is not an easy thing at first, and I still live in fear of cutting someone I ought to know.

It has been a big loss to the Waterval Boven Sunday School to lose Miss Charlewood, who was married on November 3rd. She had done so much for the school during her time as superintendent and teacher. Fortunately, Mrs. Holmes, who was also married in October, is not leaving the town, and she is carrying on the school with the help of Mr. Roy Green, so we hope the numbers will keep up.

On Advent Sunday three new Sunday Schools were started. Miss Cockerton is taking the one at Pan, Miss Coleman, who used to help at Hatherly, is taking one at Koedoespoort, and at the Union Collieries Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Rogers are sharing the work of the school between them. There are still many places along the line where there are children and no Sunday School. It would be splendid if there could be offers of help for some of these places too. It is such an important bit of service which brings its own special joy, and is so well worth the sacrifice it involves. I know it does cost something to tie up even an hour of the weekly rest-day.

Railway Mission friends at Bronkhorstspruit gave a most enjoyable social evening and sale of work on November 17th. Unfortunately the night on which it should have been held was too wet and stormy for anyone to be able to venture out, which was most disappointing for those who had worked so hard to get it up, but it was held the following evening instead. I believe the Mission received over £20 as a result of this splendid effort.

I have been able to show the magic lan-
terrn at Delmas and Eloff: at least, I only did the talking at both places; Mr. Dunbar did all the work at Delmas and Mr. Minnaar at Eloff. I hope to be able to take it to other places during the next few weeks. I suppose this will reach you somewhere about the beginning of 1924, so I will take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy New Year and one full of blessing.

Yours very sincerely,
C. B. Barker.

A TRIP UP NORTH.

The Belgian Congo, like pre-war Russia, is difficult of entry. Time would fail me to tell you of the present-day Gideons, Samsons and Jephthas whose business it is to turn aside the aliens who seek entry into their country. They did pretty well everything except take my finger-prints. One by one these people were overcome: there remained only the last outpost at Sakania on the frontier. My train being late—it was midnight when we arrived there—they were satisfied with one question: "Had I any revolvers?" "No, I had not, it is architects not organists that we shoot in this country." I was let through without the loosening of a strap or turning of a key. Architects play but a small part in the affairs of the Church Railway Mission. When they come in, it is usually a sign that the Mission's work in some particular place is drawing to a close. The erection of a church almost always means an increase and settled population. It is then that the diocese steps in and reaps the fruit of the work of the Mission, which packs up to start afresh elsewhere. There are many parishes in South Africa which owe the existence of a well-ordered church, with a flourishing church life, to the pioneer work of the Mission.

Broken Hill.

I am, however, not taking things in their right order. The first Sunday of my trip—the 7th of October—was spent at Broken Hill, over thirteen hundred miles distant from Johannesburg. I had left the latter place on Tuesday evening, and should have reached the former early on the following Saturday, but four miles south of Broken Hill a goods train turned a partial somersault, and blocked the line. It took five hours—for we were carrying the European mail—for the native carriers to transfer the passengers' baggage to the relief train which had been dispatched to bring us in; so we were that much late at Broken Hill. This place—owing to some fancied resemblance to Broken Hill in Australia—owes its existence, as a populated centre, to a prosperous lead mine, the manager of which, with his wife—Mr. and Mrs. MacCartney—made me exceedingly comfortable for the week-end. Broken Hill is one of the few Railway Mission centres which possesses a church, a delightful little building—marred only by an unlovely font—designed (the church and not the font) by Messrs. Baker and Fleming of Johannesburg, the architects of the beautiful cathedrals at Cape-town, Pretoria, Salisbury and Lourenco Marques, which last—on of course a much smaller scale—St. George's, Broken Hill, greatly resembles. On Sunday morning there was a plain Eucharist at 8, children's service at 10, and evensong at 7.30. During the 10 o'clock service, I dedicated a bell, given by the children themselves, and hung in the lych gate. We were glad to get back to the church as the heat was overpowering for an open-air service. From the point of view of the native workpeople Broken Hill mine is one of the best in South Africa. They are supplied with splendid quarters and are allowed to have their wives and children with them. About six hundred native women are daily supplied with rations by the mining company.

Gigantic Ant-hills.

The most interesting natural feature of this part of the world—Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo—is the huge ant-hills which vary in height from twenty to
forty feet; and are anything from a hun-
dred to three hundred feet in circum-
ference. The white ants, which are their
builders, are destructive insects. If they
once get into a house, that house is doomed;
their only use appears to be to supply
material for the making of lawn tennis
courts. The sticky fluid from the bodies of
the ants themselves binds the earth into a
compact mass, and renders it impervious to
rain. At Broken Hill the committee of the
Country Club have scooped out caves in a
couple of ant-hills, one of which serves as
the bar and cellar, and the other as a
garage; while at Elisabethville the fourth
tee on the golf course is an ant-hill, to which
an ascent is made by a staircase hewn out
of the side.

ELISABETHVILLE.

I left Broken Hill on Monday afternoon
for Elisabethville, where I was due at 10.30
the next morning, but my luck was out.
Another train was off the line. We were
four and a half hours late. During the
following days in spite of the tremendous
heat, for I was only six hundred miles
south of the Equator, I managed with the
aid of a "push bike" to visit nearly all the
members of the British community, perhaps,
including children, some hundred people.
At the last minute the arrangements for
Sunday services were dislocated by the
arrival on Sunday morning at 8.30, of
Princess Marie Louise, the late Prince
Christian's daughter. A request on Friday
evening for all the "Britishers" to meet her
at the station involved an alteration in the
hour fixed for the early Communion. In
spite, or perhaps because, of the alteration
of hour several people were unavoidably
absent from the service and also from
mattins at 11. The British Vice-Consul had
recently been transferred to Ghent, and his
successor had not arrived. The fact that
the Vice-Consulate was empty had been
taken advantage of by a lady rat, who had
selected the American organ as a fitting
place in which to bring a family into the
world, and the leather of the bellows as fit-
ting sustenance for herself. Fortunately
Mrs. Cowell, whose services as organist
were requisitioned, was not only a capable
musician, but also extremely good-natured,
or the result would have been disastrous.
A selection of well-known hymns and chants
enabled us to pull through. There was a
good congregation at mattins and every-
thing went with a swing. Elisabethville,
although only twelve years old, has a popu-
lation of several thousands. It is well laid
out with wide streets. It bids fair to estab-
lish its claim to be the Johannesburg of
Central Africa. There is a fine central
church of red-brick in the capable hands of
Monseigneur de Hampton. There being no
colour bar either in the Congo or in the
Roman Catholic Church, the building serves
for both black and white. Most of the better
class native servants come from Northern
Rhodesia and British East Africa, and con-
sequently speak English; many of them
having been trained in the mission schools
of the University's Mission. The Church
of England in the Congo ministers only to
the British residents, but there are several
missions of the Plymouth Brethren, and of
what a Scotsman in Elisabethville described
as the "Seventh Day Adventurists"—the
latter are exclusively American. The hos-
pitality of the people of Elisabethville can
only be compared with that in Rhodesia,
which is proverbial. I could not have been
better treated; indeed, I was taken every-
where and shown everything.

KALOMO.

I spent eight days at Elisabethville and
then began my return journey. After two
ights in the train I reached Kalomo, the
old capital of Northern Rhodesia. Here I
was met at the station by a mule cart, and
driven to the "Boma" or headquarters of
the Magistrate, Mr. Gosslin, who, with his
wife, put me up for the night. The next
morning, Saturday, I celebrated the Holy
Communion in a nice cool room in his
garden, at which, in addition to the Goss-
lins, a couple of their neighbours, Captain
and Mrs. Farquharson, were present. In
the cool of the evening the aforesaid mules took me after the leisurely manner of mules back to Kalomo station.

A goods train on Monday evening got me as far as Livingstone, where I was housed for the night by Mr. Ellis, Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge, who is temporarily in charge of the church work at Livingstone. Next morning, after giving an address to the children at the Diocesan School, I got away by the “Water Train,” which runs twice a week to take water to the gangers’ houses, and reached Victoria Falls about mid-day, too late, as my arrival was thirty-six hours behind my scheduled time, to arrange for services. However, I saw the Falls, visited Livingstone Island, and stood under the tree from beneath the branches of which Dr. Livingstone got his first view of the most wonderful waterfall in the world. My trip was drawing near to an end. After not quite two days at the Falls I was once more on the move, and after spending a few hours at Bulawayo with Mr. Baxter, late Director of Customs, the indefatigable treasurer of the Diocese of Southern Rhodesia, reached Johannesburg at 6 o’clock on the morning of Saturday, 27th October.

GEORGE H. CAMERON,  
(Archdeacon of Johannesburg).

CHILDREN’S PAGE.

13 Durban Road,  
Mowbray, Capetown,  
December 17th, 1923.

My dear Children,

My letter will reach you at the beginning of 1924, so I must wish you a Happy New Year. I want each one of you to make a New Year Resolution and to try and keep it faithfully through the year. You must choose your own resolution of course, but I would like to think that each little friend had made up his or her mind never to get into bed at night until evening prayers had been said, and never to go out to begin the day’s work or play without first giving the early part of the day to God. Just ask God very simply to be with you all day in work and in play, pray that all your actions may be such that you will not be ashamed of them, ask God to bless your family, your friends and the priests and workers of the Church Railway Mission. This will only take a few minutes, but your prayers will help you yourselves and many others. Will you all try?

Now a few remarks on last quarter’s questions: Several children have lost marks because they omitted to give their standard at school, and many were careless about numbering their answers. Don’t write out the questions, it is waste of time. Some of the answers were very good, but a great many were careless and marks in consequence were lost needlessly.

Only one gave the correct answer to the meaning of the second temptation of Jesus. When the devil asked Jesus to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple he wanted Jesus, because God had promised that His Angels would always be ready to help Him, to do a very unnecessarily dangerous thing (what we would call “showing off”). From this we learn that we must not do foolish things which we know to be wrong and stupid, and expect God to keep us safe. One more thing: at the Baptism of Jesus it was the Holy Spirit of God Who came in the form of a dove to give power; several said “a spirit came down.”

I was glad to have so many letters of thanks for prizes and certificates; never forget to write and say “Thank you” when you have received anything.

Etta McFarlane, the Light for the Line is 2/6 a year, post free; the magazine is published quarterly. Thank you for the riddles.

John le Roux, I shall be very glad if you will continue doing the questions after leaving school. Let the children’s secretary know where to send your Children’s Page.

I am very sorry the Children’s Pages were late for Trappes Valley last quarter,
but there were numerous changes taking place and something was sure to go wrong. Marion Cawood, thank you for your good wishes for Christmas. I hope you had a very happy time.

Notice the Children’s Secretary’s change of address: 29 Ebden Street, Queenstown.

Your affectionate friend,

The Editor.

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MR. SMITH ON THE N.C.C.R.

The Parsonage,
Naauwoort,
6th Dec., 1923.

My dear Children,

The Head of the South African Church Railway Mission has asked me to write some account of our work on the New Cape Central Railway. The N.C.C.R., as perhaps you know, is called the Garden Route, and its 200 miles of line runs through very beautiful country from Worcester to Mossel Bay, through Robertson, Swellendam, Heidelberg, Riversdale and Albertina and over the Gouritz River Bridge. When one has lived for a long time in the high, dry and brown and dusty Karoo it is very refreshing to take a journey through a country of green fields and rivers of running water.

Naauwoort to Robertson is a long journey of 490 miles and proved an interesting one to me. Just before I started we had a heavy downpour of rain and Naauwoort roads resembled rivers. I really thought I should get drenched through on my way to the station. However, the rain stopped before I started and I got down dry shod; although my bags which left before me did get wet. Usually the journey takes 27 hours. This one took 55. When I woke up the following morning we should have been somewhere near a siding called Gemsbok; instead of that we were only at Fraserburg Road Station, and had been there two or three hours. Then it was I heard there had been a washaway up the line and that we could not get away until it had been repaired—and that would be—when? Well! perhaps midnight. There we were then, stranded on the veld with another train and with nothing to do except to see the voters recording their votes (for it was Provincial Council election day), watch some lawn tennis, and eat when meal times came around. The only other diversion was the breakdown train carrying boys and sleepers and ballast. There was a travelling company of entertainers at Fraserburg Road that night, but we could not go to their performance as the news had filtered through that we might leave at 8 o’clock. The first train left at 7.30 p.m. We got away at 8.40 and proceeded slowly for five or six miles, and very slowly indeed while passing over the damaged track. When we had passed this we came to Kruidfontein, where we found a down train waiting to cross. Everybody in the one train rushed to see everybody in the other and to ask “How long have you been held up?” This train had been delayed for 19 hours—two and a half hours longer than we had.

As we steamed slowly into the station some ladies in the other train saw me and said, “Look! There’s Mr. Smith. Hullo! Mr. Smith.” I wonder who they were. For I could not recognise them in the dark. I expect I shall meet them again somewhere some day and then I shall know. In South Africa one meets friends in the most unexpected places. For example, when I began our work on the N.C.C.R. I met some coloured people whom I had known years before right up in Namaqualand, and one of the guards on the N.C.C.R. used to live in Naauwoort.

Soon after leaving Kruidfontein I went to bed. The next morning the ticket examiner called me early and said we would be in Worcester in half an hour. At 6 o’clock, on a lovely morning, I stepped off the train; but my journey was not yet completed and I had another long wait of 18 hours; this time amidst beautiful surroundings, for
Worcester is encircled with magnificent mountains.

After a happy day spent with the Priest in temporary charge of Worcester I began the last lap of my long journey and boarded the train once more at 7 p.m. en route for Robertson, which we reached that same evening at 9 o'clock. Here I discovered that my troubles were not yet over; for the Mission Coach which had been dispatched had not arrived, and would not arrive till very late that night. This turned out to be the last of the obstacles in my attempt to reach Robertson—an obstacle quickly overcome, for a comfortable bed elsewhere was soon kindly put at my disposal; and after a good night I was ready for duty next morning.

On my arrival at the station I found the motor trolley and the driver, which the General Manager had kindly provided for me, already waiting. It only required a few minutes to pack in my luggage and then we were off. To travel by motor trolley along the railway is a pleasant way of travelling and of getting to the gangers and labourers along the line. At times there may be some excitement. On my first trip everything went well till the fifth day, when we had a little trouble with one of the wheels. Not a puncture, for the trolley has iron wheels and tyres. After we had left the station some miles behind we noticed that the left front wheel was wobbling, and on examination we found that we had lost a nut and had broken one or two bolts. Then came the difficulty of making good and the uncertainty of getting to our destination as we had arranged. This was most important as we had been told we must reach Albertina by a certain time in order to allow a special train to pass us there. So you can imagine how exciting the rest of the journey was, what with the patching up of the wheel, the loss of time in making it good, our own effort to make up lost time, and the knowledge that we were in danger of being run into from behind by the special train if we did not succeed in making our destination not too long after the time we had arranged. Fortunately our temporary repairs held and we arrived in good time before the train. After a hasty supper in moonlight and lantern light we made a really good repair and at length reached Mossel Bay in fine style.

Now you will want to know how we work along the N.C.C.R. What we do is this. When we are ready to start we go to the station master and ask how far we can go and what time we must get there, because there may be trains in the section and they must not be delayed. Therefore we run according to an arranged time-table so that the trains may cross or pass us.

Then when we have got our written instructions off we go till we meet a gang or a cottage. Here we stop and have a little sermon or talk and after prayer run on to the next gang or cottage. If the gang is quite near a cottage we all go into the ganger's cottage for our little service.

Every gang consists of a ganger, a second man, and three or four “boys” as the labourers are called. The ganger lives in the largest cottage and always keeps a pig, which sometimes will keep on grunting just outside the door when we are having service and then he has to be moved off.

Each ganger has charge of about six miles of line and the cottages are generally that distance apart. So you see it means that we have one or two little services every six miles.

You will, I know, be very glad to hear that the people welcome the visits and services from the Church Railway Mission. Many of them are five, ten or fifteen miles from the nearest church, and as a large number of cottages are midway between the stations and sidings they have very few visitors. It is practically impossible for their own parish priest to visit them at all, because the train never stops at the cottages. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that at the conclusion of every little service the ganger said as I was leaving, “Thank you, sir, for your service. When are you coming again?” Only they said it in Cape Dutch. The only answer I could
give them was this: "I don't know. I live such a long way off; but I will come again as soon as I can."

Yours sincerely,
EDMUND D. SMITH.

VICTORIA BIBLE READING.
QUESTIONS.

JANUARY, 1924.

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 March 10th, to The Children's Secretary, 29 Ebden Street, Queenstown.

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.

In this quarter’s questions we shall try to really understand that our Elder Brother wants us to work for Him and that His wish for us is to have strong healthy bodies and souls, and if we will work with Him and for Him He will give us strength and health through prayer and the Holy Spirit, Who is willing to be our constant Companion. I hope we all remembered to thank our Father on Christmas morning for sending Jesus into the world as a little Baby just to show how we should live our lives. If we did not think of Jesus on His Birthday we were very ungrateful to Him. Don't you think so?

SENIORS (Standard 5 and over).

Maximum of marks, 50.)

1. Read St. Matt. 4, v. 18 to 22.
   (a) What did Jesus do at the beginning of His Ministry which shows that He wants just ordinary people like you and me to help Him?
   (b) Who did Jesus call to work with Him?
   (c) What did Jesus mean by saying "I will make you fishers of men"?

2. St. John 1, v. 35-42.
   (a) What name did St. John the Baptist give to Jesus?
   (b) What great news did Andrew tell his brother Simon Peter?
   (c) What do we call those people who try to spread the Gospel?
   (d) What name did Jesus give Simon Peter?

   What other men did Jesus call to follow Him?

   (a) Give a full account, in your own words, of the first miracle that Jesus did.
   (b) What effect did this miracle have on the disciples?

   (a) What did Jesus do when He went up to Jerusalem for the Passover?
   (b) For whose honour was Jesus very jealous?

   To what great event in His Life did Jesus refer in this passage?

   (a) What work did Jesus do in Galilee?
(b) Do you think Jesus wishes us to have sick bodies? Give the reason for your answer.

Why did Jesus say He came to the earth?

(a) Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus by night?
(b) Of what great Sacrament did Jesus speak? (verses 3 and 5).

(a) To what great event of His Life does Jesus refer in verse 14?
(b) Why did our Father send His Son into the world?

11. St. John 1, v. 6-9, and 8, v. 12.
(a) Who is meant by “the Light” and who bore witness of that Light?
(b) What did Jesus say about Himself and those who follow Him?

JUNIORS (under Standard 5).

(a) Who did Jesus see as He walked by the Sea of Galilee?
(b) What were these men doing?
(c) What did Jesus say to them?
(d) How soon did the men go with Jesus?

Who else did they call to follow Jesus?

(a) What three kinds of work did Jesus do in Galilee?
(b) Who did the people of Syria bring to Jesus?
(c) What did Jesus do for the sick people?

(a) Why did God, our Father, send Jesus down to the world?
(b) What work did Jesus do for the world?—that means for everybody.

Why did Jesus tell us He had come into the world?

(a) What name did Jesus give Himself?
(b) What reward do we have now if we follow Him?

(a) What was happening at Cana of Galilee?
(b) Who was invited to the wedding?
(c) What was wanted at the feast?
(d) How did Jesus help the ruler of the feast?
(e) What did the ruler of the feast say to the bridegroom?
(f) Who knew what Jesus had done?
(g) What was the result of the first miracle?

(a) For what feast was Jesus going up to Jerusalem for the second time?
(b) What were the people doing in the Temple?
(c) What did Jesus do?
(d) For whose honour was Jesus so jealous?

Results of Victoria Bible Reading Quarterly Examination.

OCTOBER QUARTER.

SENIORS (maximum of marks 50).
A. Slabbert 48, F. Killian 48, E. Slabbert 46, C. McFarlane 47, M. Shelton 46, E.
BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Sandflats:
Nov. 17. Amy Ruth Lovemore.
Dec. 10. Rita Raymond Pullen.

At Selborne:
Nov. 28. Prudence Lesley Bonny.
Priscilla Mary Bonny.

At Clevendon:
Nov. 29. John Arthur Persse.

At Ripon:

At Nieuwpoort:
Sept. 16. Donald Bright.

At Rosmead:

At Norvalspont:
Sept. 11. Phyllis Nicholas.

At Cookhouse:

At Dohne:

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

At Belmont:

At Warrenton:
Sept. 2. Irine Melville Robinson.

At Magopella:
Sept. 7. Andrew Kruger.

At Palla Road:

At Windsorton Road:

At Palapye Road:

DIOCESE OF N. RHODESIA.

At Magoye:
Nov. 6. William Andrew Denchfield.

At Chisamba:
Desmond Vere Bowles Hunt.

At Kalomo:

At Lusaka:
Nov. 25. Olga Robina Lindholm Thomas.
Hugh Geoffrey Armitage.

Junior.


Riddles.

What tree grows near the sea?—The beech.

What tree is useful for keeping tools in?
The box.

If the forest were to be burned down, what would remain?—The ashes.

What bell never rings?—A dumb-bell, of course.

What tree is full of food?—The pan-try.

Which is the oldest tree in the world?—The elder tree.
HOLY MATRIMONY.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Norvals Pont, Oct. 30:
Samuel Sant and Sophia Allie.
Jacob Pienaar and Sinna Louw.

At Nauwpoort, Nov. 28:
Anthony Theunissen and Tinnie Estrice.

BURIAL.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Alicedale, Oct. 8:
John Ashwell, aged 72.

CONFIRMATIONS.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

At Warrenton, Sept. 25:
John Dawson.
William Lewarne.
Archie Lewarne.
Frank Strong.
Peter Strong.
Bessie Strong.
Sidney Strong.
Edward Strong.

At Mahalapye, Oct. 16:
Henry Devilliers.
Albert Devilliers.
Peter Devilliers.
Martha Devilliers.
Hilda Mackenzie.
Elsie Mackenzie.
Lawrence Bekker.

At Kraaipan, Oct. 17:
Corfieldius Jansen.
Ella Jansen.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

KIMBERLEY DIOCESE.

September.—Warrenton Village, 20/10; Warrenton Station, 7/-; Mahalapye, 25/3; Taungs, 8/6; Content, 14/9; Palla Road, 18/6; Cottages Palla Road to Artesia, 27/6; Artesia, 5/9; Lobatsi, 29/3; Fourteen Streams, 5/3; Windsorton Road, 15/3; Warrenton Village, 30/7; Warrenton Station, 8/-. Donations, 23/-.

Sustentation: Warrenton Station, 24/6; Mahalapye, 25/-; Lobatsi, £2/7/-.

October.—Spytfontein; 4/-; Maritzani, 2/6; Kraaipan, 18/7; Mahalapye, 10/9; Brussels, 2/6; Palla farm, £2/18/-. Palapye Road, 23/-; Fourteen Streams, 16/6; Warrenton Village, 19/9; Warrenton Station, 6/3.

Donations, 10/-.

Mahalapye children, 20/3.

Sustentation.—Palapye Road, 20/-; Warrenton Station, 40/6 (Oct. and Nov.).

November.—Mahalapye, 28/6.

December.—Palapye Road, 29/-; Gaberones, 10/3; Modder River, £3/13/8.

Donations, 7/6.

Sustentation.—Palapye Road, 20/-.

DIOCESE OF N. RHODESIA.

November.—Mazabuka, 45/9; Kaleza, 7/6; Kafue, 44/9; Broken Hill, £4/2/9; Kashitu, 28/6; Bwana Mucwba, 27/6; Ndola, 16/-; Chisamba, 10/-; Chilanga, 7/6; Lusaka, £2/10/9.

Donations, 30/-.

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