

MISSIONARY

VOL. IV.

CAPE TOWN, MAY, 1906.

No. 5

Nyassaland Mission

Dear Brother Fortner:-

On last Friday, the 9th instant, I walked to Chigumula, a native village thirty-six miles distant, accompanied by my son Paul, to see about opening the school of which I have previously written to you. We stopped there three days and held meetings, teaching twice a day, and on our return on the night of the 13th, we stopped at the post-office and found your letter bearing the date of December 17. The letter bore many post-marks, where it had been circling around in the different parts of Africa. I cannot explain why this is so; nevertheless it is true. We have received letters that have travelled for miles unnecessarily, taking many days and weeks for the same, some having even gone back as far as Madeira.

Since we were asked by the Chief of Chigumula and his people to start a school at their village, and received the promised permission from the Government, Dr. Heatherwich, the head of the Church of Scotland mission at Blantyre, has been making it very interesting for the Chief and the natives of the village, so much so that it was necessary for me to go up last Friday. Dr. Heatherwich had arrived there on Wednesday with two of his teachers, and tried to make the Chief say that he could build the school, but the Chief told him he wanted nothing to do with him. Dr. Heatherwich left his two teachers and started for home, but the Chief called him back, and told him to take his teachers with him, for they could not stay there. So they left, and when I arrived there

Friday, there was a letter from him, calling the Chief to Blantyre; but the Chief refused to go, and sent Dr. Heatherwich word that Dr. T. H. Branch, of Cholo, was coming there.

During the four meetings that were held there, I asked the people if they wanted us or Heatherwich to open the school. They all said they wanted us to open it, for we taught the Word of God, and if we could not open the school, they would not have any. On Monday morning the Chief and I went to the magistrate to get permission, as this village is on Government land and it is necessary to get their permission to open a school. The magistrate asked many questions as to where I lived, and in what District, and after I told him in the Chiromo District, he wanted to know why I wanted to come into the Blantyre District. I told him that the Word of God was not laid off into districts, and I was called to preach the gospel to every nation, and that there was a Macedonian call from this people for the gospel, and though they are at the door of Blantyre, yet all these years their calling for a teacher has been ignored. This Chief had even built a school for the Blantyre Mission people, and it stood for two years, after which it fell down without ever receiving a teacher. Just as soon as they heard that the people had called for us, then they wanted to build a school. If the Lord wills, we shall start to build there next week. You see how the Lord is working with and for us. To Him belongeth all the honour and the praise.

With Christian love to you all.

Yours in the work,

T. H. BRANCH.

Report of the Natal-Transvaal Conference

The fourth annual session of the Natal-Transvaal Conference, convened at Pretoria, April 12 to 22, with an attendance of nearly ninety persons. Comparatively little time was devoted to business, a large Committee, consisting of all the Committees, meeting separately for the consideration of this branch of our Conference work. Only such time was therefore occupied by the Conference in these matters as was necessary for passing the resolutions submitted, and for explaining them. The whole proceedings were characterised by a spirit of unity and consecration, and a deep sense of our responsibility to extend the triumphs of God's truth far and wide.

The following will show the decisions reached by the Conference:—

(1) To place on record our gratitude to the Lord for His blessings upon the work in this field during the past year.

(2) That an effort be made to revive the canvassing work in this field.

(3) That H. J. Edmed supervise the canvassing work until a suitable person can be obtained for this position.

(4) That the Pretoria Mission be continued.

(5) That we place on record our appreciation of the munificent gift of \$1,000 to our Tract Society, by the General Conference.

(6) That an effort be made to revive the sale of the *S. A. Sentinel*; and suitable persons be sought who will devote their whole time to this work.

(7) That we cooperate with the S. A. U. C. Young People's Secretary in organising Young People's Societies among our churches.

(8) That a strong effort be made to induce our members to enter upon a systematic study of the Testimonies, and to purchase these valuable books.

(9) That our workers be instructed to strictly adhere to the principle of dealing on a cash basis in all departments of our work.

(10) That all the Sabbath-school offerings be devoted to the Mission Field, supplies being paid for separately.

(11) That a call be made for funds to help build a church at Vryheid, where ground has been donated. £150 is the amount needed.

(12) That the issue of the *Flashes* (our local weekly circular letter) be continued.

(13) That our people be invited to save all their used postage stamps, and send them each quarter through their local librarian to the office, for sale in America, and that the proceeds be handed to the S. A. U. C. for mission work.

The officers for the ensuing year were as follows:—President, Pastor H. J. Edmed; Vice-president, J. C. Baumann; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Macdonald; Conference Committee, H. J. Edmed, J. C. Baumann, A. Peissner, W. F. Walters, and D. Sparrow; Tract Society Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Macdonald; Sabbath-school Secretary, Sister M. E. Robertson.

Licenses were granted as follows:—Ministerial credentials, H. J. Edmed (so ne what longsy); ministerial license, F. C. Ernst, W. H. Haupt; missionary license, M. E. Robertson, A. Edmed, A. Strachan, and F. Macdonald; teachers license, Sisters O. Pote, and M. Lawrence; colporteurs' license, C. Dixie, H. Schmidt, G. Webber, D. Sparrow, and A. Tickton.

In the financial statement, the following facts were shown: Tithes received during 1905, £680 4 11. Sabbath-school offerings, £77 9 0.

Weekly offerings, £52 11 3. Annual offerings, £24 14 9. The assets of the Conference over liabilities amount to £385 15 2. The book sales for the year, amounted to nearly £800, in spite of the many drawbacks from which the field has suffered.

Pastor Hyatt is writing a report of other phases of this good camp-meeting, so I will not trespass further on the valuable space of our MISSIONARY, except to say I am deeply thankful to God for this blessed gathering.

H. J. EDMED.

The Pretoria Camp Meeting.

Early in February Elder Edmed, with a company of workers, entered Pretoria and began labouring to get the message before the people. They secured a large shady plot of ground in a central spot, and there pitched their tent and began work. The attendance of the citizens was good, and the truth was brought before a large number of the people.

After six weeks of hard labour, twenty family tents were pitched on the grounds, and the brethren came together for a ten days' camp-meeting. There were between eighty and ninety campers, including both young and old. It was a very pretty little camp. A second large tent was pitched in which services for the Dutch-speaking people and the children were held daily.

The good Spirit of the Lord was present from the beginning, and the hearts of the people were in a condition to receive the Word. The writer, having contracted a hard cold, was unable to enter into the work with the earnestness that is demanded upon such an occasion. But the Lord came near as we sought Him, and His blessing rested upon His people.

Both Sabbaths were blessed days for us. Nearly all present renewed their consecration to God and His work. Among their number were several who had but lately begun to keep the Sabbath. This was a most

precious time for those who had just stepped out to obey the Lord.

After the close of the camp-meeting, it was our privilege to remain another week and assist Brother Edmed with the work. Several persons who are to enter the canvassing work are here also, receiving instruction. Fifteen have begun to obey, and the wrath of the dragon is being stirred. Two opposition sermons have been preached. Last night the tent was well filled with hearers to listen to a review of these sermons by Elder Edmed. The work is onward and the prospects good for Pretoria.

W. S. HYATT.

Heisterbach, Bethlehem.

We closed our threedays' quarterly meetings last Sunday evening, April 1st.

Elder Hyatt was with us. This was one of the best seasons we ever had here. The attendance was better than I expected. The Lord was with Brother Hyatt as he presented studies on holiness and church organisation, and deep impressions were made. All testified frequently at the early morning meetings and at the ordinance services to having received so much light on the subjects named.

Brethren T. P. Louwrens and P. Venter, Senr., were elected church elders, and Brother De Lange, deacon. These were duly ordained.

An old brother and sister were baptized by the writer.

The quarter produced in tithes, week of prayer and first-day offerings, the sum of £114 14s.

Brother Hyatt left for Pretoria on the 4th. To the Lord be all the praise for the foregoing.

After our meetings at Heisterbach I went to Brother Venter's farm, near Lindley, to hold services with several natives who have been interested, and who have been receiving instruction for some time. Several of our white families attended. We had good meetings all day Sabbath and Sunday, in which we were as-

sisted by Brethren Venter, Senr., T. P. Louwrens, and De Lange. I baptized seven women and one male. All were satisfied that these souls were sincere, and that they understood the step taken. The man was about eighty years of age. Being a cripple, it took him two days to journey from the farm he lives on. The testimonies of all were very impressive.

J. M. FREEMAN.

Oudtshoorn.

Dear Readers of the MISSIONARY,—

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that we commenced our tent meeting here on the 18th of April, and very soon we got into the heat of the battle. While we were putting up the tent the head D. R. minister of the place came to visit Mrs. Carew, our good landlady, found out what the tent meant, and thus before we could go out to visit the people and invite them to the meetings, they were warned and forbidden to come to the meeting; they were also threatened to be cut off from the church should they dare to come. One evening, an open air meeting, led by the reverend gentleman himself, was held close to our tent. You can guess what the object was, can't you? This, however, had just the opposite effect than what was intended, as it disgusted several of his own people. We have gone ahead as if nothing had happened, and have preached Christ, and Him crucified, and His coming again soon.

The interest and attendance are growing. Many who do not dare to come into the tent, come and stand outside, or stand some distance off, drinking in the words of truth as they penetrate the tent walls.

We have never so much realised the truthfulness of these scriptures: Rev. 12 : 17 ; Jude 3 ; Phil. 1 : 17. We ask an interest in the prayers of all God's remnant people, calling attention to the following scriptures:—Col. 4 : 2, 3 ; Eph. 6 : 19 ; 2 Thess. 3 : 1.

Our canvassers, Brethren Burton and Vermaak, are having a hard time, especially as they have lost a lot of orders. But they are taking a few more orders, and stand it all very bravely and nobly. They are a great help to us at the meetings every evening. Remember them in your prayers especially.

D. H. GROENEWALD.

May 1, 1906.

"Words from the Battle Field."

Dear readers of the MISSIONARY.—

It gives me much pleasure to be able to relate to you some of our experiences. We left Kimberley on the 28th March, coming through Griqualand West, *via* Prieska. We met with pretty fair success (considering the bad times we are living in) until we left Carnarvon, when it seemed to us that the air was thick with satanic angels, for from Carnarvon a man was sent to Loxton (being the place we made for) to warn the people, and you may be sure this man did all in his power to carry out his mission. He warned all the farms on his way. It so happened that just two hour's drive from Loxton we struck a farm about sun-down, where we obtained permission to outspan and stop over night. After having fed our animals, and just about supper time, the warner turned up, too. Of course we naturally introduced our books after supper, by way of conversation on the second coming of Christ. Although the man did not seem to be very much interested in the books, he pretended that he expected to meet us at Loxton, where he would purchase a book or two. He did not fail to warn the three families on the farm, which he did on the sly, without giving us the least indication that he was the man.

We are not giving this experience to discourage any of you from entering the great field, but to show you what you will have to contend with in case you should enter the field.

These are the experiences, brethren that make you feel you want to draw nearer to your God, to lean on His everlasting arms. "Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place." 2 Cor. 2 : 14. "When there is a continual reliance upon God, a continual practice of self-denial, the workers will not sink into discouragement. They will not worry." Test.

We would rather speak to you, face to face and tell all our experiences. All the way we have met real earnest people who are interested in the second coming of Christ and other truths we teach. We find our books even here in this scattered country. If God spares us, on our arrival at Cape Town we will get an outfit to treat the sick as we go in connection with our canvassing. We hope to relate more at a later date. We ask you all to pray for us.

Yours in the blessed hope,

B. H. and J. N. DE BEER.

Two hundred and seventy-nine copies of the *South African Sentinel* for May were sold by the young men of the College on Saturday evening, May 5.

The College has been pleased to entertain for a few days during the past month the following patrons of the school: Mr. T. H. George and two daughters, of Uitenhage; Mrs. Wocke and two children, of Bloemfontein; and Mrs. Barkensock, of Vryheid, Natal. Patrons and friends will always find a welcome at the College Home.

The reports from the workers are longer this month than usual, so we allow them to extend over and displace the usual items on the last page.

Our readers are requested to save all their used stamps and send them through their librarian at the end of each quarter to the Tract Society office. They will be sold, and the proceeds devoted to mission work. Elder Hyatt has written something on this subject, but we have no space left for it this time. Look for it next month.

South African Missionary

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Editor: - - - - O. O. FORTNER.
Kenilworth, Cape.

Union College

We have entered upon the second quarter of the school year. The students have all returned after their pleasant vacation of two weeks, eager and anxious to continue their school work. The present enrollment is seventy-eight, and twelve in the coloured department.

The industrial feature of the school is one, perhaps, not often mentioned, yet forming a most important factor in the education of our young people. Every student who comes to the College must expect to work, and all generally do; for it is by this means many are enabled to remain at school. Of the thirteen boys in this department, two are in the Printing Office; five, under the supervision of Brother Ellingworth are engaged in carpentry work and general repairs. There is much to be done continually in the up-keep of the school buildings and grounds. At present this force is remodeling the College barn, preparatory to housing the cattle for the coming winter. Other boys work upon the farms as the seasons demand. Brother Schafer, of Wellington, has given us considerable help in this line. He has just returned to his home after putting in, with the help of the students, a winter's crop of barley, turnips, carrots, etc. We are very glad to have one who takes the interest in the farm that Brother Schafer does in giving his time and labour as occasion requires. Other of our boys work in the kitchen and laundry, while two attend to the cleaning of the school rooms.

The girls in this department are kept busy with the laundry and the domestic work. Here they find plenty to do under the wise supervision of our matron, Mrs. Beckner.

Their seventeen or twenty-seven hours per week, as the case may be, are fully occupied. It is this phase of the student's school life that lends interest to their books, gives relish to their food, and health to their bones. It is this that develops and educates them for places of practical usefulness in the cause of God. But where there is one in preparation there should be twenty. The calls for our young people are more numerous than can be supplied. Never has the time been so opportune for the opening of church schools. C. H. H.

Baptism at Kenilworth

An impressive scene was witnessed in the Claremont Church on Sabbath, May 5. The following students of the College went forth in a public acknowledgement of their faith in the third angel's message: John and Sannie Birkenstock, of Vryheid, Natal; Victor Wilson, of Port Elizabeth; Agnes Staples, of Rokeby Park; Ivy Van Coller, of Cape Town; Harold and Rosalind White, Tersha and Jane Page, Willis Hyatt, and Hazel Carr, of Kenilworth. The baptism was not the result of any special effort. These young people have more or less contemplated this step for a year in the past. Our students are young, and we have moved slowly in asking them to be baptised. We have felt that a growth week by week, and month by month in the faithful performance of their school duties was a necessary preparation for this solemn and sacred step. Never have we seen such a company of young people baptised in our church, for which as teachers we have such hopes for future workers. We feel grateful to God for His blessings upon our work and for this evidence of His Spirit among us. C. H. HAYTON.

Elder Hyatt's Visit to Basutoland

Late in the afternoon of March 14th the train pulled into the station at Marseilles, O. R. C., and Elder Hyatt alighted in the midst of a dash-

ing shower of rain. We quickly got into the carriage, pulled down the storm curtains, and started toward Basutoland. We drove about forty-five minutes in the rain and then stopped for the night at a Dutch farm house. The next morning we started about 8 A. M., and out-spanning for an hour at midday, we reached Kolo at about 3 P. M.

On Sabbath Elder Hyatt preached to a good sized audience of Basutos, including the two local chiefs.

On Thursday, March 22nd, a business meeting of the Kolo company of Sabbath-keepers was called, and after an appropriate address by Elder Hyatt the company was organised into a church, J. A. Chaney being chosen elder and Mrs. Chaney treasurer and clerk. The following Sabbath after, noon we had the ordinance of humility and the Lord's supper.

We had a number of good meetings during Elder Hyatt's visit, one of the best being on Sunday afternoon, the last day of his stay. There were about 35 or 40 people present, and hanging up the Ten Commandment chart, God's message for this time was given straight, clear, and with the power of God's Spirit. I could see conviction written upon almost every one.

As it was raining a good share of the eleven days that Elder Hyatt was here, we had time to talk over the details of the work. As we sought the Lord, counselled and planned together, our courage and faith increased, and there came into our hearts a determination to do more aggressive work in giving God's message to the Basutos. We stand here, with meager facilities, facing 280,000 people, as set in their ways and as self-satisfied a people, I suppose, as can be found in Africa. The walls of prejudice, which their religious teachers have helped to build around them, seem as high and as strong as did the walls of the Canaanite cities to the twelve spies; but having the truth, and the help of the God of truth, we surely are able to go up and possess the land.

We need your prayers, brethren, to strengthen our hands for the work.

J. A. CHANEY.