

UNDATED, NO SOURCE (probably 1879 or 1880. Clipping from Scrapbook J.)

SALE OF WORK.—On Thursday evening a sale of work towards the defraying of the fittings of St. Alban's church was held in the new store of Messrs. Henwood & Roseveare, kindly lent by that firm for the occasion. The building is a very suitable one for a public gathering, being large, lofty, well ventilated, and with boarded floor, while the exterior makes it one of the most noticeable buildings in the town. The stalls had the usual quantity of knick-knacks useful and ornamental, and good trade was done by the fair vendors during the evening, while a book-stall with a select quantity of food for the mind, suggested the refreshment-stall, where there was abundance of material nourishment. Stalls were kept by the following ladies:— Miss Mears and Miss Melville; Mrs. Smithers and Miss Smithers; Mrs. Mears, assisted by Miss James; Mrs Winstanley and Miss Lys; Mrs. Surtees and the Misses van Leenhof. The refreshment-stall was presided over by Mrs. Brooks, Miss Russell and Mrs. Melvill, while Mrs. Taylor dispensed tea and coffee. The book-stall was kept by Mr. Adams. The Band of the 2-21st played an excellent selection and several songs were sung throughout the evening. The Committee and the energetic Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Russell, are to be congratulated on the success of the affairs, the proceeds having amount to about *200. As we write, we hear that the Bazaar was to have been continued yesternight.

[The Transvaal Advertiser? 1879?][Clipping in Scrapbook J]

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The Transvaal Advertiser, 17 February 1883 [clipping from Scrapbook J]

BIRTH—At the Parsonage, Lydenburg, on the 8th February, the wife of the Rev. HENRY ADAMS, of a son.

MISS LAMB IN "NET", 1 FEBRUARY 1883 [clipping from Scrapbook J]

"Mr. Adams, a young man who went out with the Bishop, is working at Lydenburg, and, I believe, is doing well with his church and school."

The Transvaal Advertiser, 4 August 1883 (also clipping in Scrapbook J)

NOTES FROM LYDENBURG

(From our own Correspondent)

July 31st, 1883

We have had quite an influx of strangers here lately, especially from the Diamond Fields, all drawn to this new Eldorado by the reports of the riches which lie buried in the ground, and all anxious to have a share in developing our mineral wealth and appropriating the profits accruing therefrom. So far not much profit has been realised from working any of the concessions which the Government so

wildly granted, and it will probably be some months before any of the concessions yields any returns.

...I do not mean to say that there is not lots of gold up here, but it wants looking for, and that means money in prospecting, which is what many of the speculators in "refusals" here cannot afford to do. A little prospecting is being done, however, and gold is being found now in places where, twelve months ago, diggers would laugh at the idea of putting a pick in the ground.

...Now come back to our town. We have a most energetic man in our clergy, the Rev. Mr. Adams. He is indefatigable in organizing, and is never happy unless he is "getting up" something.

A Bazaar is his latest, and it is almost impossible to go into a house in town where you won't find the ladies busy making something or other, useful or the reverse, for the bazaar.

It is expected to be held in a few months.

I am sure Mr. Adams will be only too glad to have some contributions from his old Pretoria friends.

Let them remember it is for the church and I feel confident Mr. Adams will require an extra post-cart to bring the Pretoria gifts for our Bazaar.

But Mr. Adams thinks the Bazaar too far off, and we can't wait so long for money, so, as the Church wants plastering and the people are so backward at coming to service that a monster bell is required to summon them, the present bell being one that you would put in your pocket – he has had two concerts for the benefit of the "English Church Improvement Fund".

The first one about six weeks ago I cannot say much about, as I was on my travels and missed it.

The second one was held in the Schoolroom on the 3rd July, and there were about 100 persons present, the fund benefitting to the amount of about ten pounds.

I hardly like to say all I think about the different performers, or I should never hear the end of it; so I shall not say anything at all further than that it was a very successful affair, encores being the order of the evening. We had about two- and-a-half hours of it, and a very pleasant evening indeed we had.

I did not perform at the Concert, which, knowing as you do, my dear Mr. Editor, my musical proclivities, may surprise you. But you must not think that the Advertiser's "Own Correspondent" tried to shirk his duty. No, indeed. That my name did not appear in the programme happened in this way.

I had quite made up my mind to sing, and was congratulating myself in advance on being the bright particular star of the evening, and had even got two or three encore songs read, when one night, shortly before the eventful evening, Mr. Adams heard me practising my song, which by the way, was a duet. I thought I had done it splendidly and was preparing myself to receive everybody's congratulations with as much becoming modesty as I could raise on such short notice, when Mr. Adams, smiling beneficently quietly murmured "You really must give us a *reading* at the Concert, Mr. Correspondent!"

I draw a veil over my feelings.

So you see I cannot say everybody sung badly, or they would say it was jealousy, and I cannot say everybody sang well, for I cannot tell a lie - at least I can, but I won't.

[*Transvaal Advertiser?*] 28 October 1883 [clipping from Scrapbook J]

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA – The Synod of the Diocese meets to-day (Saturday) at 9.a.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated, the roll called, the Synod opened, and the Bishop's charge delivered. At half-past eleven the Synod will meet again for full organization, and to make arrangements for its future sittings. We observe that most of the Lay Representatives are Pretoria gentlemen, but the Clergy of the Diocese, some eleven in number, are expected from their several cures. From the agenda paper we gather that the Synod will be chiefly occupied in arranging for the ordinary affairs of the year, but one important matter stands out from the rest, the provision of a body of Canons for the Diocese, which has occupied the attention of a Committee this week. We hear that at all services or meetings the public are welcome, unless the Synod should otherwise determine. On Sunday (to-morrow), at 11 a.m., the Holy Communion will be the occasion of the ordination of the Rev. H.

Adams, Curate of Lydenburg, to the Priesthood. As he is well known to many here, the service will possess a personal interest for some.

[*Transvaal Advertiser?*] October 1883 [clipping from Scrapbook J]

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA – The Synod of this Diocese met, as announced in our last issue, on Saturday last, the 28th ult. On that day the Holy Communion was celebrated by Prebendary Clulee, assisted by the Revds. A Roberts and P.I.O. Minos. After the Creed, the Registrar called the roll, and the Chancellor read the Canons, &c., of the recent Provincial Synod, and the Bishop then delivered his charge. At half-past eleven the Synod re-assembled for formal organization and arranged for its future sittings. These commenced the same evening, and have continued every evening since, except Wednesday. A morning service was held on Thursday, and an afternoon on Tuesday. As the Synod went almost immediately into committee on a proposed code of Canons, the discussions have been on details too many, and some too minute, for public interest. Its more solemn duties have been relieved by a soiree given especially to welcome its members, and celebrate socially its session, and a garden party at Bishops Cote, given by the Bishop and Mrs. Bousfield. On Sunday at eleven a.m. the ordination of the Revd. H. Adams, of Lydenburg, to the Priesthood, took place. The Bishop preached and celebrated the Holy Communion, singing the Litany also. The unusual number of clergy present gave to this service a special interest and solemnity.

Volkstem, 15 June 1885 [clipping from Scrapbook J]

LYDENBURG

(From a Correspondent)

Whew-w-w!! another week of dissipation! A concert – certainly excellent – for the benefit of Mother Church. A bazaar – also for *mater*. I am completely done up.

“The delights of Capria!” but, you must not laugh too soon! I have discovered a secret about gold, and I shall make it “Punch’s secret” – to be known by everyone: - with what ultimate views they may have I know not, but there are now in our midst vendors of fish, who persistently cry: “stinking fish ! stinking fish !”, - so – they can’t sell it – but – they intend to eat it themselves !!! (verb. Sap.)

However – (adjective) all these – (adjective) – gold questions. I don’t want to know any more about them. I want to get back to my concert and bazaar. They wanted me to sing at the concert; but, I was mercifully inclined and refused. (This must account for the good state of health in the district.) I however undertook to play the violin. This was a great mistake, for there was such a commotion among the canines and felines, never remembered since the first earthquake, in the time of the first Lydenburg Republic – (nothing meant). Stafford Parker offered to buy the violin at once – any price – on condition that I “would never play on it again – or borrow it, except,” he added, “we should be in peril of an enemy – then he would back it, in my hands against ten Gattlings to drive any number of people to desperation.” I need not tell you I felt a little piqued at this way of putting it, nevertheless, there was a rapturous refusal to hear me again.

The programme was well selected and had to begin with a glee, but did not, owing to the recalcitrant behaviour of a lady who I must excuse, however, upon the plea that her charming appearance when she came must have given her Phyllis more than usual pains. To calm the impatience of a large and select audience, I was pounced upon to give my musical lecture ad interim – a fatal mistake- for I sent all the people to sleep in three minutes and incurred the malignance of the clergy, who seem now to look upon me as a dangerous rival.

The *solis* given were more than good, and, as a sample of talent among us, could fairly compare with Pretoria – (in tennis and cricket too – and you may take this as a challenge if you so please).

After my lullaby the glee came on, well sung by Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bowners (the recalcitrant), Messrs. May and Tomes. Then followed well rendered songs by Miss Bancroft, Mr. Tomes, Mrs. Bowners, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Ashton, Mrs. Pritchard and Miss F. Dorey. I am not given to call spades clubs, and never revoke, but still I will not individualize merits – I will tell you chiefly why – I will not give “the apple” yet, because I want to hear them all again – every one of them. But to Mrs. Dorey

and Mrs. Fraser as most excellent artistes, and accompanists, I give each a bushel of apples at once – for taste, tact and judgment. I have three shafts left in my quiver; I have reserved them for Miss Cubitt, Messrs. Davies and Torrente. They are such excellent amateurs, *quasi* artistes, that they can afford and rub, and it may do them good and thereafter increase our pleasure in listening to them. Miss Cubitt is a brilliant mezzo-soprano, with a facility of execution which she is not yet aware of – she has not yet well tried her wings – she must plume them by scales and exercises – and not by learning namby-pamby songs. Mr. Davies is a light tenor, what the French call “*tenor leger*” with a very agreeable voice and a *moto* of *go* in him, that might be developed, under good advice, to passionate renderings, without forcing his voice. His duet with Miss Cubitt (Travatore) was most admirable, and will prove what I have said of these two amateurs. M. Torrente (accompanied by Mrs. Dorey) played very exquisitely a fantasia from Norma; he wants the divine fire of expression – an admirable mechanist, on the instrument – he might take a lesson from the romantic school. He met with a well-deserved success.

Mr. Franck Sr., blew a trumpet, and I then realized most vividly how the walls of Jericho came to fall at the bray of trumpets – but thanks! The walls of our concert-room were strong, and only the foundations were slightly disturbed – but when he sang a song with a *refrain*:- “Whack fol-de-ri-do” we wanted to leave, like Lot, and none look behind us.

This is enough now. I told you that Paardeplaats would work. Well it is working – and with excellent machinery and powerful engines, rivals the post-office in lifting stamps; there is, however, this difference in the Paardeplaats and post-office stamps; the Paardeplaats stamps cannot be licked – “by creation”- as the Yankees say.

Several interesting events here. Twins and singlets. Population increasing. Wife beating most successfully introduced. Great dismay at General Warren’s successes! We want money. Please tell us, most positively, whether we are not to have a bloody war? You must know that we all want it badly. Advise, please, that we are prepared to do all burials and to “cure” souls – but we must have the “dibs”.

The bazaar was very successful and the Church netted a nice little sum. I need not add that there were some very pretty little humbugs there, who with false and winning smiles robbed you of half-crowns for a button-hole. The female swindlers here, in such case, rival yours of Pretoria – it is simply abominable!

EXTRACTS FROM PRETORIA DIOCESAN OCCASIONAL PAPERS AND AS REPRINTED IN MISSION FIELD

Occasional paper 6 and Mission Field, April 2 1883 (as per scrapbook J notation)

It will be remembered that a gold field had been discovered near the important town of Lydenburg. The Missionary there, the Rev. H. Adams, says that

“Everything has had to give way to this discovery. At the present moment the Kaap Fields have a population of 400 ; 1,000 are reported as having left already, disappointed.

“Opinions differ as to the probably future of these fields – some think they will be deserted in six months’ time, others that eventually a small but settled community will be established there.

“The Rev. C.M. Ellingham has recently been sent by the Bishop to minister to the spiritual needs of the diggers.

“I have alluded to these new Fields because they affect Church work at my station. Many of my parishioners are working at them, many are frequently travelling to and from them, and whole families have resided there.

“Notwithstanding these drawbacks, our Church and her organisations continue to improve. A year ago I informed you that the average congregation at morning and evening service was sixty – it is now eighty-four; the average Sunday School attendance was twenty-four – it is now thirty. We then had a population of 250; it is now 237. Of that number 100 are members of our Church, eighty-four of the Dutch Reformed, twenty of the Roman Catholic, twelve of the Lutheran, three of the Presbyterian, and eighteen are Wesleyans.

“The English Church has been established here seven years, and although during the first six the population was larger and business more prosperous than that of the seventh, the year under review stands third in the list of offertories.

“The figures quoted speak of progress, and I am very glad to be able to add that there are many signs of growth in Christian consistency and spirituality, corresponding with outward appearances. It is, however, still the day of small things here,; the Church has to fight hard against then curse of intemperance and much practical irreligion.”

The Gold Fields, though near enough to Lydenburg to produce no little effect upon its population, are too far off (thirteen hours’ journey) to be under Mr. Adams’ care. Mr. Ellingham, whom, as we have seen, the Bishop has sent to them, describes the De Kaap Gold Fields as...

[end of clipping]

Occasional paper VII page 3, July 1883, by the Bishop

(clipping in Scrapbook J)

Mr. Adams writes cheerfully of the Gold Fields, and of the improved earnestness of his people at Lydenburg. With his usual energy he has formed a ‘Church Workers’ Association,” which would seem to have made a great change for good. One section takes care of the Church; another, the Cemetery; a third, the Choir; a fourth, the Young. “Mutual Improvement” is the aim of another division, which includes in its means of improvement not only books and lectures, but games and athletic sports. The ladies are uniting for the improvement of the Church, and a Communicants’ Class seems bearing good fruit.

From Pretoria Diocesan Occasional Paper No. VIII, April 1884, page 15 [scrapbook J]

REPORT OF REV. HENRY ADAMS,

Missionary at Lydenburg.

At last the war with the Mapoch tribe is over, and we have again our full complement of population. Our town is taking heart once more; every house is occupied, three new ones have lately been erected, five more are soon to be built, as well as a monster wholesale store. The hotels and boarding houses are always full, and visitors are constantly arriving in post carts, spiders and waggons. Two Sunday evenings ago we had 29 visitors at the Church service. During the last quarter our population has been increased by 60 or 70 persons. I believe this is the only Transvaal town that can point to progress just now; indeed, judging from the local Press, the commercial state of the whole of South Africa is at a very low ebb. How long we are to prove an exception none can pretend to say.

As a Church we are endeavouring to "make hay while the sun shines," by actively canvassing the well-to-do visitors for subscriptions for Church improvement. During the last three months we have raised *80 for this object. The inside walls of our Church have been thoroughly cleansed and put in order at a cost of *5 5s; the exterior plastered and rough cast; for the latter we have yet to pay *94.

But while some of the visitors can and do help us, others (would-be diggers) arrive here penniless and without friends to assist them; sick, as well as helpless and poor, they are directed to the English Clergyman. After a few days rest and refreshment, they generally leave for the Gold Fields with some sort of reference to successful diggers. Recognising these frequent claims on my purse, "Thankful," a few Sundays ago, placed *5 5s in the Offertory, "for the poor and indigent of the town and district of Lydenburg."

But the chief and most joyous event of the past quarter to myself and parishioners, was the visit of our Bishop. This time his Lordship spent nearly ten days in our town and, though the visit was three times longer than the former one, yet each day seemed all too short for the work which had to be accomplished.

The members and friends of the Church assembled twice in social meeting to greet their Chief Pastor; the communicants had their own special gathering; the confirmees met twice for instruction and devotional exercises; the Young Men's Society entertained his Lordship at tea; the Day School sat a day for examination; the Sunday School had its share of attention; a chancel and alterations and additions to the Church furniture showed plainly the Bishop's presence in our midst; a special thanksgiving service for the successful termination of the war was held, and the offertory devoted to the Diocesan Hospital Fund; seven persons were confirmed – two adults, each exceeding 40 years of age, and five young men. At the conclusion of the confirmation service 27 persons communicated – more than a fourth of the baptized members of our Church. This is another proof of a statement made by the Bishop, at the first Diocesan Synod, that "our proportion of communicants is larger than at home."

His Lordship's visit has conducted to practical usefulness and Christian edification; and, under the Divine blessing will, I feel sure, promote in us a livelier apprehension of our privileges and duties.

The larger congregations, offertories and subscriptions of the last quarter, and a greater readiness to assist in Church work, are signs, I trust, that the people are valuing more highly the privilege of being in communication with that Holy Church which God has taken into covenant with Himself for Christ's sake.

Diocese of Pretoria

Occasional Paper No. 9

November 1884

Pp25-26

Report of the Rev. H. Adams, Missionary at Lydenburg, for the quarter ending June 30th, 1884.

I am glad to report that Church prospects are becoming brighter at my Station. In June, 1882, our population was 170 ; it is now 374. The attendance at Church is far better than might be expected from an infant colony's small town. If it is true that in London not two per cent attend a place of worship, and in Berlin only two per cent, then Lydenburg compares most favourably. 180 persons are to be found in our Churches every Sunday, 50 being Roman Catholics do not attend them and 80 are under Church-going age; this leaves 64 to be accounted for. Many of these latter are visitors for short periods of time, attracted hither by our Gold Fields, men not easy to get at, and men, moreover, who persist in Sunday travelling. So that, possibly, the Dutch Church and our own may have to account for about 20 each who do not attend the public worship of God.

Our Offertory, too, is excellent – it is 6d. per head, or 1s. per seat, per week. Mackeson's Guide to the Churches of London gives the Offertories of 50 Churches at 1 1/4d. per seat, per week, and of the 9 richest Churches at 11d. per seat, per week.

Our last quarter's Offertory was the largest of the past three years – a sure sign of the progress of the Church.

On Easter Day the Church was very prettily decorated. Full choral services were held at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Holy Communion was celebrated twice in the morning – 25 communicated. At the 11 service 80 persons were present, the largest congregation on record.

In April we held our first Bazaar. The Lord Chief Justice of the Transvaal kindly opened it, in a speech at once practical and religious. The stalls were laden with 600 articles, laid out in the most tempting manner. Our gifts were valued at *57. Mrs. Bousfield was by far the greatest contributor; her valuable box was the making of the Bazaar. *81 were taken during the day. This sum, after deducting cost of purchases, &c., was placed to the credit of "The Church Improvement Fund".

Since my last report our Church building has been beautified by the addition of pretty gifts of furniture, hangings, texts, chancel carpet, &c. It is now pronounced by visitors to be far prettier than very many Cape Colony Churches. I am very glad to hear this, because I know that a comfortable and pretty Church will always attract many who do not attend the public worship of God from motives of duty and gratitude. Once get them to Church and they must receive good – holy inspirations, new loves, and devout hopes, under God's blessing, will be sure to follow.

Report of Rev. Henry Adams

Curate of Lijdenburg, to the Committee of "The Transvaal Mission"

[Scrapbook J – "From Occasional Paper No. 10"]

For the Quarter ending December 31st, 1884

We generally look for an Episcopal visit about October. October came, and we were greatly disappointed, although the Bishop did pay us the visit. The fact is, his Lordship's visit was all too brief – just one clear day.

Much was, however, done in the time. The Confirmees were addressed and four Church services held. Three adults and five young persons were confirmed. Last year I presented two aged adults and give others. In this outpost, few advanced in years care to make any outward expression of religious or Church feeling; I therefore ever hail the Confirmation of adults as a very hopeful sign of the progress of Church and spiritual life.

On Wednesday, October 15th, our Church of St. John the Evangelist, being then out of debt, was consecrated. A process of Bishop, curate, and sixteen men and boys, surpliced, moved round the grounds and up the aisle of the church, chanting Psalms XXIV, LXXXV AND CXXXII. The offertory was good, but the congregation very small considering the importance of the occasion. It is difficult to get together a congregation on a week day; even the eloquence of our Bishop fails to induce the people to leave their ordinary grooves and convert a week day into a Sunday, as they would term it.

Christmas was observed in a more Church-like manner than ever. Everything was on a larger scale – decorations, singing, offertories, attendances, and number of Communions made.

The church looked simply lovely. Bright with beautiful flowers and glowing with many hues, the alter was as handsome as human hands could render it. Twenty-two tapers of various sizes sent forth their radiance at Evensong, and flooded the Sanctuary with a glow of light. The font, lectern, reading desk, fauld-stool, and pulpit received considerable attention. The services were fully choral and large congregations joined heartily in them. The morning ... offertory was more than double the largest on record. At the two celebrations the number of Communions made were more than double those of last Christmas, although the ro[?] of communicants remains the same total. May God graciously grant that the deeper spiritual feelings aroused on that day bring forth much fruit to His glory.

During the quarter I raised *41 towards our bell. In four months I have reduced the debt by *81 – it is now *14. The offertories for the quarter were *10 higher than that of any quarter of the last ten years, i.e. from the commencement of the Church in this town.

We have good reason to be grateful when we review 1884 for a glance at the statistics show that "victory ran along the whole line". I select only two items, lest more weary you. The attendances at church shown an increase of 700 and the offertories of *27 over the highest recorded!

Lydenburg has had a priest for such a short time that the number of Communicants cannot be compared for any length of time. They are, however, steadily on the increase, showing 72 this, against 36 of last quarter.

The difficulties in the way of working a parish containing such a movable population as ours, are very many and great. I list two items. Two months ago we had 44 Communicants; removals have reduced the number to 33. During the six weeks before Christmas eleven members of our choir left the town. The work of training them, if not thrown away, was certainly lost to our parish. Newcomers then have to be persistently worked up and trained. Just as they are getting into the groove of the choir, Sunday or day school, attending services and Holy Communion, they leave for another town.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks and the temporary depression they cause, the parish has prospered. God has greatly blessed us else I could never have quoted to you growing figures, and these figures are, I believe, signs and proofs of something higher and better – of stirrings in religious life, of spiritual progress, of a deeper and stronger faith.