

SOUTHERN AFRICA.—NATAL.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. W. H. Milward, dated Indaleni, April 14th, 1869.

REVIVAL AND MARVELOUS CONVERSION.

In my last letter I referred briefly to a gracious work of God which had appeared at Mr. Hulley's place, in New Ginqualand, about fifty miles from Indaleni. When I visited the Society there last September, I found that several of the members were apparently quickened to newness of spiritual life: and my visit was fraught with blessing to myself, and, I trust, also to them. Shortly after I left, copious blessings from on high were shed forth upon them, and several among the heathen around began to inquire concerning the way of salvation. In the midst of this, two Native Local Preachers from Tshungwana, where Mr. Hulley was formerly employed as a Catechist, came to visit Mr. Hulley and their native friends; and, as Mr. Hulley knew them to be men of God, and "full of the Holy Ghost and of faith," he requested them to hold a series of special services, at the neighbouring kraals; hoping, by this means, and in connexion with existing local agency, to secure a larger and more speedy in-gathering of souls to the church of God. They consented. God blessed their labours; and altogether, some sixty persons unconnected with the Christian Church professed to experience spiritual good, and sought admission as candidates for church-membership. When I visited them in January last, I had the joy of welcoming these newly-found in Jesus as co-partners in the saving grace of God, and of giving them notes on trial. That first Sunday in 1868 was to me a day of great joy and gladness; and, as I saw what wondrous things the Lord had wrought among the heathen, I was reassured that "God is no respecter of persons," and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is indeed "glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

In connection with this revival, a very remarkable instance occurred. A certain heathen man was very much opposed to the Gospel; and, hearing that his wife and other members of the family were attending a religious service at a neighbouring kraal, he started

up in anger, picked up his knob-kherries, &c., and ran to the kraal, to drive his friends from the service. I think (as far as I remember what Mr. Hulley told me) that he succeeded; but, as he was returning home, his eyes suddenly became very sore, and his sight rapidly failed. He was soon totally blind: his eyes were very painful, and remained so for some time. Medicines were applied, but in vain; and while he was thus rendered comparatively incapable of persecution, his friends attended the special services in their neighbourhood; and some of them found that the Son of man has still "power on earth to forgive sins." One day, while they were absent for such a purpose, and their prosecutor was sitting in his hut, almost foaming with madness because of his blindness and severe pain, he thought he heard a voice distinctly bidding him to pray to Jesus. Such advice made him very angry; and as the voice was a strange voice, he inquired, "Who are you? I do not know your voice." Again and again he was told to pray; but for a time he was so opposed to compliance, that he only cursed and reviled the Saviour and His people. At last, however, as he was so helpless and miserable, he thought he would try the effect of prayer; but his misery only increased. By and bye his friends returned, and he inquired of them who had been in the hut speaking such words. They told him they were not aware that any one had been there, and asked him whose voice it was. This surprised him the more, as it was now utterly unaccountable. I ought to have said, that when he inquired, "Who are you? I do not know your voice," upon receiving no reply, except a repeated invitation to pray to Jesus, he crept all round the hut, and poked with his assegai and sticks in every corner, striking fiercely here and there, for the purpose of discovering his strange tormentor. When he could obtain no clue to the mystery from his friends,—to whom he related what had happened, and who were as