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OFFICE OF
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Corner Main and Fourth Sts.



DAYTON, OHIO, Dec. 11 1903

My Dear Brother and Sister Lambert:—

I come to you with very sad tidings praying that the dear Heavenly Father may give you strength to bear and bear.

We have just received a cablegram from Africa of the death of Elsie. I feel that it will not be any easier if I write a long letter trying to lead you up to the thought, and so I come right out with the bare statement, but oh, it looks so cold, and my heart aches so for you.

The cablegram is dated Dec. 11, 1903 Sierra Leone. and contains the one code word—

"Duchetto", meaning by the code—

He. — died after a short illness.

Signed Riebel;

Only this and nothing more, we must wait a month for particulars.

We have a letter from Mr. Riebel Oct. 25, from Breton, he makes no reference to any sickness—

Mr. Snyder's letter of the day before, says we are all well.

Mr. King Oct 30. says "Mrs Richel has had a very bad cold amounting almost to Bronchitis. We had the Dr from the hospital to see her. He seems to think her very delicate and says we ought not to allow her to go up till everything is in readiness for her."

So it was arranged that the four stay at Freetown for the present.

Mrs King, Nov. 9. says - Mrs Richel is better of her cold but not quite rid of it yet. and in another letter dated Nov - but no day - "Mrs Richel still has her cold but is better of it; I think".

Now I have given you every word that we have about it. We did not feel at all alarmed, thought it was just a cold, and I knew that now is the hot, dry season there, and at the home in Freetown she would be made very comfortable - and have the Dr. right there, so I felt that all was well - and we were entirely unprepared for such a message.

It is one of the things beyond our comprehension - yet the why, oh why, thrusts itself upon our minds. "What I do, ye know not now, but ye shall know hereafter."

It is not ours to understand - we must just let it all go - and in the dark - take hold of the Father's hand - and say - I know my

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Father leads, and somehow, thought I cannot understand, it must be all right.

You do not need any words of mine - you have long known the mercy sent - and that at such times as these, there is no help except in God. Stay your hearts upon Him, and let Him lead and comfort you.

Our tears mingle with yours - your sorrow is ours too. We remember so well the beautiful spirit in which she gave herself to the work of a missionary, and her beautiful letters in the November Evangel - the last words we have from her. What her death will do for Africa and for us, we may not know, but we have the promise of the Lord that it shall not be in vain.

The hearts of our band of Trustees will be bowed down with you - and we pray that God will give you all needed grace and strength, that He will be your stay - The eternal God is

thy refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting
Arms."

We will write to Mrs. Harris, we know her so
well - the rest of dear family, the Richels
and all the friends we leave with you.

If you receive any word you will surely
let us know, and we will do the same.

In tenderest sympathy and love -

I am Faithfully -
Mrs. P. F. Witt