

we had both been transferred, & which, was to meet on the 1st of Oct. ensuing, & as much farther as his appointment would admit of.

To leave home under such circumstances, & with such an object in view, was attended with feelings & reflections of the most solemn character. The distance to the nearest Indians I expected to visit, was about 900 miles, to visit whom, & to select a site for the location of my family, would occupy 5 or 6 months, & cost me about 2000 miles travel; a good part of which must be performed in the dead of winter. Some of this time I must be separated from all white or civilized society, & the remainder of the time mostly among strangers.

Nature *had* shrunk from the task; but I stood re-proved. The fur trader, the Indian agent & the Military officer & soldier had went farther for the purposes of commerce, war & worldly business; And to think that the Ministers of Religion should be unwilling to brook the difficulties these men do, (for the sake of *money*,) for the sake of *saving souls*, is enough to cause the blush of shame.

I was also lame, & unable to walk at the time, only with crutches, from an injury I received in the heel a few weeks before. But being inspired by views & feelings, produced,

trict extending from Rock Island, Ill., to the head of the Mississippi River. In 1839, ill health caused Mr. Brunson to abandon the ministry for a time, and for ten years he held various official positions and practised law; in 1840, we find him in the territorial legislature; in 1842 he was appointed Indian agent at La Pointe, on Lake Superior; in 1850, after a defeat for a judgeship, he returned to the ministry of his church, and two years later became presiding elder of the Prairie du Chien district. For a time, commencing with 1862, he was a chaplain in the Union army, but resigned because of ill health, and finally retired from active labors in 1872. His wife had died in 1846. Dr. Brunson was fond of historical research, wrote much for both the secular and the religious press, was the author of numerous articles in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, and published two books: *A Western Pioneer* (Cincinnati, 1872), in two vols., and *Key to the Apocalypse* (Cincinnati, 1881). He died Aug. 3, 1886, in the ninetieth year of his age. His early journals and letter-books are in the possession of this Society. One of his MS. books contains the journal here published, which appears to have been written after the events narrated.—ED.