

being Sabbath. This was the first qr. meeting I held in the Western country. There were but 25 members in the church, tho' on Sabbath we have 200 in the congregation, who gave us 21 dolls. in the collection. The State of religion here, as in the rest of the dist. was at its lowest ebb. The year before one preacher had died, Francis Asbury Luggs,<sup>1</sup> who was appointed to Buffalo Grove Mission, Nichols S. Bastion, appointed to Dubuque Mission failed in his health so as to be unable to preach, & \* \* \* appointed to Iowa Mission was accused of an attempt at a rape. This left only Hooper Crews the P[residing] E[lder] & stationed in Galena to supply the *four* charges. And tho' he labored excessively, & travelled when in danger of freezing in the winter, it was imposible for him to sustain the work.

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Under these circumstances, infidelity triumphed, & religion had but a nominal existance. Add to this, the spirit of money making seemed to absorb the whole community. Money was made with the greatest facility, & spent with greatest profusion; & as a matter of course, gambling, drunkenness, &c, were the common order of the day, with the majority. The population contained a good share of intelligence & more than ordinary share of enterprise, such as would naturally be attracted by the immense wealth of the mines. But coming to the country to make fortunes, Religion, with the great majority, occupied little or no place in their thoughts. But nothing can be more certain in the world of morals, than that if religion gains the ascendancy, (which may heaven grant to be the case) so that the wealth & intelligence of the country are sanctified to the service of God, it will be one of the most wealthy & useful parts of our globe: the soil being of the best quality, & the health being of the highest grade.

*Nov. 12.* Left Galena & rode to Dubuque, & held a quarterly meeting for this mission on 14 & 15. Here I found, as in galena, a small church with about 25 members. The

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<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, p. 279, *note*.—Ed.