

C. SIoux  
CITY.

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C. Sioux City. I enclose a communication from Rev. Sam<sup>d</sup> C. Smith of Elvira, Iowa, concerning his going to Sioux City. I will write him that a month hence will answer just as well, and perhaps better than now. With the thermometer registering 22 deg below zero, but little effective canvassing or mission work can be done. Communication marked A.

III. NE-  
BRASKA.

III. Nebraska. A. Kearney.

Saturday

A. KEAR-  
NEY.

and Sunday - Decem. 20 and 21, here spent with the Mission at Kearney, and with several of the Missionaries from adjacent points. Everything, but the work already accomplished, and the bright promise for the future, though amid mountain difficulties, was discouraging and disheartening.

The weather was terrible - a keen blizzard raging most of Sunday. I froze my toes & feared also my ears and nose. One faithful member of the little flock was brought into the church nearly numb, and had to be "thawed out" by the red hot stove, and invigorated by rubbing. Members from the country could not get to the church at all, and for a time, we feared the dedication would be a failure. This would have been joy to Sambalut and Soliah, who tried to steal the whole subscription, and did greatly hinder the work, and will, no doubt, continue so to do.

On Saturday Bro. Fenler and myself visited one business man after another, labored with them, tried to interest them, collect

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their subscriptions &c. &c. He had but little success. The Sanballat and Tobiah party - which had not had a service for three or four months sent to Illinois for a man to come and preach in their unfinished church, on our dedication day, telegraphed to Chicago for stores &c. &c.

He went to the leader and wisely labored with him - tried to show him his error &c. He and the "sent for pastor" attended our English service in the afternoon, and he made the Gen'l Council pastor take part in the dedication service. He gave him a verse of scripture to read, and so "hedged him" that he was compelled to smile on us and praise the beautiful church edifice.

Pastors Andreason and Sender have had almost as much trouble in building these walls, as had Nehemiah in re-building the wall of Jerusalem. My heart goes out to this work, not alone for Kearney, but for Kearney as a "head-quarters" - a beginning of success and blessed Scandinavian work.

One thousand dollars will be needed at Kearney to make the building safe from interference. I will plead with the Board of Church Extension for a loan of \$400.00 & with friends outside of Gen'l Synod for help, so as to make this good foundation sure.

The General Council Church is unplastered, nor seated burdened with debt, and not likely to be finished. Its leader who stole our subscription is said to be very "shaky"; "embarrassed"; "hard up" &c. &c. He must, with the help of the Lord, finish the work he commenced at Kearney, and thus not

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only honor God and our General Synod, but also salute those who have said: "What do these feeble" General Synod Suth-erans?" well they fortify themselves" among a people we claim to run but have never looked after! "well they sacrifice!" "Even that which they build, if a foot go up, he shall even break down their stone wall".

KEAR-

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The Church-Building is a gem of beauty, economy and good management. It cost \$32,55.26, including organ, & all furniture.

The business depression in Nebraska & Kansas is fearful. Corn is only bringing from eight (8) to fifteen (15) cents per bushel. Money can be loaned at two per cent per month, but that means ruin to the borrower. Altogether, this trip, & these two days at Kearney were among the most disheartening ever given to the work.

KEARNEY

I think good has resulted from the visit, and good will result from it, but "the flesh" suffered to an unusual degree.

B. NEW-SWEDEN.

AND ADJACENT

POINTS.

B. New-Sweden &c. &c. I enclose a letter from Bro. Senter concerning this and several other points. I cordially endorse the application for \$75.00 to Rev. Stamer, so soon as hand is filled and sent in.

As to Pastor Hansen, I can scarcely form a judgment. He waited and waited for him for the neighborhood of New Sweden, but he delayed so long, that he was given up, and another man secured. So soon as the new pastor arrived he <sup>at</sup> appeared, and then "complained" that no field was ready for him. He is a good man, but I think he should select a definite field, and then

make his application in a regular way. Letter marked B.

C. LINCOLN - COL. N.

C. Lincoln. I have nothing from Lincoln, Neb. excepting through Dr. Conrad. He reports that Rev. Wm. Byster of Besete will preach for them occasionally, until they secure a pastor. that prayer-meetings and Sunday School are being kept up with interest &c. &c. They speak of Reschau of Wilmington N.C. Dr. C. thinks Rev. Stoll of Bedford Pa, would suit them.

III. MONTANA A. HELENA &c.

III. Montana. A. Helena & Butte City. I have an urgent letter from these points through Bro. Heilman of Denver, Col. I will answer it, asking more definite particulars.

IV. INDIANA B. INDIANAPOLIS C. MICHAMOND A. SOFANSPORT

IV. Indiana. A Sofansport B. Indianapolis. C. Michmond. I enclose letters from Prof. Richard and Miss Mary John Baetzler, in these places. Prof R. & Bro. B. seem to think I can speak churches into existence - induce people to pour out money &c. I have no such opinion of my ability, but am willing to do all I can to urge Church Building at Indianapolis, and to urge more vigorous work at Sofansport.

I cannot, however, make these visits before Feb, as transportation will not be renewed, and I really have no inclination to risk the dangers of travel, on long trips, with the thermometer marking 23 degs to 40 degs below zero. What is the opinion of the Board?

D. FORT

D. Fort-Wayne.

WAYNE.

These are new indications of the Church at Ft. Wayne resuming connection with the General Synod. This is at present confidential news. Should the pastor resign, and a General Synod pastor be called, our people will, at once, return to the old church. I will visit Ft. Wayne, during the trip to Indiana.

V. Tenn  
-essee.

A. NASH  
-VILLE.

V. Tennessee. A. Nashville

A card from Pastor Raymond says: "Arrived here last week. When can you come here? Want to have a talk with you. How about my installation? Can you send me a copy of minutes of Middle Tenn. Synod?"

Have not answered as yet. I might go to N. if necessary, after Indiana visit, especially as

B. Chatta  
-nooga.

B. Chattanooga will need some looking after. Things are not going on at C. I fear, as he would wish. I have nothing definite, but am looking for a letter from Mr. Soomis (the gentleman who gave the lot) telling me just our work is prospering. It is clear to me, he must make it more English than it now is. It is one of the places of great promise of which little of our work can be learned without going in person.

VII. OHIO  
ATROG.

VII. Ohio. A. Troy. Prof. Richard thinks Troy a promising point, if cut loose, as is now proposed, from the other

part of the charge.

B. NEW-  
-ARK.

B Newark. Though this is not now on our funds, it will be interesting to the Board to read the following from a private letter from a member of the new mission at Newark, formerly of my church at Wheeling, W. Va. He says: "We have got our church started here and are getting along very well, considering our financial condition. Our young pastor - Mr. Barclay has made quite an impression on our Newark people, and I have no doubt will build up a good sized congregation in a short time. Our Sunday School is growing moderately."

VIII.  
KANSAS.  
A. LAW-  
-RENCE.

VIII. Kansas. A. Lawrence.

Will visit Lawrence during the next trip to Kansas. But Oh! Oh!! Oh!!! Oh!!!! when can all these requests be complied with, and yes be said to the dozens of letters, urging and insisting that the place of the writer of the letters is the "most important" & "demands immediate and imperative attention?"

VIII.  
Pennsyl-  
-vania  
A. Altoona.

VIII. Pennsylvania. A. Altoona.

"Two men", of good ones can be had, instead of one, for this frontier mission field. I believe the feeling of the 1st & 2nd Church at A. is for two men, even though Bro. Kerr. be one of them.

IX MEN.

IX. Men. Rev. D. A. Shetter, Saddle River, Bergen Co. N. J. Rev. M. L. Smith

MEN.

Sulphur Spring O. and Rev. W. W. Smith  
of Waynesboro, Virginia, write their readi-  
ness to enter Western Mission work.  
I do not know any of them.  
Who can find out their record?

X. Pro-  
gramme  
for  
Gen. Synod.

X. Programme for General Synod.  
I enclose a suggestive  
programme for Home Mission Day  
and evening at the coming General  
Synod. It is only suggestive, and not  
sent as all, as "just the thing", but sub-  
ject to the judgment and amendment of  
the Secy & the Board. I omit names of  
speakers, as I do not feel competent to  
select them. I suggest that our programme  
be handsomely and artistically printed  
with a suitable cut or two.

XI Con-  
clusion.

XI Conclusion. My heartfelt sympa-  
-this to Dr. Kemp, with assurance that  
he fail not to remember him at our  
family altar. I have made no engage-  
-ments from home for January, as it is not  
safe. Some trains have not been heard from  
for outlight hours. The Mercury has been  
registering, through Iowa, & Neb, from 15 to 46  
deg. below zero. The snow at our front  
door was so drifted and tightly packed, that  
it had to be dug away. The Kearney trip was  
such a severe one, that I have not yet  
recovered from it. Several days this week  
I was obliged to "succumb" and go to bed.  
With the prayer that 1885, may be a year  
pleasing to our dear Lord, and all engaged in it.  
Sincerely,  
Sam'l B. Darnitz

A.R. Wentz Library  
Lutheran Theological Seminary  
66 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Des Moines, Ia. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1885 } Western Secy.