

To The Board of Home Missions.

General Synod, Evan. Lutheran Church.

Report of Western Secy.

July 26th to August 31st 1883.

The month has been very full of work, wearing, wearisome trying work, but in many respects full of cheer and promise. Though so full of work, scarcely more than half the demands for a visit or sermon or consultation could possibly be met - as both physical and mental endurance have a limit.

III. Nebraska. A. Lincoln. Dr. Hamma will give you full account of our visit to Lincoln, our conclusions, and how we came to them. We were in entire agreement, that the lack of attendance and success is not the fault of the Chapel location, though that might ^{be better} one of two squares nearer the centre of the city.

I feel the mistake was in the man, and it is only another illustration of the fact that a man may be a very good man, and quite a success in a well established congregation, and yet not a success in a mission. The Missionary at Lincoln was selected with great care, and regarded as so valuable, that extra funds were voted for his expenses. I opposed my good friend - Bro. Simmliner, which it pained me to do, because I felt he was not a strong enough man for Lincoln, the other pulpits being ably supplied, and yet he might perhaps have had better success, certainly just as good, as our present Missionary. Dr. Hamma will tell you all our experiences, and our unanimous conclusion.

B. Noea. It was all right, and with my consent, and by request of Nebraska Synod, that Bro. Melick gave up Noea. It was also an understanding with the old Board, that Bro. M. should confine himself to Waresly, and if possible, work up some adjacent points, so soon as Noea could be supplied in some other way. Waresly will become self-sustaining much earlier without than with Noea. It is too far away to be successfully served from Waresly.

The hope is to add Secunseh and Noea, & perhaps one or two adjacent places and thus form a new charge. Dr. Hamma will give you information concerning Secunseh.

C. Sekamah. Will D. V. dedicate New Church in this charge Sept. 16th. There is no question about necessity for division. Letters from Sekamah marked A.

D. West Point. If Bro. Auvand will go to West Point, and his record is good in his synod, have him go promptly. Will he visit West Point at his own expense or his own expense with what people at W. P. will add? Better have him see the place, people, country, &c. before he decides. Sorry he declines to go to Monie, Mo. Am very anxious to have West Point supplied however, as now is a good time, the other preachers being well.

E. Hastings. I heartily endorse Bro. Rosenstengee for this point. He is an A. No. 1 man, and will work up the German interests. The removal of Bro. Knoble and Sisters is a serious blow, but still, I think we have a field there, if the excellent German material can be utilized.

F. Red-Cloud. Letter marked B from Rev. M.

S. Wilhelm indicates that he has "the Blues". I could not comply with his demand, without an entire change of my plans and engagements. I wrote him to cheer up, and assured him that Our Blessed Lord Jesus was still in Red-land, if even two families had determined to leave. I do wish he could get men of sufficient pluck and "snag" to keep up out of the depths, even if "all things" seem against them. If they will only "endure" and stick to it, success is sure to come. I will go to Red-land, as soon as it is possible, but really our missionaries ought to be able to contend with difficulties, and not call for a secy, to come 500 miles to "cheer them up" when a little cloud seems to come over them. Mr. W. is an excellent man, but did not know just what he was going into. He must "brace him". A card from Bro. Bayha, just received, speaks "encouragement". They want a second hand S. School library. Who can furnish it?

G. Sydney. As my report on Sydney concerns Church Property, I will write of it in connection with Geyenne and Sarine, Wyoming, so that all can be sent to Board of Church Extension.

II. Missouri. A. Kansas City, Mo. 2.

Spent a night with Bro. Maetz, found him encouraged in all his work, but jaded and worn with over-work. He has had an average of three or four funerals a week through all this hot August weather. I enclose a communication from him, with a request and suggestion which I endorse, unless he can get a man - the right man - to go permanently. Bro. Esenole may prove to be just the right man.

He has shown considerable ability, very great earnestness and self-denial and good business judgment. As the former Board made the appropriation, I suggest that Bro. Walz be allowed to use it as he suggests.

As to Church-lot for new Mission, there are several very fine ones available. I will do all I can to get and give information to Board of Church Extension, though I presume they will now send their own Secretary.

If Board approves the plan of Bro. Walz, I suggest that Secy. send him a night telegram. He will be relieved to know ^{the} action of the Board - especially, as Bro. Grenoble will be elsewhere in demand.

III. Kansas. A. Lawrence.

Sunday, August 12th - was spent with this Mission. The new pastor was installed in the presence of a large congregation - very seat being occupied. There are already evidences of improvement. The tall grass and weeds have been cut down from the church lawn - the roof and spouting are being repaired - the dingy walls will soon be made bright and a new carpet placed upon the chapel floor. I think also the members who asked for certificates, and received from Bro. Trimmer, will return by and by. I talked very plainly to the people, and told them they would be expected to follow their new pastor as he would lead as the Guard directed, that the Sutheran order of service should be introduced and take the place of the Presbyterian-episcopal Methodist order, that the "mish-mashy" irresponsible lesson helps must make way for the Augsburg Series &c.

I talked kindly, but positively "as by authority," and was assured that it would be pleasant and agreeable to them to make these changes. Mr. Mauser has made a very favorable impression, and will, I think succeed. Almost daily he finds a new family of our people. Sausence is forming as it has not done for a number of years, and earnest preaching, faithful pastoral and P-School work, patience and "Stellmutzen" must give success to our church.

B. Ellsworth. I know nothing of affairs at Ellsworth, excepting from the checked letter from Mr. Ehrenfeld marked D, which please return to me, as I have not yet answered it. I do not like its tone. This sort of "Confidential" or "Clandestine" insinuation I do not like. I much prefer a manly and open complaint and setting forth of the facts. The idea that I should "meek" into Ellsworth, have Mr. Ehrenfeld meet me - take me off five miles to the country and fire me his side, is not in accordance with my idea of the way to do it - or rather the way to look into a mission. Could I have gotten to Ellsworth, I would quietly have gone to a hotel as a stranger and then made general inquiry, then called on Mr. Bright and had him call a meeting of the Church Council, discuss matters &c. &c. Ellsworth is nearly 550 miles from here, or a trip of 1100 miles. I know not when I can get in a visit to this point - as Synods and dedications are coming in regular and rapid succession.

honor

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If the Board think it essential for me to visit the mission before Oct. 1st, I will try to get it in.

C. Atchison. Rev. W. J. Cut-

ter should, in some way or other - be "straightened out". I suggest a communication to Mrs. Conrad and Ort, asking them to publish nothing from his pen concerning Atchison, and telling them that he is entirely unreliable. If he comes to Kansas Synod, which is Ten Doolittle, Bro. Waetz and myself will protest against his conduct as Atchison.

He ought to have a good man there now, but no man can go there and have peace, as long as he claims the field. Board of Home Missions might suggest to Board of Church Extension to send Secy. Richards to Atchison to look into our Church lot matter. I fear Mr. Cutter is using up that property.

D. Emporia. The Pres. of the Kansas Synod and myself have asked Rev. Bro.

Spahr, now living in Emporia, to visit our people there - ascertain how many are ready to go into an organization - whether place of worship can be had, &c. &c. and report at as early a day as possible.

E. Peabody. I spent

Wednesday night - August 22 - at Peabody, and found affairs much improved under Bro. Wesson's work. If only he was physically strong, he has brought order out of confusion, restored confidence and is reaching some of the best families in Peabody. He fears, however, another break-down, in which case he will locate at Wichita, and minister on horseback through that promising and wonderful country. And this leads me to suggest work

V. Colorado. A. Denver. The enclosed paper marked E. shows the direct result of the visit to Denver. Could I have remained a longer time, I am sure a large number of Sutherans could have been added to this list. The field is there, without any doubt, a field for us. I longed to have Dr. Hamma with me, that he might compose views on a number of points pertaining to the opening of a mission in this beautiful city of now 70,000 souls. At one time he had everything in our favor - the culture, wealth &c, but the villainous ^{new} Kountze threw these things away. The lots he bought for \$4000, are now worth \$60,000, and some of the very best people in Denver, formerly Sutherans - are now in the other churches. If he only establish a S. School, it will be a good thing for us to do. The Swedish Church has had a division on the rigidness and arbitrary demands of the Genl Council, and their children are bound to attend English services. A number of well-to-do Germans, who themselves care but little for Church, want their children to go to Sutheran Church and S. School. Bros. Sheetz, Albee, and Middlesworth are earnest business men - Bro. S. being a man of considerable property. He and his wife come from Dr. Stork's Church (now Bro. Albee's St. Mark's of Baile). Bro. Sheetz has a hall which is well located and well adapted for a beginning of the mission. So my mind the opening and prospects at Denver, are ten times, yea fifty times as promising, as the opening and prospects at Wheeling W. Va. twenty years ago.

It will require \$1500.00 salary for a man in Denver to begin right, and kept from "worry" about his living. I had in New Prof. Richards of barthage for this city, and intended to suggest that some brother in the Board, after the following

Resolved, that a mission be at once opened in Denver, Colorado, that Rev. Prof. Richards be appointed Missionary, and \$1500.00 be appropriated for his salary - Oct 1st 1883 to Oct. 1st 1884.

But alas! I took up the Observer, and find Prof. R. in another, and very important field. I therefore suggest the resolution with the insertion of some other first class name.

I was most hopeful of Prof. R. because the climate of Denver would have ^{been} so far as he can humanly judge - life to his weak and delicate wife. He would have taken a position along side of any of the ministers of Denver as to solid substantial preaching, and I feel would have been a success.

But it's too late to talk about "what might have been!" I pray that the right man may be found for Denver! The city, it's true is somewhat dull now, and the "boom" of a year and two years ago is "off," but Denver must continue to grow and will always be a great city. Ground is now being broken for the magnificent State House.

Rents are lower than two years ago - a good thing for our new Missionary. A convenient and comfortable house can be had for \$35.00 to \$40.00 per month. Living, however, is still very expensive.

B. Puebla. I found only one Sutheran family here. I had a request from one of our ministers to hunt them up, and did so. They were seemingly over-joyed and begged for a preaching service. I could not give them this, as engagements were made ahead. A number of families from the Iron Works at Johnston Pa. may soon join them, but at present we have no field in Puebla, or rather no English Sutherans. The city has 20,000 population. It has a small Swedish Sutheran Church.

VI Michigan. A. Three Rivers. I scarcely know what to say of this mission. The Church is in the wrong location. Bro. M. has worked hard indeed. Suppose you suggest to Synod of N. Indiana to try to unite it with some other field. It is to some extent a waste of money to have it go on just as it has been going. I think Bro. M. will agree in this. He would like to go to Burlington, but would not suit for such a city.

VIII. Iowa. A. Burlington. I have asked Bro. O. C. Miller to spend a day or two in Ia. this week, and secure the names of those who are ready for organization. I trust he will be able to report to meeting Sept. 6th.

VIII. Minnesota. A. Waseon. Marshall Co. I am pretty sure Bro. H. P. Hensen is all right. Bro. Hartcock, Past Synod N. Illinois can furnish information concerning him.

IX. Wisconsin. A. Monroe. Fourteen members, with nine other attendants at Sutheran Church in this place, apply for a pastor and a little help. I will go to see them

as soon as I can, and meanwhile make all possible inquiry at Synod of St. Illinois, through whose president they apply. He ought to begin work in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

X. Men who want work. A. Rev. H. M. Bensen, Fairview Tees. I know but little of him, and that little "nothing of a".

B. Rev. H. S. Dot. I enclose his letter, and suggest that the Board answer it. I do not know much of Bro. Dot either. He is a Scandinavian. I doubt if his conditions will answer for any western work. Please return his letter. Letter marked F. These are the kind of men who think we have enough or too many ministers - because they are "too many".

XII. Other Saviors and Visits.

As a member of the International Executive S. School Committee - representing the Lutheran Church, I felt it a necessity to attend a called meeting at Chautauqua Aug. 9th.

The meeting was important to us, because it made the programme for International Convention at Louisville Ky. in June 1884. And that Convention nominates a Defcon Committee for three years. As the International Defcons have brought thousands of dollars to our part. (and indirectly a good deal to some of our Missions.) I feel it very necessary to keep a "sharp look out" that Lutherans are on watch and as prominent as other denominations - or more so.

I also attended while at Co. the Mission Institute in which we have part. Bro. Blutz being on the committee.

On my way to Chautauqua, I spent Sunday - Aug. 5th at Jock-haren Pa.

in the interests of Missions. Mrs. Heilman, wife of the pastor, having been raised and fitted for her work by the Wheeling Mission, she and her husband have for nearly two years been urging a visit in the interests of Missions.

I fare them Aug. 5th, and I have reason to believe, the three services of that day, will tell on the contributions of that Church.

Monday night, Aug. 6th I spent at Groverville Pa, hoping to see a man and his wife, who have property, but no children. I want them to leave the property to the boards.

I found them absent from home, I expect to say, but will follow up the matter.

Engagements, The Lord Willing.

- Sunday Sept. 2nd Greenleaf, Ws. Dedication.
- Sept. 6-8. Synod of S. Illinois, Murphyboro.
- Sunday " 9 Chicago. Corner Stone Laying
- " " 16-17 Tellamah, Wv. Dedication & Synod
- " " 23 Wellsville Ws. Dedication.
- Sept. 25-28 Synod of Iowa, Newton, Iowa.
- " 29-30-Oct. 1 " " N. Illinois, Polo, Ills
- Oct. 10. " " Central " Hitchfield, Ws.

With love to all,

Yrs faithfully,

Saml B. Parmitz
Wellsville Pa.

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