

Board of Home Missions General Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in U. S.

To Meeting Held December 9th 1886I. NE-
BRASKAA. OMAHAOMAHATHE
NEW
MISSIONS.OMAHA.I. Nebraska. A. Omaha.

From what I learned in Omaha on my way from Beatrice, I fear Mr. G. H. Schmier Jr. is not giving entire satisfaction. He seems to lack energy and "snap", and does not grasp the situation, neither the fact that every moment is important in the great work laid to his hands. There was no complaining of him exactly, but a wish that I "might see him and have a plain talk with him". He was absent attending Conference at Wayne, and there was no opportunity to talk with him.

He does not, it is evident, canvas as he should neither seek the new people, nor the "Outsiders" who have no church connection. He "sits around a good deal, remaining at some places half the afternoon".

It was suggested that I try to find out his manner of conducting his meeting for S. School lesson study, and hint to him that it is not wise to use the Hushup Teacher and read from it in the meeting.

He rather insists on members of the "Country Memorial", living in the dissection of the North Omaha Mission, attending his services, and offends some of them by his persistency. He was particularly instructed to work upon the many families who do not go to church, to gather their children etc., and to build up. In view of these facts I suggest that the secretary ask Mr. S. a number of questions, which may open the way for exhortation and instruction.

OMAHA.

Questions like the following might be asked, after receiving his next Quarterly Report.

1. How many hours ^{each day} do you devote to study?
2. How many visits outside of those to members of Sutheran Church, do you make each afternoon, or afternoon and evening?
3. How many S. School Scholars, from families entirely outside of the Church, e.g. any church, do you gather each week?

Of course the questions must be carefully put, as Bro. Schmitz is exceedingly sensitive, and gets the "blues" horribly.

4. How do you conduct your meetings for study of S. School lesson? &c. &c. &c.

Bro. S. is an excellent young man, and can probably be "stirred up" to do more successful work.

OMAHA.NEW
WORK.WEST
END.WESTERN
HEAD
QUARTERS.

New Work in Omaha. Bro. Detweiler has rented a building - now being erected - for S. School purposes, and will open a New Mission School in the West End. As soon as building is ready, though "West End" was nearly all prairie at the time of the visit of Presb. & Secretary, it is now quite a large town, and valuable field for Sutheran Mission work.

Western Head-Quarters. The sewerage has all been put in, water and gas pipes laid, and streets paved with granite blocks, in the neighborhood of ground promised for Western Head-Quarters. Several very fine residences have also been erected. Mr. Hermann

WESTERN

HEAD

QUARTERS.

OMAHA.

B.BEAT
-RICE.

BEATRICE

Kountze is very anxious to know when our building will be commenced, how much we have already promised Dr. De. De.

He proposes to change our location to the other side of the street, as there are parties anxious for the corner set apart for us. He says the change shall not in any wise be to our disadvantage. I told him that while "beggars cannot be choosers", he wanted the very best, and that the hope is to begin the house as soon as weather will permit in the spring of 1887. I also told him that I expected D.V. to meet with the Board on the ninth of December, and to see his brother Augustus the following week, that Committee would push subscription etc.

I have neither time nor space nor ability to tell of the enormous growth and improvement at Omaha during the past six months. And as it grows so also does Nebraska, and so too is the importance of our Sutherland Home Missions work magnified.

B. Beatrice. To my great disappoint-
-ment and chagrin the dedica-
.tion at Beatrice did not take place on
the 14th of November, as had been announ-
.ced. When I arrived Mr. Albright informed
me that "the Methodists were having a big ce-
remony, with Evangelist Fitter as leader, that
the Compefationalists were having their new
minister, the Baptists their new minister,
the Campbellites their new minister, that
Mr. Zimmerman could not be present."
oe. oe. oe. oe. oe. oe. oe. oe. oe.

BEAT-
-RICE

I looked amazement, but said little.
"While I mused the fire burned".

The Board of Trade had sent an urgent invitation to Board of Education to come by, and hear a proposition from the citizens ~~of P.~~, for location of Sutherland College, and we thought go to work that matter as to misuse a large crowd and special inter-est for dedication the following Sunday.

Mr. Detweiler was to deliver one of his popular lectures at the Opera House on Friday night, to be followed by Board of Trade Reception. Saturday he here to meet the Planters, Merchants, Real Estate men &c. at one of the banks, and Saturday afternoon make calls, advertise dedication &c. &c. The Opera-House lecture was not intelligently, neither half worked up, and the dedication had been postponed.

He had however a good meeting with Board of Trade, and a proposition from the town of fifteen acres of ground and \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 for building.

I remained for Sunday and tried to get at the "true inwardness" of our affairs at P. Detweiler said to the mis-sary, "Albright you must go to town now this Saturday A.M., and keep at it until tomorrow night, so as to get a big audience for Western Secy, and not allow the Methodist Evangelist to 'take the town'. Mr. D. wrote advertisements and hand-bills and "painted with a big brush", and then returned to Q. to keep open his own church and "hold

BEATRICE

BEAT-
RICE.

the fort against the Union forces under
the lead of Rev. Sam. Jones. See hand-bill A

Sunday was a charming day as to
weather. The Sunday School ^{numbered} only 42, &
this did not suit my ideas of fourth and
fifth. There were 67 persons present at
the Morning Service. At night the church
was well filled, and the audience had in
it a number of the representative people
of the town. After the Morning Service I
called a meeting of the Church Council
in order to question them and find out
just how matters stand. Four members
were present - one - Mr. Metzgar - disgruntled
because he could not control the choir
left the church before the sermon, and
did not come to the meeting. I sent for
him, but he did not appear. Mr. M. has
been dissatisfied with Rev. A. and his manage-
ment, and I wanted him present to state
in the presence of the others, his objections
to the work of the pastor. He is, I understand,
a "chronic grumbler", hot tempered & worked
as a tame horn in disposition. He never
agrees with anybody, so that he may be
able to say "he differs from them".

The four members present expressed
entire satisfaction with the pastor and
the work. They said they had had some
little difficulty because of their financial
straits, but that now matters looked bright-
er. I told them that to my mind, they
had not grown, neither gained as much
as they should have done in comparison

B
E
A.
T R I C E.

BEATRICE.

BEATRICE

with the rapid and substantial growth
 of their city, neither had they kept pace
 with their early prosperity. They gave
 many reasons for their lack of growth
 none of them very satisfactory to me - and
 said the pastor was working hard and had
 the co-operation of the members and the
 good will of the community. I talked
 plainly to Bro. Albright also, telling him I
 did not regard his work as successful,
 that his Sunday School was a very poor
 one, and his audiences not what they
 ought to be. I suggested that perhaps he
 had been giving too much attention to
 "Real Estate" &c. &c., but he thought not,
 thought his building a house helped his
 church work &c. &c. He has recently sold
 his property at a profit of \$1500.00, and
 I advised him not to buy another house
 another, "as a Minister's position is quite
 uncertain." Really, I think Bro. A. was
 not at "Sodje Pole" investing in land,
 when he should have been at home working
 up his education interests.

BEA-
-TRICE

After my talk with Church Council,
 several citizens and the pastor, I felt
 that probably things were in better shape
 than they seemed, and that, for the
 present, we better let them remain as
 they are. Sunday night however, I was
 taken to stop with one of the prominent
 families - a Mr. Atkinson from Deepport
 Penn^a - and before retiring they assured
 me that Bro. A. will never make a success

BEA-
-TRICE

7

of the Sutherland Church at Beatrice.

To my surprise they told me that he had only recently "offered his resignation" as a test. There was a small audience at the compensation meeting & the resignation was rejected. Four among them Mr. A's brother - voted to accept the resignation, several voted blank tickets, and the remainder voted to reject. Bro. A. never told me a word concerning his having offered his resignation.

Mr. Atkinson says: "With almost any other man in whom the membership & community have confidence, he would have our church paid for, and we would be much farther along. He ought to be far in advance of what we are".

After seeing Mr. A's family sharing this conversation with them, I did not again see Bro. Albright, neither Prof. E. Bright, else would have told them of the statement.

When the dedication will take place I know not. Bro. A. said he "would go right to work, select a day and stick to it, cause ministers to attend, write up subscriptions etc. etc. He will need to watch closely his report, statement etc. as he does seem to tell different stories to different persons and at different times. Though Mr. A. & family attend the church, contribute, do their duty etc. they say "Rev. Albright is not reliable".

BEATRICE

BEA-
-TRICE

C. RE-
PUBLI-
CAN
VALLEY

Mission

REPUBLICAN
VALLEY

Mission.

C. Republican Valley Mission.

When in Omaha I called at the office of "B. & M. R. R. Co." and made inquiry concerning pass for Rev. J. W. Kimball. The pass was declined, in connection with a number like unto it, because they "are obliged to curtail the pass business", and not because of anything Bro. H. has done or not done, and not because of "a spite against him", as he imagined. He wrote quite a letter to General Manager Holdrege, who did not know what to make of the letter. He accused them of cutting off his pass, because he worked against their man for Compt., but they showed him the folly of his accusation. He evidently from his letter, had been active in the political canvas, and though this did not enter into the pass matter, he would letter have kept his mouth shut on politics. A card-B just received from Bro. H. says "Dedication cannot take place before Decem. 26th", and that "the new pastor, Bro. Leipper - will be on hand by that time". Of "Bro. Leipper" and this arrangement I know nothing. Perhaps Board has made the arrangement without my knowledge. The last I had from Bro. H. spoke of Rev. "Bro. Atkin" as his assistant.

D. NORTH
PLATTE

D. North Platte. Cards marked C.

Tell of postponement of Dedication at North Platte to January 2nd 1887.

E. State
SUPT.
FOR
NEBRAS-
-KA.

III IOWA

A. SIOUX-
CITY

B. NEW
-TON.

C. KNOX
-VILLE.

E. State Supt. for Nebraska.

As you have, no doubt, been informed Rev. Leonard Weller of Fremont Neb. has been elected State Secy. or Supt. for Nebraska. It is supposed that he will accept. I have no official information.

III. Iowa. A. Sioux-City.

The lot for new Church Building at Sioux City has been negotiated for, and the Iowa Synods Committee to raise \$1000.00 towards the payment for lot, will have their work nearly completed by the opening of 1887. They are pressing the matter vigorously.

B. Weston. According to request in letter marked D - I spent Sunday Nov. 21st at Weston, aided in the work for Sioux City, and secured a communion set for one of our Nebraska Churches. He had a good day, with precious Jesus. Two hundred Dollars from that little compensation is a splendid comment on their missionary training.

C. Knobville. At my request Rev. George E. Henry of Des Moines, spent Sunday November 7 - at Knobville, to the great delight of our "Waiting and Watching" little flock at that place. They paid his expenses, and made a little contribution, for Home Missions. Rev. A. Beebe of Weston and Mr. John Spellman of Fairfield, will talk Sioux City mission at Knobville Dec. 6th.

D. IOWA
CITY
NORTH
LIBERTY
E. CLIN.
-TON.
O

III.
KAN-
-SAS
A. VINE-
-LAND.
O

IV. WY-
-OMING
A. CHEY-
-ENNE.
O

CHEY-
-ENNE.
O

V. TEN-
-NES-
-SEE.
A. NASH-
-VILLE

D. Iowa-City & North Liberty.

E. Clinton. Setter marked E - from Rev. J. A. M. Beifler, President of Synod of Iowa and Chairman of Visiting Board, title of his visit to these different fields.

III. Kansas. A. Vineland.

Setter of Rev. J. M. Commer Post. of Kansas Synod, and my reply concerning "Vineland". Setter marked F!

Brothers Dornlager & Delo, wrote letter have advised a reunion with Hansen.

III. Wyoming, A. Cheyenne.

The Synod of Nebraska did a silly and foolish thing in appointing a committee to visit Cheyenne.

It was done at the request and manipulation of Hansen, & done when neither Detweiler nor myself were present. What the Committee have done I know not, but do know they could do nothing but make trouble.

It is however, a Church extension matter, and perhaps he need not bother with it. It would grieve me, however, to see those handsome lots built upon by the Scandinavians, even though they be in the General Synod.

IV. Seminole. A. Nashville. Setters marked G. from Rev. Charles Raymond urge my presence at the dedication

NASH-
VILLE.

at Dickinson, and also for a few days at Nashville. I will, D.V., spend the evening of Decem. 2nd at Nashville Term, and speak for Pastor Raymond.

How to help him, amid the opposition of the Saloonists etc. I know not. I cannot teach them, but can see how much of an English audience he can get out on a week night.

B. DICK-
-SON.

B. Dickinson. As a number of the Nebraska dedications have been postponed, I will go to the dedication at Dickinson, Penn., December 5th, and see whether they have "proceeded" as "they proposed to proceed." Cards from Rev. W. C. Barnett marked H.

I trust the dedication will be a success in every particular, & the mission be awakened to new life.

From Dickinson, I will come, D.V., to Moane meeting, and make full report.

VII.

PENN-
-SYLVA-
-NIA.
A. PHIL-
-ADEH-
-PHIA.
L. FINAN-
-CIALI.

VII. Pennsylvania, A. Philadelphia.

I. Finance. A. Setzer marked II from Rev. W. M. Baum D.D. telling that he had just sent \$180.00 to Treas of Synod of last Penn. for support of Missionary at Waterly Webb from "Young People Home Missionary Society" of St. Matthew's.

Henceforward St. Matthew's had to raise their apportionment without the aid of the Young People's Society, but this time, I guess Dr. B. was too much for

them. I wrote him that this was intended to be in addition to apportionment, and wrote the Society to persist in this idea.

B. Min-
ity. Ger-
man-
town
Pa.

B. Trinity, Germantown.

At the 50th Anniversary of this S. School - Easter 1886 - I suggested that they support a Home Missionary in the West. Nearly eight months have passed, and in letter-marked J the efficient Supt. says the Committee appointed are "considering it".

I enclose my reply, also marked J, and trust favorable action will soon be taken.

VIII.
Cards.
Se.

VIII. I think it will be wise for the Secretaries of Home Missions to have their printed matter - Cards, Letter-Heads, Golders &c. &c. Copyrighted to prevent imitation. See cards marked K.

Sam'l D. Damitz
Western Secy.

Des Moines, Iowa
December 6th 1886.

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