

II. KEN-  
-TUCKY.A. LOUIS-  
-VILLE.I. THIRD  
CHURCH.LOUIS-  
-VILLE

THIRD

CHURCH

II. Kentucky. A. Louisville. I. Third Church.

By telegraphic order from Pres. and General Secy, I visited this Mission Sunday and Monday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> - in the interests of the Third Lutheran Church, and on account of the troubles therein reported. On the night of Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> a "collision" near Moberly, Missouri delayed me over twelve hours, so that I did not reach Louisville until Sunday morning at 8 o'clock. The telegram to Bro. McDaniel was also delayed and "mised", so that no announcement whatever had been made, and no one knew of the presence of ~~the~~ a representative of the Board until he walked into the pulpit.

The "collision" and "mised telegram" were no doubt among the "all things" that "work together for good", as it was better to appear as a "surprise" than "announced". It gave me an opportunity to see congregation and Sunday School just as they are, from Sunday to Sunday, & presented any insinuation that special efforts had been made to secure a large attendance.

The day was a very inclement one, rain falling most of the time, and pavements and street crossings covered with mud. The attendance at Church services and S. School was, however, most cheering. The morning congregation numbering about 150, the S. School nearly 300, and the night audience over 250. The field is certainly a most promising one, and evidence of faithful and successful work on the part of the Missionary, everywhere manifest. Having had a full account of "the troubles" from Bro. McDaniel, I sought an interview with a prom-

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-ment layman - recently from the First Church and found his statements to correspond with those of the Missionary. As I could see neither Bro. Wertz nor Bro. Kemmer during Sunday - there being not sufficient time between services - I scarcely knew what course to take with reference to "the trouble", but concluded the wisest thing to do was to say nothing about them at the Sunday services, but call a congregational meeting for Monday evening. For the Sunday morning sermon, I selected: "And immediately I confessed not with flesh and blood"; and for the evening "Doth Job fear God for naught?" The S. S. Address was mostly "complimentary" on what they had done and "prophetic" on what they may do, if unitedly and harmoniously they continued faithful in well-doing.

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At one time I thought of announcing a conference, between myself and all the disgruntled and dissatisfied members of the Church, as well as all who were aggrieved, or had any complaints to make. My idea was to invite them to come and see me one by one alone, that I might write down what they had to say, after praying with them, and then try to answer their complaints. After a good deal of thought however, and learning of the very vicious and unreasonable character of the leader of the opposition to Mr. McDaniel - a Mr. "Dixebend", I abandoned this plan, and concluded to wait developments at the congregational meeting on Monday night. During Monday, I consulted Bros. Kemmer & Wertz, and learning from Bro. P. especially

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that to "open up" the discussion of the troubles would only be evil, and that a change of Missionary would be very detrimental. I decided on the course to pursue at the Congregational meeting. Bro. Walz was rather reticent at first - disclaiming on his part or that of his people any encouragement to the "troubled" at the Third Church, though feeling as we all do, that the expulsion of Mr. Pre-abend, though deserved, was illegal, and the manner of it a great mistake. When I told Bro. Walz my purpose to tell the congregation that "the Bd. of Missions stands by the Missionary" he said: "No doubt, that is the thing to do, and do not throw the meeting open for remarks from anybody else." I took his advice & conducted the meeting in person - using such hymns as "Flesh be the tie that binds", "So what a pleasing sight" etc. and such scripture as "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity". The address was from Nehemiah IV: 6. "So build we the wall; \* \* \* for the people had a mind to work".

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There was a good turn out at the meeting, many, no doubt, expecting, as we expected it, "a racket". In this they were disappointed, as the meeting was a very quiet one - the leader only having an opportunity to talk. Using the above scripture as a ground-work I said very great work must be built up as was the wall. "There must be a leader, and the workers must follow the leaders instructions. There must be united and harmonious action, and also whole-heartedness,

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and also a keeping of the end or final result of the work in view. Dwelling somewhat on the success they had already attained, because of united and harmonious effort, I exhorted to perseverance - allowing no root of bitterness to hinder, trouble or destroy God's work laid to their hands. The address ended, and prayer offered for the Church Officers, whose resignations had been accepted that night, I said: "I am here by authority of, and representing the Board of Home Missions, which has done so much to begin and continue this work, and am here to say the Board of Home Missions stands by, and will stand by the Missionary. Every true and faithful member of the congregation and Sunday School will do likewise, and thus you will build the wall, and honor God and yourselves". The Doxology and Benediction closed the congregational meeting.

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Unable to remain longer in S., because of engagement at Oberlin, Ks, I have not learned of the effect of the meeting upon the disappointed members. A few of them were present and greeted me very pleasantly at the close of the service, but not one of them said aught concerning the Missionary or the "trouble". The friends of the Missionary, and the faithful workers expressed their great delight at the result of the visit & believe that "there will be no further trouble".

I do not agree with them in this, though I hope they are correct. If Mr. Diebard, and the few (not over 15) who follow his

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lead are discouraged by the members of the other Sutherland Churches to whom they may go with their "tale", the whole trouble will soon die out, but if they are sympathized with they can and may make it very unpleasant for Bro. McDaniel.

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Bros. Jenner and Waetz abuse me they will discountenance the opposition in any way, and will urge their people, who speak of it, to do likewise. After three days in Louisville, mingling with the people of "Gutcherston" (the locality of the Third Church) in and out of the Church, my decided conviction is that it would be detrimental to the work to make a change of missionary at this time. Bro. McDaniel has surely done a great work in that section of the city, and is held in the highest esteem by the entire community. "Outsiders", whose children attend the S. School, and the most prominent people - leaders - of "Gutcherston", here lend in commendation and praise of his self-denial, and the Christian manner in which he conducted himself during the recent troubles and ill-treatment. It may be well to have a change by and by, but not now.

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The resignation of two disgruntled <sup>present</sup> members of the Church-Council, and the expulsion of Mr. Weabend, will enable them to elect three new members of the Council, and having now most excellent material from which to select these officers, it seems to me the "trouble" will soon come to an end. Bro. McDaniel thinks the appearance <sup>in the pulpit</sup> of a representative of the Board, frightened these

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concerned into sending their resignations after the morning service - July, 19<sup>th</sup>. As one of these was also treasurer, and not very efficient, his resignation will enable them to elect a new and more efficient treasurer.

With new officers - very superior to the first selection - and faithful visitation and preaching - "forgetting the things which are behind" prosperity and success are sure.

Bro. McDaniel, without doubt, made a great mistake in the manner of the expulsion of Mr. Preabend. He may have deserved suspension or expulsion, but it was not done according to the discipline, or Church order. It was incorrectly done through ignorance or haste - haste brought about by a great deal of aggravation, and a little ill-temper.

The congregational meeting at which it was done was also "a mistake". There was neither need nor sense in holding that meeting, but after it was held, and the expulsion ordered, the only wise thing to do about it is to "let it alone". I am sure the Synod and congregation will gladly "let it alone", if only the expelled one and his adherents will allow matters to rest. They may appeal to Synod, where, without doubt, the action of the meeting would be reversed. My hope is they will be discouraged in every such attempt.

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Bro. McDaniel being somewhat "run down" physically, and a little weak also in some other directions, is sensitive - very sensitive, and needs to watch himself closely, as to what he says, and <sup>also to</sup> what he listens. I regard

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him as a most conscientious and faithful  
missionary and one who surely has had many  
needs. I advised him not to listen to the good  
sisters who in the kindness of their hearts  
sympathize with him, by telling him "he  
looks badly, and they are sorry for him or",  
but to disengage any and all such talk.

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I trust matters in Third  
Church will now move on harmoniously,  
though not sure that they will. Another  
a longer visit may be necessary. I am sure  
it would be advantageous. But for the engage-  
ment at Oberlin, Ks. dedication, I would have  
remained over another Sunday - preaching every  
night and visiting with the missionary, during the  
day. He would like such service and assist-  
ance during Passion week by either Bro. Blutz  
or myself. I already have an engagement  
for Easter, which if deemed necessary <sup>and</sup> in case  
Bro. Blutz cannot go to S. may be changed.

Should the opposition to Bro. Med. continue  
to annoy, it will be necessary to give additional time  
to getting them straightened out. I told him to  
give certificates in every case, to those who  
ask for, and are entitled to, them. From the  
most careful investigation I could make,  
the number of those who are in opposition  
to the missionary, will not reach twenty (20).

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There has been no "falling off" at any of the  
services, and no evidence whatever of lack  
of interest, either on the part of the large  
majority of members of the church, or the  
friends of the mission, not yet members.

2. SEC-

2. Second Church.-OND  
CHURCH.LOUISVILLE  
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Rev. Haslan K. Penner reports growth and encouragement in every department of his mission. They expect to be able to pay remainder of their indebtedness to Bro. J. H. K. by Easter, and hasten on to self-support. Bro. Penner is now holding a series of meetings, assisted by Rev. Mr. Dolbeer of Jeffersontown, Ky.

III IOWA.

III. Iowa. A. Iowa City.A. IOWA  
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IOWA.

Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> was spent with this mission - preaching morning and evening in Iowa City, and in the afternoon at North Liberty, eight miles distant. It was a cheering day to me, and the Officers of the Churches and S. School report the results as most blessed to them. The liberality and faithfulness of the little flock at Iowa City cannot but challenge admiration. It would be cruel and a great mistake to "cut them off". They are paying back to the Church in various ways, much more than they are receiving from our Board. In many respects they are ahead of the Church at Des-Moines and the Church at Cedar-Rapids. Their recent pastors have been far from prudent, and hence have had but little success. Imprudence on the part of the pastors, and very short crops and "hard times" on the part of the people have much to do with "lack of success". I believe that a prudent, earnest and self-sacrificing pastor can so develop the Church at North Liberty, as to make the mission self-sustaining.



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Bro. Geo. C. Henry of Des-Moines Ia. preached for this mission, in my place, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and Rev. Mr. Oser is now on the ground looking over the field with a view to a call.

B. DUBUQUE.

B. Dubuque. Letter marked A is the latest I have from this important city. I will arrange to visit it in May.

III. KAN.  
-SAS.

III. Kansas. A. Oberlin.

A. OBERLIN.

The very neat and comfortable Church-building - the twelfth erected by Rev. J. W. Kimmel - was dedicated at Oberlin Ks. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 1888. The edifice is in every way, a gem, the brightest and most comfortable in Oberlin, though the least expensive. It is the third Church-building erected in the town - the Presbyterian and Methodist having preceded it. Oberlin now numbers 2,000 inhabitants, and having no town of any pretensions nearer than 30 miles, and being the County-seat of Decatur Co. Ks. the prospects of growth and development are flattering. The picture of the Church in the "Oberlin Opinion" sent with this, is far from a just representation of the Church's structure. Though our congregation here numbers but nine members at present, they are among the best and most cultured people of the town. A good preacher here will, I am confident, have a large and intelligent following. Rev. Dr. Geo. A. Jones has been written to, and asked to come and spend a few months here. They will pay his expenses of travel and keep him comfortable

OBERLIN.

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