

town is beautifully situated on the eastern margin of the river, some thirty miles above Dunleath, the terminus of the railway, on the river. The proprietors built a house for the residence of the future governor, and a large hotel for the accommodation of the legislature; but it formed no part of their plan to erect a house for the worship of Him, the enjoyment of whom is the creature's chief good. The town contains as yet no place of worship other than a school house. Here I was kindly accommodated in the house of Col. William Pollock, who, with his family belong to the Associate Synod, of the United States. I found only one other Presbyterian, who, when in Scotland had belonged to the Church of Scotland, but in Cassville he could only show me the fragment of a copy of the New Testament.

Probably the half of the inhabitants of Cassville are Germans. Of these, a few are Lutherans; but the great bulk of them are professed Roman Catholics; but in reality, infidels. They seem to have the sway in this place. If they distinguish a day as Sabbath, it is not to keep it holy. All the stores are open, and every kind of business carried on. I did not, indeed, see masons and carpenters working, but I saw materials carried by team for building and furnishing, and men to carry them in. No one dare enforce the law of the land in regard to the Sabbath but at the imminent risk of property or life. Having learned that whilst the ordinances of Christ were habitually neglected; the saloons—the synagogues of Satan for gambling and drinking—were always crowded on the Sabbath, I, on several days, visited ministerially from house to house, in families who spoke the English language. I trusted in this way to become better acquainted with the moral condition of the people, and also to secure their attendance on the Sabbath. In some instances a respectful attention seemed to the reading of the Scriptures, counsel and prayer, in others not. Few only of those I saw in their families were after all with us on the Lord's day. Here is a field for the missionary as necessitous as any spot in heathen lands. Even here might not many be brought to feel their sins, and yet embrace the sinner's Saviour. May the time soon arrive.

In Beetown, though in the centre of a mining population, I saw not the same evidence of unblushing and concerted Sabbath profanation. The number who attended public worship was greater. They have greater religious advantages, probably because they seek them. A few families in this place profess to espouse our cause could permanence be promised.

On the prairie many families are unconcerned about the great salvation. Others appear to value the Gospel. Many may be characterised as a church going people. The attendance on ordinances is encouraging. Our small body embraces one of our most efficient Sabbath School Teachers while with us in Canada. He is diligent in the same good work on the prairie. The other religious bodies have also their Sabbath Schools. As the population increases may religious effort be strengthened.

The physical features of the country by no means correspond with my preconceived notions. The prairie is not a large expanse of nearly dead level. It undulates more than is convenient for agricultural purposes. When on the summit of its large ridges, you are reminded of the often seen large and elongated swell of the Atlantic. Only the prairie wave is curved, and much higher and broader. In your position you see chiefly the great waste of waves, scarcely a house to be seen. The woods in the far distance, and when approached, with the exception of the wood along the river bluffs, consist of black stunted oaks, little in advance of brush wood. The present settlers have built chiefly in the ravines, for the advantages of water and shelter from the prairie winter's blighting blast. The later settlers must come to be deprived of these and some other advantages. Already wells are bored, one hundred or one hundred and twenty feet deep. After digging, it may be fifteen feet, you reach the rock, and then bore till water is found. You draw your water in a tin tube, some four inches in diameter, and six or eight feet long, having a valve in the bottom of the tube, which, when rested on a pin, opens and discharges its contents in a spout which conveys the precious liquid to the pail.

As yet oxen and horses range almost at will, sometimes to the nightly annoyance of the man whose fences are insecure. From the extremely limited supply of timber in comparison with the extent of country, together with the distance which some must have to draw it, fencing and firewood must in time become expensive. The unimproved prairie land here now sells for ten dollars an acre. Improved farms at about double that price.