

and with rapidity, comfort, and comparative safety, find himself in a few days sailing on the placid bosom of the noble Mississippi. Favorable to commerce, and friendly intercourse may we also employ the means of transit to facilitate the cause of evangelization. Let messengers, carrying the glad tidings, fly with the everlasting Gospel to them that dwell on the earth.

Few things could have been more gratifying to me than your appointment to Wisconsin. I have had the opportunity to preach again, though for a short time, to the families who had left one of my congregations (the English Settlement, London) for the far west. These friends are deservedly dear to me. I am now acquainted with their religious prospects, and their social condition. The result of my visit is to create in my soul an abiding earnest desire for the spiritual welfare of the people of these western countries. They are in a great measure destitute of the means of grace. They are greatly exposed—I fear many of them are disposed—to the blighting influences both of worldliness and scepticism.

On Blake's Prairie I found three small ecclesiastical organisations, besides our infant congregation—Congregationalists, Methodists, and Baptists. The two former, aided liberally by the community, have recently erected places of worship. On the first Sabbath forenoon I preached in the Congregational Church, and again on a week day, at the request of their minister. I was pleased to find in his library the Theological Lectures of my reverend Professor, the late Doctor Dick, of Glasgow, and other works of a like character, indicating his own preferences as to the grand tenets of Theology. Our friends chiefly attend his ministry in their present destitution of ordinances in connection with their own church.

The prospects of our congregation are not flattering, neither should they be discouraging. Were our Presbytery able to give them the amount, and the kind of supply they need, by the Divine blessing attending the means, I believe success would be certain. Instead of affording them six weeks supply occasionally. Could a preacher possessing a true missionary spirit—active and dauntless in the face of much ungodliness and theoretical infidelity be located for six months at a time, for a few years, I know that abundant success would reward his faithfulness. Our congregation, now few in number, would be largely increased. The material is in that quarter, and would gradually be collected under the power of the truth, sanctioned and blessed by the Holy Spirit. The religious indifference and destitution of the community make the demand claimant. The circumstances of the people make the competent support of a faithful and laborious ministry undoubted.

We are sustained by the assurance that the interests of Christ's cause and kingdom depend not on man, but on the Lord Himself. He appoints, directs, and controls all things in his universal kingdom, and renders them subservient to his kingdom of grace and glory. It pleases him to sustain his holy designs by a legitimate instrumentality. You appointed your missionary to use his discretion in the election and ordination of Ruling Elders, that if practicable the organisation of the congregation might be complete. At that time our knowledge of the persons congregated suggested that this was attainable. The man who most of all might have been instrumental in promoting the objects of our Mission, because of the leisure which he could have commanded, the character which he sustained, and his extensive acquaintance on the prairie and in the neighbouring towns, was, during my stay, under the illness which terminated in death. This was felt as a stroke upon the congregation. It was therefore not deemed expedient to construct, a session.

During the six weeks of my appointment I had little opportunity to preach on week days. The farmers on the prairie were wholly occupied with their farming operations. The autumn is the season in which they thresh their crops and carry their produce to market. Unlike Canada,—you seldom see a barn as you pass along the railway through Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. It is so on Blake's prairie. In the towns few seem to care for any thing beyond the present world. On the Sabbaths I preached for the most part on the prairie in various school houses. Arrangements could be got only to preach once in Beetown. Here there is only one place of worship nearly always occupied by Methodists and Baptists. I preached three times in Cassville, on as many Sabbaths. This town was commenced some twenty years ago by three gentlemen as proprietors. They expected that it would become the capital of a State situated on both sides of the Mississippi. In this they were disappointed; as the river is the boundary between Wisconsin and Iowa. The