

was glad to find them free from any word that could have given offence. Bearing large seals, I suppose they thought they contained some important official document of a different character. I feel deeply grateful for the kind consideration shown by yourselves and the Committee to us in the appropriations made, and only regret that at present I cannot report more encouragingly of our country's prospects. At present a convention is being held, or conference between twenty of each class, French and English, to decide on the question what shall we do with Commissioner Smith's papers from the Government of Canada, and the propositions he may be authorized to make. I have hoped and been disappointed so frequently, that I know not what to hope for now. I ardently desire and fervently pray that some right and wise settlement may be decided on at once.

✓ On Sabbath evening last, Dr. Schultz, the chief political prisoner here, contrived in some way, unaccountable to me, to make his escape from his prison in the fort. I was in on Sabbath morning, with each of the four rooms of prisoners, read Scripture and prayed, and also with Dr. Schultz; but a guard was with me, so that, of course, I had no communication at all with them except in the worship. It is said that he cut out the sash, and making lines of his buffalo robes, let himself down from the second story to the ground, and

then jumped from the walls into a deep drift of snow, and his absence was not known till eight a.m. next day. Where he is supposed to be I have not heard. His property will most probably be all confiscated, as a part seems to have been already.

Commissioner Smith, and Hardiste, and Dr. Cowan, all are little better than prisoners in the Fort—every movement watched, and not allowed to leave the Fort. I held service with them also on Sabbath morning—so you see I chaplained for the prisoners and officials in the morning, and then took my three services after during the day.

As to the direction in which we are drifting I give no opinion. My trust is in God:—"I know in whom I have believed," &c—but with a sick wife—no better—and my present surroundings, and the forebodings of many frequently ringing in my ears, it will be no marvel to you if I say I have some rather dark hours. But rest assured, *I shall not flee*,—in accordance with your instructions, *I stay, even if Mrs. Young's failing health renders it a matter of humanity, and so of duty, for me to get her away for medical treatment in early spring.*

In neither of your communications is there any reference to Dr. Taylor's visit here in the spring. Norway and Oxford must be visited by some one. 'The work requires inspection.' Still write often, for your letters are as a means of grace to us here.

Letter from the Rev. M. ROBISON, dated High Bluff, January 3rd, 1870.

I was somewhat surprised this morning, on looking at my diary, to find that two months had passed since last I wrote you. I had been for some weeks previous to that date engaged in a special service, which, notwithstanding a fierce onset of the devil, was attended with encouraging results. Eleven united with us in Church fellowship, some of whom have received the pearl of great price; while others still show their desire for salvation by a regular attendance upon the means of grace, as well as by abstinence from outward sin, to which they had been formerly addicted. The language of their hearts is, "Oh that we knew where we might find him!"

The people here have decided to build a small church, part of the timber for which is already cut. We would long remember our friends in Canada if they would render us some assistance in this undertaking. As we are not a very particular people, we would receive it in the shape of nails, glass, putty, lamps, a stove, money or anything else that can be used in building. The children must be helped if we would have them become helpers. The first two weeks in November were spent in a revival service about five miles distant from the place above referred to. Aroused at seeing poor sinners converted to Christ, and in consequence changing their church re-