

conducted in the building used as a school room during the day and as a bedroom during the night, near Mr. Saunders' store, on the other side of the river. The building referred to was one of the most humble in which I ever preached, and I have preached in some very modest places. But, comfortless and cheerless as the building itself was, there was a warm-hearted, happy company of worshippers gathered there that day. I cannot forget the gladness manifested in each countenance as I stood up to give out the psalm; as also, when the service was over, the cordial manner in which I was received as one after another was introduced to me. Well, within six months we were able to move to better quarters when the new log schoolhouses were completed by Mr. Huff. We then felt that the days of roughing it were past, and that days of comfort had come. To-day it is my pleasing duty to rejoice with you and to congratulate you on entering upon what may be called the third stage of your history as a church, seated as you now are in this comfortable, commodious church building. Before a building of these proportions and such finish could have been planted here sacrifices must have been made by many if not by all present. In a community struggling with many adverse circumstances the very purpose to build a house for the worship of God was a bold one. By men of less zeal and determination the undertaking would have been deemed impossible. But to men of strong faith, the difficulties which to ordinary mortals seem insurmountable vanish. To-day this house of God stands complete, in all its parts, comfortable and substantial, a monument to your Christian zeal and liberality. Yet I feel sure you are ready to acknowledge that you have been able to accomplish little for Christ's sake. How feebly does this church building, reared through your exertions, express your gratitude to that Being who gives us all things—the very air we breathe—the very food that sustains us. When we give our best, and do our utmost, what a poor return we make for the countless favors our gracious Father is daily showering around our path. The blessed Redeemer gave His life for us. His precious blood He shed that we might be ransomed and quickened from the dead. His atoning death deprives disappointments of their sting, gives gladness to lives which would otherwise be unendurable, and enables us all to meet death, the King of Terrors, with calmness and courage. My Christian friends, may it please Almighty God to remember your gifts, and to accept your sacrifices for Jesus' sake—to make this house His home—that this may be in years to come a precious spot which you and your children may call blessed. May it be as a resting place to the wayworn—a place of refreshment to those hungering and thirsting after righteousness—a place of which it may be said of many that they were born here.

My dear friends, your invitation, expressed in touching terms, to be present at the opening of your new church, moved me deeply. You had rightly interpreted my feelings towards you, and my con-