

The Ebenezer Alden Jr., Letters From Iowa Territory

EARLY IOWA CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER WRITES
TO KINFOLK OF EXPERIENCES

(Continued from January ANNALS)

The remaining letters of a series written in 1843-47 by the Reverend Ebenezer Alden, Jr., from Tipton, in Territorial Iowa, to his father and mother and other members of his family at Randolph, Massachusetts, the first of which appeared in the January issue of the Annals, are presented herewith.

This publication is made possible through the courtesy of Mr. H. M. Harris, former banker at Grinnell and Des Moines, now of Moline, Illinois, the wife of whom is a descendent of the Alden family, who had the originals copied and deposited with the Iowa State Department of History & Archives. His son, Mayo Harris, superintendent of the John Deere Plow Works at Moline, and C. C. Clifton of the *Des Moines Register*, were instrumental in securing the courtesy.

Ebenezer Alden, Jr., also was one of the founders of Grinnell college and a member of its board of trustees.

Tipton, Dec. 24, 1844

My dear Mother: I received your letter on Dec. 11th. Last Sabbath evening I preached at Mr. Church's. Mrs. Church is about 6 years younger than Eliza Epes Carter, her sister, with whom you were acquainted. . . .

You are very desirous that I should come home next summer and wish me to promise to come if nothing prevents. I am sure I would start tomorrow if there was nothing to hinder. But the great difficulty is that there is a good deal to prevent my going. . . .

One trouble is the expense of travelling so far and

back. It is true that if the A.H.M.S. pay me up fully I shall have as much again as will be necessary at my command. It is true also for which I am much obliged to Father that he offered to bear the expense of my journey last summer. But as I sometimes say in my preaching it is not the \$100.00 in gold or silver or bank bills that I am looking at but the comforts, blessings, and good things that this sum would bring to its possessor. \$100.00 in *cash* would help me half ways or a third at the least to build a *church in Tipton*. I could get a building underweigh that would accommodate us, with that sum in my hands. You will say that I shall collect money in the East when I come home. I shall do *well* if I get that sum. Then again the sum would a quarter or a sixth furnish me with a place of my own. \$400.00 perhaps \$600.00 would fit me out pretty well.

Do you think it is miserly & sordid to make such calculations? It is not the money I care anything about. I have no faculty for keeping any when I have it. But a quiet home of my own I should like to have. After living as I have done in Iowa, it is not very consoling to be just as far from being settled down permanently as when I came to the Territory. I like to be gaining & not wearing out and wearing down all the time. I can live "any how" for a time but I do not wish to, any longer than I can help. It is a poor plan for anybody to live along as the old saying is from "hand to mouth," but poorer yet for a minister of the gospel, and a bishop over 24 miles square.

If I had a harness & cutter and buggy too, it would help me a great deal. But I do not wish for them while I have no stable or shed to protect such articles from the weather & there are a good many other things I want first.

When you have had to eat all kinds of eating & have lived without society as long as has been the case with me & had to drive away the cow from

tearing out all the hay in the crevices between the logs as I used to at Solon, etc. etc. etc., supposing you could be placed in such a situation you would understand the "drift of my remarks." I am not grumbling or complaining or finding fault with myself or anybody else but am as cheerful & happy as you need imagine.

3 months would be short enough & too short to be gone—5 or 6 weeks travelling & 6 or a little more to be at home. Supposing as much should be undone whilst I was gone as I had done here, what kind of a situation should I be in when I returned?

Again, it is very pleasant to meet, but very hard to part. Would it not be as hard as when I first came out? . . . But if I was there I should not be endeavoring to do any good here the way I am now. I might be there raising money to keep somebody here and that is what you are doing. . . . Still I may come East next year. If I do, I believe it will be best to go on after the General Association meets in Bloomington in June.

As to Father's coming out in reference to my getting a place here, perhaps it would be worthwhile, though I suppose Mr. Gillett's judgment or that of a number of my church would be very safe as it respects that matter. Perhaps in a year or two a visit could be more pleasantly made. . . . But then perhaps it would be pleasanter for him to see things as they are now. There will be prairie enough here to see 10 years hence and to see the country just as the Indians left it. We ought to have been here 8 years ago.

Jan. 1, 1845.—A happy New Year to you, my dear Mother, and may you live to enjoy a great many more. I received last Monday evening on returning home from preaching Father's letter dated on the last day of Nov. . . .

Tomorrow I have a funeral to attend and the next day I start for the North to organize a new church

& preach & probably I shall not be back for 2 or 3 weeks.

Your aff. Son,

P.S. *Jan.* 1—I received today the first Thanksgiving sermon that was ever printed in Iowa, that of Mr. Holbrook in Dubuque. There was a notice of Mr. Hutchinson's on the Burlington paper. The one delivered in Tipton was not noticed in print but it made a good deal of talk.

Tipton, March 3d, 1845

My dear Parents: I have this morning read your letter, mailed Feb. 6. I perceive that you do not know all about the West yet. Imagine a church of 16 members, 3 near our meeting house, and the male member a man in feeble health, though an excellent man, one not to be depended upon to conduct or assist in prayer meetings. Then over at the East Parish meeting house—*next house from Tipton* resides the deacon, a good, infirm, gray-headed man—then a mile beyond resides an old lady. Then at N. Abington is a young woman, then at Mr. Ward's Mrs. Church—and at Faxon's another female member of the church. By Punkafrog is an excellent Scotchman & his wife & 2 or 3 miles S. of there a good man & his wife from Penn. At Dr. Burgess' is a young man & his wife—& at Hingham another man & his wife, members of the church. Where are your prayer meetings & monthly concert? Are you intending to desert Tipton?

The prospects of my church are as good as those of any other church, back from the Mississippi or Des Moines of equal age—& our numbers as large—& at the next communion, the last Sabbath in April more will unite I trust. The prospect of remaining permanently here is a better than that of one on a river town and we are not half of the year, shaking with the ague.

I sent to Chicago for my box—2 other men obtained

boxes—one from Boston—I none. When I see the man who went, perhaps I may learn something about it. The church Library arrived at Bloomington last week—the boats commenced running then, Feb. 24. There may be some cold weather yet, but the winter has pretty much broken up I rather think. Geese and ducks, etc., flew north two weeks ago.

I did not preach yesterday. It was my day to be on the Wapsipinicon. Friday night my appointment was 26 miles from here—Saturday night 18—and Sunday & Sunday night 16 miles N. where the church at "Rome" has been organized. I have had a bad cold for a week past and I thought it prudent to remain at home—besides there is a large creek which was high a week ago which might have blocked me. My pony too has been sick with the distemper though I could borrow the horse of the man with whom I board as he has been prostrated on his bed for a number of weeks with rheumatism. This is the first Sabbath on which I have been prevented from preaching since I have been in the territory from ill health. I should have preached had it been my day in Tipton. As it was I went & heard the circuit rider.

I subscribed for Mr. Fiske's paper, because I would like to see it & I couldn't do any other way very well. Mr. Fiske is a Presbyterian—& if the Cong. keep up separate operations here, I do not believe his paper will *ultimately* be our organ. The Snethen Seminary is professedly very liberal—no didactic theology!!! in it. 50 students in all—6 theological. I believe it is *Protestant Methodist* & always will be, and more so by & by, than now. I do not like a theological Seminary where there is no theology, or a denomination which has no peculiar tenets, or measures, as a great many Congregationalists wish that we were. It is well enough to be on the look out where there is too much liberality as well as where there is too much bigotry.

I wish Mr. Fiske well & the Snethen Seminary too, but I do not expect that the paper of the one will be the paper—*though it may*—nor the Seminary, *the Seminary* at all. If you want to give away any loose change I want a meeting house here & we hope to have a college—at Davenport probably.

I shall remain here as minister, except absent on visits or at meetings—till the first of next November, & probably 10 years longer if the Lord spares my life. If I leave, somebody else will come I hope. We do not expect to desert the field here yet. I can travel about better horseback the greater part of the time than any other way & a part of the year *in no other way*. The first thing to get is a piece of land and a house, which I have not yet done.

For \$20.00 I can get a block of land in town, a little over 2 acres. I could raise from the sod half corn enough for my horse the first year. After that I should have a good garden & homestead sufficiently near town for me to conduct meetings. This would be a great help. The ground ought to be broken this Spring or early in the summer for next year's garden. Then there should be a fence about it which will cost \$35.00 or \$40.00. The breaking would cost \$5.00. By & by perhaps I shall want a 40 acre out lot. I can't expect to get now at \$1.25, government price much timber in it as almost all is entered, but I should have fire wood & the land.

If I had a house the renting of it to a good family with whom I could board would board me, which I might be left to do. I suppose \$600.00 would put up a pretty comfortable house & what means I have would do something. But I am doing nothing & perhaps I shall not.

. . . If I start for the East it will be after the June meeting.

Your aff. Son,

March 4.—I received tonight the *Puritan* containing

the important intelligence that I am here, etc., & a *Vermont Chronicle*.

Tipton, April 22d, 1845

My dear Parents: I have not received a letter from you since I last wrote, but presume that I shall before this is mailed which will be next week. We have a number of mails through this place and two more are soon to be established, but it is only once a week that I can expect to go to the Post Office and expect to take out a letter from Home, and then I am sometimes disappointed. This is a world of change and disappointment. Everything about us changes and we change our minds.

When I last wrote, you perceived that I thought that on many accounts it did not appear for the best for me to visit the East the next summer. Since then I have thought so still more. The situation of the two churches to which I preach is such that it would be best for me to be here.

The church North of this is small just formed, and forming and I might do a great deal of good there the next season. The church here is gaining ground. Next Sabbath will be our next communion day. I expect Dr. Woods over and hope that there will be some admissions to the church, for a number are expecting soon to join. If a minister should be stationed north of this place where I now preach, then during my absence he could preach here a part of the time.

If I stay here too, this coming summer, I could be getting things in readiness to have a home of my own by and by. I do not expect that this family with which I board is always to live in this rented house nor that I shall not be obliged to move my quarters somewhere sooner or later. I have therefore pretty much come to the conclusion that I shall not make you a visit this summer. . . . I have no doubt but that I shall feel when I see the rest of the brethren

moving off in the boat from Bloomington as if I wished that I were with them.

This field which I occupy it is not my intention to abandon. I should not wish to leave it for any other part of Iowa, unless someone were here to take my place. Everything cannot be done in a day, but there is nothing to discourage a reasonable man. This is a good agricultural county and I hope to see in it 10,000 people. Tipton will be a healthy, pleasant little village. A young lawyer has just moved in here who has made school teaching his occupation for 5 years past in this County. We shall now have I trust a good, permanent school, a school district organization, and a school house. Several houses are going up.

Br. Robbins was up last week to marry a couple—one of the members of his church, and a young lady in the neighborhood, were the parties. I was present also and assisted. He thinks my field on many accounts altogether preferable to his own. I preach to a larger audience, and the prospect of *remaining* in a country place is altogether better than that of permanence in a river town.

Last week I purchased a lot of land on the town plat of a little more than 2 acres. It is now unbroken prairie, but I shall get it broken at the right time and a year from next summer it will be fit for cultivation. I intend to put up a house on it in a few months, and shall try to get things so prepared as to do it. I hope it may do me some good and that when my friends wish to come out and visit me I shall have a place in which suitably to entertain them. If it does not do me any good it may the next Tipton minister for there is no probability that I shall suffer any pecuniary loss unless fire or some other providential visitation should befall me. My church and people are extremely gratified that I am to remain here this summer, if the Lord spares my life. I trust that you will think it best too to have

me where I am apparently in the way of duty. . . . Br. Adams may think it best for me to go with him, and may present arguments sufficient to turn the scale I have not seen him yet but expect to 2 weeks from today at our Northern Association in Albany, Ill. The little church there belongs to the Association though in Ill. . . .

April 23d

Dear Mary: So far I had written, when last evening I received Mother's, Sarah's & your joint letter. I was yesterday looking over my register of letters to see how long it was since you had written and found it nearly 6 months—5 months & more. I trust you have had a pleasant winter in visiting; you think you have had such an one, but yet I believe that you and Sarah both are strangers to true happiness, to that happiness & those consolations which will endure when the world and all its pleasures will have forever passed away. God grant that this may not be so for a much longer time.

I received also last evening a letter from John P. Gulliver, and a good one it was too. Well since I have read over these letters I feel as if I must come East, this summer. On many accounts it would be best to stay here. But on many it seems for the best to go. I have not mentioned to but a few of my church that I had concluded to remain here this summer, & I believe that I shall not mention it to any more, but shall start after the meeting of the General Association. That will be a most interesting time, to meet brethren whom I have not seen a year and some whom I have not seen since I left New England, besides meeting their wives whom I have never seen, except Mrs. Hutchinson. I mean those who came out last summer. The meeting will be a good one too. It will be the next thing to going East, *the next thing before going East.*

Item—Glass & Nails—They can be bought pretty nearly as cheap in Bloomington as East—at any rate

the cost of transportation would make the bill about equal if not beyond the cost here—so says Mr. Gillett. Such cash articles might be subscribed for a meeting house by manufacturers when they did not feel like giving cash. If I can get lumber—which is doubtful—I think I will put up a house this summer at any rate. I shall not worry myself about it but if I find there is a chance to get the lumber with certainty I rather think I shall build. But everything is not done in a day, and I presume I understand how things are conducted here a great deal better than many who could teach me a good many things about business matters in the older states. And there is no extraordinary vanity in making such an assertion. I am afraid I shall not feel like doing much till I start. I shall have two trips to make to my northern church & one to Ill. And in 7 weeks shall be off from Tipton. I have written sermons enough for Randolph at any rate.

Your aff. Brother,

April 29th: We had a very interesting sacramental meeting last Saturday afternoon and Sabbath. Dr. Woods and Mr. Bool of Marion were present and assisted in the services. There was a large congregation present & we had the best place for preaching which we have yet had. 3 united with the church, 2 by letter and one by profession. I baptized 4 children of my church. It was one of the most interesting meetings which we have yet had, interesting and solemn.

Where is Dr. Woods' box of clothing? He has not received any letter from Mr. Clarke. Will Father or Mr. Clarke inform him, if it was sent, where it was sent to—so that he can get it.

Spring has now considerably advanced. The grass has been high enough for feed for horses and cattle for sometime. The trees are beginning to appear green. I measured a few moments ago a shoot of a crab apple which has grown 11 inches the present season. We have had some rain for a week past & a good deal of cloudy weather. My health is now good.

I intend to come east this summer but have not determined which way I shall go. I shall see Br. E. Adams next week at the Northern Association and we shall probably make some arrangements about things then. You may expect to see me the 1st or 2nd week of July, if nothing special prevents me from coming. I shall write you one more letter before starting and avail myself of the last privilege of imposing a .25 cent letter upon you—after that they will not be worth only 10 cents. I am much obliged to Sarah for her letter.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Cedar Co., Iowa, June 4th, 1845

My dear Parents: Your last letter was received on the 20th of May. About the middle of the last month too I received my box from Chicago, by the way of St. Louis. The melodian has been a good deal of company since. I have had also a pleasant trip to Illinois to attend the Northern Association of Congregationalists, and am anticipating a pleasant meeting with old friends next week in Bloomington.

I have to marry a couple tomorrow evening and preach two sermons next Sabbath and then my ministerial duties are finished here for this summer. Probably, however, I shall not reach Mass. as soon as you anticipate. It is not possible, we supposed to attend the meetings in Bloomington & Detroit both, and hence Brs. Turner & Salter are our delegation to Detroit & are already on their way I suppose. Br. Adams wishes to visit the southern part of the Territory before leaving for the East & probably we shall not be out of Iowa entirely for 2 weeks & more.

We shall probably go up the Ohio if the water is in the right stage, & if not, we shall take the lake passage. I shall be in New York City before I see you & may perhaps let you know more definitely at what time I shall see you, but cannot do so at present.

The season has been rather dry until within a few days in which we have had some fine showers.

Tipton is improving considerably the present season. A number of houses are going up, & there have been a good many immigrants into our section of country. A young physician has just arrived who appears to be an educated man, & I hope we shall soon get rid of one of the old ones who is a great nuisance and rascal.

There are about 150 Mormons encamped near us on their way to Oregon. They have been in the pine country in Wisconsin for 2 years past, but finding their mills to be on Indian ground, they have left. They are from all quarters & have 8 or 10 Eastern men amongst them, one from Leicester, Hobart, whose father was from Abington. There was a great gathering to hear their preaching last Sabbath, & I was almost deserted. They are a good deal the same kind of folks as the "come-outers" & Millerites, with some rascally scamps amongst their leaders as I suppose.

Perhaps you had as well retain the *Puritan* as I can put it in with my old books, some of them I suppose I may bring out.

I have been boxing up my things here so as to have them in safe keeping whilst I am gone. I shall get things settled up before I leave so as to remain absent and give you a visit as long as one of my old vacations. I cannot expect to return in less than 3 months and during that time I trust there will be one or two here to supply my place a Sabbath. What would you think of Mr. Hitchcock's being away for 3 months & no Cong. minister nearer than 25 miles & no agents of any consequence or unemployed ministers in the region?

I am thankful to God for making such a miserable sinner as I am & have been the means of accomplishing what I have done. If I were holier, I might do more & this is my prayer. I trust I shall be kept in safety, have a pleasant journey & visit and be returned to be a great deal better and do more than I have thus far.

My love to all.

Your aff. Son,

Pittsburgh, July 5th, 1845

My dear Parents: You will see by the date of my letter that I am on my way to New England and that I have escaped the dangers of the rivers. I left Tipton at the time I anticipated & attended the meeting of the General Association at Bloomington which was interesting and important in its bearings upon religion in Iowa. From thence I went to Denmark with Br. Adams & preached in Burlington Sabbath before last.

Monday evening I started from Madison. Last Sabbath I passed in Owensboro, Ky. This resting upon the Sabbath is expensive on account of paying for short routes as well as boarding in a public house, and it hinders me in my journey. Still it is right & in the end it will be for the best. The next Sabbath I shall probably spend in N. Y. City & if nothing unexpected occurs, you may expect to see me in about a week & a half. If I had reached Pittsburgh an hour earlier this morning, I should have been in season for a stage for Blairsville where I shall go Monday & from thence to Philadelphia. If this had been the case, I should have been at home a week from today & this would have been so had it not been for a fog this morning.

The last boat, on which I was, was run into by another boat, but not much injured. On another the state room next to mine was robbed, & whilst we were laying to at Nauvoo, a man was murdered in the town near us. But Providence has preserved me & favored me. When I left Iowa, I did not suppose the rivers were high enough to allow us to take the Southern route, but they have risen on account of heavy rains within a few weeks. I have been kept from sickness & have no reason to apprehend it at present.

There is a Mr. Shackford with us to collect funds for the church in Burlington which must be raised or the Congregational Church there abandoned.

It has been as a general thing very cool since I started, so even sometimes to render an outside coat comfortable.

I shall endeavor to reach home as quick as I can so as to have as much of my time with you as possible & not spend it all on the way. Still if I keep the Sabbath, I must be patient & I hope the few weeks I have will afford us a pleasant meeting & visit.

Please give my love to all the family & expect week after next.

Your aff. Son,

Hardwick, Sept. 25, 1845

Dear Father: You see from the date of this that I am still with Asa. I suppose that you would have undoubtedly presumed that I was somewhere in this vicinity, but for fear lest mother might be anxious lest I were sick, I thought it best to write.

I had a very pleasant visit at Westfield, and by having day or two to spend there, I was able to see almost all the relatives of my Tipton friends. I lectured on Iowa one evening also. I came up with Asa from Brookfield on Saturday and preached for him twice on the Sabbath, connecting with the afternoon's sermon an account of the state of things in Iowa, as I did in North Bridgewater.

I have had a very pleasant time this week in Amherst. The College appears to be in as prosperous a condition as we could reasonably expect at the present time. The Freshman class numbers a little over 30 and there are about 125 students in College. I attended one of Prof. Fiske's recitations, and was supposed by him to be Edmund. He did not discover his mistake until he commenced asking me about Williston Seminary.

Today is the day of Fasting and Prayer, the observance of which was recommended by the General Association. I am sure that I ought to keep the day as much as any one. I have as much need of lamenting my own deficiencies as of urging duty upon others. Still, if I were expecting to leave Randolph for the West next Monday, I would go home today, but such is not my present intention.

I shall write on to Mr. Adams in New York that he need not be disappointed in not finding me there or in Boston to be in company with him on his return to Iowa.

This you will receive on Saturday afternoon, so that of course you will not be expecting me home to preach on next Sabbath afternoon, as has been the expectation. It was not my intention to disappoint Dr. Hitchcock, and I presume that I shall still have the opportunity of preaching for him on the last Sabbath before my return. I have procrastinated the time of my leaving the East now for a number of weeks, and have changed the day of leaving on a number of occasions, and I hardly think it worth while at present to fix upon a time of starting. I shall not leave next week, however, and perhaps I may not go down to Randolph for a week or two.

Please give my love to all the family.

From your affectionate Son,

Tipton, Nov. 27, 1845

My dear Father: I suppose, whilst I am writing this, you are all sitting about the fire in the front parlour, and if it is as cold in Randolph as it is here, there will not be much danger of getting the room too warm. Edmund is at home from Andover, and Uncle Henry and Aunt Susan are up to enjoy Thanksgiving with you, and perhaps other friends are there.

And it is Thanksgiving day here too, and just about as much like it, as anything else here is like anything it professes to have made its pattern in New England. There are a very few communities in Iowa, and here and there a solitary family "*rari in gurgite recentes*," who know what Thanksgiving is. With such a family I board. We had something that looked a little like a Thanksgiving dinner, and this evening we intend to have at supper a plum cake which was made in the old Bay State, not a great ways from Boston itself, and was brought out by a Missionary of the A.H.M.S. a few weeks ago. If the weather had not been so cold this morning as to have prevented people from turning out

to meeting, I should have preached. As it is I have been in my room all day except to go out to take care of my horse. I have had a bad cold which I made worse a week ago by a ride to Bloomington and back. Mr. and Mrs. Gillett think I have had too a slight attack of the chills and fever.

I was intending to have gone up to Rome—Dea. Kennedy's— and the Wapsipinicon river last Sabbath, but did not think it prudent. I rather fear I shall not be able to drive about so much as I was intending, this winter, though I presume I shall be well enough in a day or two. The weather has been rough and cold for a few days. Previously it had been remarkably pleasant.

Dec. 3 The cold weather has still continued. Cedar river has closed and is in a condition to be crossed by teams. I do not know that the Mississippi is yet closed, though it cannot remain open long. The streams and wells are all very low, and if this weather continues there will not be much sawing, or grinding this winter.

Br. Reed has visited us & preached twice for me last Sabbath & I preached once. The people raised nearly \$30 towards my support last year. He is now up in the Wapsipinicon region seeing to our affairs there, as he is agent of the A.H.M.S. in place of Rev. Asa Turner. I shall probably preach up on the Wapsipinicon next Sabbath.

My box has arrived safely, and all the others I presume. The church in Bloomington was dedicated last Sabbath, I suppose. Two weeks from next Sabbath there's to be a dedication at Cascade, and a week after the beautiful house in Dubuque is to be dedicated. When there will be a dedication in Tipton, I do not know. We have a more comfortable place for worship than we had last winter. Next summer our court house will be finished and we shall have a better place yet. If we had an efficient body of Christians here, this would be of more avail to us than anything else. But it is difficult to make an active church out of such materials as there

are here. Our people too throughout Iowa are poor in purse, and as long as I remain here we shall always be scattered in Cedar Co. so much as to render it difficult to carry on our operations. Still I should be very unwilling to desert this field, for there is no more reason for abandoning this ground than there is for leaving many other places in Iowa, and in the West.

My house is raised, or nearly so, all but the rafters. The materials are all ready for the outside, except that the sash for the windows, and the doors are not made, and if there is any mild weather as there probably will be, the house will be enclosed this winter, and it will be ready for plastering in the spring.

I have a comfortable room and my outward circumstances are much more favorable to a profitable and pleasant life than they have been heretofore.

Dec. 4 Weather continues cold and rough, and it appears so much like a snow squall that I may be hindered from preaching this evening. I have an appointment about 3 miles from here. Mr. Reed returned last evening. Our little church in Walnut Fork is in trouble. Mr. Kennedy and his brother-in-law have had a falling out, and how matters are to be settled I do not know. It has been very sickly in that region and Mr. Kennedy has lost two fine boys. I do not know how long we shall remain in peace in the Tipton church, but I fear not a great many months. The people here are so pressed down with poverty, and there is so much indolence and negligence amongst some and dishonesty among others that it is difficult to keep peace even in the church. The Methodists were obliged to break up their class at Walnut Fork last Spring. Br. Salter's church have excommunicated the principal officer of the church a few Sabbaths ago.

I have received the Congregational Almanack which you sent me. It is too late to put them in circulation this year, but next year I hope that Mr. Clark will get it out in season to send us on enough of a supply to put it in circulation throughout the Territory. I think Con-

gregationalism might be advanced here very much by such a movement. Our principles are in no danger of being abandoned or of losing ground by being made known in the community.

I received your letter—and I presume all the papers you have sent. That it is a great trial to you all, especially to you and mother to have me here I have no doubt—and that it is my duty, and consequently for the interest of us all in the end, to remain here seems equally certain. If we lived only for ourselves, and only for this world this would not be so—but we live for a higher object than self and for time.

Remember me to all the family. Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Dec. 29, 1845

My dear parents: I was gratified this morning by receiving two letters, one from Mary, and the other from Edmund, and both written the week after Thanksgiving. Since I last wrote home, I have received a letter from Father, and another from Mother and Sarah, and you may consider this an answer to them. I intend to write to Mary at Wenham, as I suppose she is there at the present time.

I hope that Grandfather will continue to enjoy his usual health, although it is not strange that we are not so much shocked or surprised when we hear that severe illness has seized him, as when we hear the same news with respect to one younger. Sickness and fatal disease may be the portion assigned by Providence to the very one of our family circle who least expects it. How important that all of the family should be prepared for death as well as life, for perhaps those with respect to whom the least solicitude is felt will be the very first ones to need the peculiar consolations and support of religion. If the names of all our family were written in the Lamb's book of life, the new Year would be indeed a happy new year to us.

Dec. 30 It is a very fine morning here, a spring-like morning, and the weather mild. Yesterday was a sim-

ilar day, and also one or two previous ones. But tomorrow it may be very cold and the West or North wind very strong. Only last Thursday I came very near freezing my face in riding 5 miles in face of the wind. A few weeks ago there was one very severe day and a great many men about here had their ears & faces frozen. The weather here is very changeable. But I am better prepared for travelling here than ever before. I have a good horse, a very easy buggy to ride in & a large buffalo skin, and the roads now are almost as smooth as a railroad. There have been a few light falls of snow, but none to prevent wheeling, and only once enough to get out a sleigh for a day.

There has not been any rain since I returned that I remember except on one day. Our wells are almost dry, though we have some unfailing ones in Tipton, only 16 feet deep! and our mills cannot run for want of water. Our neighbors have within a few days gone 35 miles to mill—to the Makoqueta. There is one mill, however, 3 miles from us that does some business, but the people do not like the charges for grinding. I wish some Yankee Congregationalist would come to Tipton and start a windmill. He would if he knew how to put up his mill with \$1500.00 soon clear himself & make money as fast as anybody ought. I would ensure the right kind of a man undoubted success.

I have a very snug little room in which I generally try to study forenoons. Yesterday, however, I felt very "Mondayish" as I preached 3 times the day before.

Today I intend to move some lumber from about the Court House, my carpenter's work shop over to my house, as it is so pleasant, & tomorrow I start for the Big Woods and Rome. I preached on Christmas day, as I thought it would be a good time to get out the people, and I have an appointment for New Years' day. I should have preached on Thanksgiving day, but it was so cold that nobody would turn out, except two men & one was the Methodist minister, who is my next neighbor.

Wheat is now very high—70 cts. a bushel at Bloomington & the wagons are constantly passing. The river is frozen over to the mouth of the Ohio, a thing very uncommon, & heavily loaded teams cross at St. Louis & of course all the way above. This is partly owing to the water's being so low.

Dec. 31 Weather is the same as yesterday, and I must be off as soon as possible for the Big Woods, more than 20 miles, intending to return next Monday & I wish you all a happy New Year.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Jan. 27, 1846

My dear Father: Your letter dated upon the first of this month, was duly received, and also all the letters and papers which you mentioned as having been sent.

The church in Albany, Ill., belongs to our Association, and we met there last spring. Albany lies just above Comanche in Clinton Co. on the other side of course, and is a place of some little importance. There is a N.S. church there of which Mr. Jessup has been the minister, aided by the A.H.M.S. Of course the Cong. church has not been aided by the A.H.M.S. I have understood that the reason why the Cong. church was formed was on account of the inefficiency and inability of the Pres. church in administering discipline. As I understand it, the church was made up of the wrong materials, and perhaps the elders were not the men they should have been, and there seemed to be no alternative but to form a new church. I was very much pleased with what little I saw of the members, and they have exerted themselves most nobly in putting up this house of worship.

Bro. Emerson has some rather ultra notions upon the slavery question. He wished also to preach to the Albany church & he could not under the patronage of the A.H.M.S. for they cannot support 2 men in a place no larger than Albany, & consequently he resigned his

commission and is now dependent entirely upon the people.

I should think it would be advisable to send another library. Still perhaps it would be better to wait till we know more of the past state of things and the prospect of things at Albany.

I see that Mr. Peet has had his spirit stirred up to write for the *Puritan*. It is a pity that there should be any strife among brethren. Still I know that Congregationalism has not had justice done it. But it would have been better for the ism, if 50 yrs ago when New York was settled & Ohio, matters had been managed rightly. A great part of this N.S. influence would then have been with Congregationalism. There is another view of the subject to be taken too. I know that there are some and a great many Congregationalists in N.S. churches, but there is here & there a Pres. in a Cong. church. Look here in Tipton. There is a Cong. church of 18 members, 12 of whom cannot by any stretch of the imagination be reckoned as previously Congregationalists. Most of them were O.S. Pres. and none of them can be suspected of having one drop of New England blood in their veins, more than their minister can of having African blood in his. Of the other 6, only 2 came directly from a Cong. church & they are from Pa. Of the other 4, 3 are New Englanders, and the other is an "Ohio Yankee," from Conn., I think, or perhaps only her parents were. Now my case is a strong one, but there are undoubtedly some in the Ty. that bear a resemblance to it, and perhaps such facts would be strong ones for a Pres. paper.

The month of Jan. has been a mild one, with some little snow occasionally. But we have not had any sleighing to be depended upon. The streams and springs are still low, and I intend to have a well dug before the ground thaws out.

I spoke about the wind power in my last I believe. There is a windmill in S. Boston just after you come out over the bridge which I wish I had examined when

I was East. I want to know the construction of a wheel to be turned by the wind, & having the shaft running down through the center of the mill. And the expense with such a wheel of running a pair of burrs, 4 feet across I should like to know. I do not expect to engage in windmill operations myself, nor busy myself unnecessarily in worldly operations, but still I like to understand what would be of benefit here. Augustus & Uncle Henry might either of them obtain & give information on such a subject as well as yourself. Perhaps too there are works or information published on such a subject. The old fashioned windmills are easily understood, but I think one on the other principle would be the best for flouring operations. There was a saw mill on the road between Bloomington & Iowa City, which was worked by sails, but it was burnt down the other night.

Jan. 28 Had spare rib for dinner today & Mr. Gillet bought 5 of them yesterday for 13 cents—this will show you how much danger there is of our starving here.

You spoke in one of your letters about the Iowa churches sending out a missionary to Oregon. I suppose we all endeavor to cultivate the missionary spirit & obtain funds for the A.H.M.S. And if that body should see fit to send a man or more to Oregon, we should be doing our part towards it. If you mean that we ought to send somebody from Iowa, there are probably those here that would be willing to go, if it should be duty. But if you mean that we ought as an Association to bear the expense of the undertaking of sending someone there, through the A.H.M.S. just on the same principle as Mr. Robbin is supported here, & devote our funds, given to A.H.M.S., to this purpose, I presume we could support someone there, I do not know how much is generally, or yearly contributed from Iowa, but I see \$100 acknowledged from Iowa the present month. Still after all it would be a real effort to raise the amount. I know that children ought to be generous with their little amounts & put their cents into the contribution box when their parents have provided them with the money

for the purpose. If Iowa should send a missionary to Oregon, it would look very much like acting on this principle. As a general thing I believe it is best for the A.H.M.S. to select the fields for the missionaries.

I intend to go up to the church at Rome tomorrow, or next day, & preach there & above. I shall try to rectify matters there which are in a very bad state, but I very much fear that the only course will be to disband the church. It is impossible to discipline any member & unless there is a spirit of repentance, the church must be disorganized. Perhaps some of the members may come into another church that may be organized above the present location of the church. If the church was Presbyterian, it would be no better, except that the matter might be carried up to a higher court & then I do not know that matters would be bettered any.

I hope to hear that all are well both at Wenham & Randolph. Remember me to all the family & friends.
Your aff. Son,

Tipton, March 4, 1846

My dear Father: Your letter with Edmund's note enclosed was duly received, and I am happy to inform you that I am in good health with the exception of the remnants of a cold of which I have nearly recovered. About a fortnight ago we had a sudden change in the weather to severe cold so great that our smaller streams closed, and this change brought on colds. The weather is now spring like.

I have been recently to Burlington to see Br. Hutchinson, probably for the last time, as he is apparently in the last stages of consumption, and his strength is daily failing. It is sad to feel that we must part with him and his loss will not be easily repaired or his post of usefulness occupied. Br. Salter is now there, preaching as a candidate, I suppose. Father Turner has been quite sick though better now, and will not probably remain

in this world to labor as he has done a great many years longer. I preached for him Sabbath before last.

My house is progressing towards completion, and I am fencing in my land, and hope to get settled after a while. Mrs. Gillett does not enjoy good health, and I know that my presence is a burden here though I am absent a good deal of the time.

I received a commission from the A.H.M.S. last week to the amount of \$328. My people I hope will make up the amount to \$400.00. I will give you the more important parts of my report which goes on in the same mail with this letter:

During the past quarter my time has been fully occupied in preaching in the destitute settlements in Cedar Co. and in Jones Co. along the Wapsipinicon river. The population is so scattered as to require an itinerating life of the minister of the gospel at present, and to a considerable extent for some years to come. There ought to be someone stationed in the Southern part of Jones Co. and in that case I should be at liberty to confine myself to my own County. The little church at Rome is in a sad condition at present, and I fear must soon be disbanded. It is very difficult to prevent the entrance into a new church of some individuals whose lives are no honor to religion, and where preaching is only maintained a part of the time, and the standard of morality is low in the community, there are many influences at work to draw a Christian aside from duty and lead him into positive sin.

I proceeded to state that I think it more doubtful as to our success in Iowa than in Wisconsin—perhaps the Methodist Brethren will do better than we can—that I regard my work still as an experiment, though there is no more reason for abandoning my field than many others.

I cannot say that I have seen any evidence of the special presence of the Holy Spirit in any of my congregations during the past winter.

The attendance upon preaching is uniformly good, and in some neighborhoods the congregations are as large as could be reasonably expected and appear to be interested in preaching.

One member of the church was removed by death last fall.

We continue to sustain the Temperance movement, and last Sabbath evening a new Society of 18 members was organized

at Fairview on the "military road" in Jones Co. A number of addresses were made. Our meeting was held in a house by no means a stranger to the presence and influence of whiskey, and during the evening the owner of the house sat near the speaker redolent with the fumes of his favorite beverage and surrounding us with its atmosphere.

One of the speakers was Dr. Matson recently from N.Y. formerly from Vermont, who read his lecture—an old one. He appears to be a scientific man. I preached at his house last Sabbath & stayed over night there. He is not a professor.

March 5 I have just finished—or so nearly so that is safe against the spring rains—walling up my well. It is about 20 ft. deep with abundance of water—and a number of about this depth have been dug lately—and the water is said to be soft. We are in ordinary seasons able to go only 16 ft. if so deep.

Give my love to all the family.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Cedar County, April 28, 1846

My dear Father: I received your letter with Anne's note last week. I have been absent from home a good deal of the time since I last wrote, and have enjoyed very good health. I can sympathize a little, however strange it may seem, with you in respect to rheumatic pains, as I have something of the kind occasionally myself. We have had a good deal of wet weather recently, sufficient to raise the streams and springs somewhat. The ice went out at low water and we have had no such freshets as those on the Merrimac, etc.

There has been nothing of peculiar interest during the past three months in religious things. We had a pleasant communion season a few weeks ago. The Northern Association meets in this place for the first time, next week, and I hope good will be the result to our people here.

My house is nearly ready for plastering, and will be completed in a few weeks. I intend to room there, and keep my horse there and probably for a time board here

at Mr. Gilletts. Mrs. Gillett now has help and if she should continue to have, I may board here. I shall not try to get a family to come into my house, to board with them, unless I find one of the right kind, which it is not very easy to do.

I unfortunately foundered my horse last night and have been applying remedies all day. It is a young horse which I have had but a short time. I had a very good animal which I purchased in Milwaukee, but she became so scary and wild that I could not drive her with any safety. She jumped once and turned me out of the buggy and injured it considerably, though I escaped. It is not a very easy matter to get a good horse here. The stock is not very good, and the horses are not well broken when young, and are worked too early. Like their owners they become old when young.

April 29 We are having a real old fashioned North East storm yesterday and today. I am not obliged to be out in it, but shall endeavor to prepare for the next Sabbath during the remainder of the week. We shall soon have the Court House finished. We shall have the meeting of the Association there, though perhaps not in the Court room. Our General Association meets 4 weeks after the Northern Association, the first Thursday in June, at Dubuque. Some of the Iowa ministers will be at the meeting at Michigan City. I understand that Mr. Davis of Westfield intends to be there, and with Mr. Chadwick will probably be at Tipton this summer. I hope there will be a good delegation, at the great meeting of Congregationalists from New England.

April 30 Perhaps you do not know the church and Society in Burlington have given an unanimous call to Mr. Salter to become their pastor. He has accepted the call and commenced the duties of his office. It will be a hard field for him. He has some peculiar qualifications for the place, but by and by his powers will be severely taxed. It will be no easy matter to make Br. Hutchinson's place good, for he was more than an ordinary man both in intellectual endowments and in piety.

I hope you will become acquainted with Br. Salter when he is on East in July & August. There is a Dea. Field of Rev. Asa Turner's church going on; he has probably started—he has a brother in Abington in Mr. Pierce's society I rather think. I hope you will see him & his wife. Perhaps he will exchange places with his brother.

Please remember me to all the family.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, July 1, 1846

My dear Father: Your letter, mailed the 1st of last month, was received last week. I suspected that I was acquainted with the author of the article you referred to in a later No. of the *Puritan*, as soon as I saw it, which was 3 weeks ago. It bears strong internal evidence of its authorship. I think the ministers referred to need such a prescription and I hope those concerned will profit by it. I know that there is a deficiency in the piety of ministers, and also that the life of many in the Seminary is not favorable to an advance in personal holiness, or to success in after life. Perhaps the churches should bear some of the responsibility for this. One thing is certain, they and Eastern ministers are responsible for sending out here so many inefficient and often inconsistent professors as they do. This is one of our serious obstacles in the advancement of religion.

Last Sabbath the church at Walnut Fork was disbanded, on account of so much iniquity, as there is in the church. I think the step taken was a wise, though painful one. I do not feel altogether to blame for the formation of the church, and believe I can do more good by preaching to that community than I could before the breaking up of the church.

The meeting of the General Association in Dubuque was fully attended, and was extremely interesting, and profitable. Foreign and Home Missionary meetings were held in connection. The claims of the S. School cause—A.S.S.U. and of the Tract cause were presented by

the Agents of the respective bodies. Congregationalism is steadily advancing in Iowa. I wish I could add that there is a good degree of spirituality in our churches, and that we have been making encroachments upon the world. But we have not that spirit of devotion, and zeal, which we ought to possess.

The week following the College Association met in Davenport, composed of Cong. & N.S. Pres. The college was located there. A board of 12 Trustees was elected, myself among others. An ex. com. was appointed, composed of Bros. Reed & Robbins & myself. \$1500 have been subscribed in Davenport. We wish to raise what we can among our personal friends. I trust mine will do something. I think the College Association at the East will not disapprove of personal friends doing something. We shall come under their patronage. We have secured some ground without expense, and hope soon to get all we wish for, but may be somewhat delayed, as there are several owners.

We wish to erect some kind of a building and commence with an institution which shall grow into a college as soon as possible. I wish you would write what you think about the course taken, and endeavor to further the cause as much as possible. The Catholics a few Sabbaths ago layed the foundation stone of a College at Sinsinawa Mound right opposite Dubuque. Cannons were fired, martial music played, and the Judge of this District was present, and countenanced the whole proceedings. I have no doubt but that it is time for us to be laying the foundations of a College in Iowa. I think that we are not beginning too soon. The location too on many accounts is a very desirable one.

I was present during only a part of the time of the meeting of the Gen. Association. I left on Saturday, and preached at the request of Bro. Stevens of Platteville for him at New Diggings. He had exchanged and was to have preached at the latter place. Bro. Lewis who is located at New Diggings is from Walpole, and came out the same fall I did. His mother and sister

came out last fall. His mother says she recollects seeing you in Sharon, the winter of 1843, and conversing with you in respect to the West. I became acquainted with the family last fall during an excursion I made to Wisconsin. It seemed a good deal like going East to be in a family from so near home, and I did not succeed in getting down to the Davenport meeting, so that my newly acquired honors came rather unexpectedly upon me. However, there is more labor than honor to be borne by a Trustee of an unincorporated, unbuilt Western College without funds.

We had an agreeable visit from Rev. E. Davis & Dea. Chadwick of Westfield a few days ago. Mr. Davis preached a week ago last Sabbath in Bloomington. Mr. Chadwick stayed in this region a week or two. Mr. Davis in Tipton only one night.

You mentioned about sending on \$100 soon. I shall soon have to pay my workmen as my house is nearly finished. I gave Mr. Chadwick a draft on you for \$100 which you will receive in a few days & Mr. Gillett pays me over the \$100 here. This is I presume the most convenient way for me to receive the money, & the most convenient for all, unless it may be otherwise for yourself. I wish I could have notified you sooner. It will be, however, some 2 or 3 weeks before it will be called for, and I presume it will not be difficult for you to meet the draft. I thought it would be a good plan to improve the opportunity of the Chadwicks being here.

I hope that I shall meet all my obligations without difficulty. As soon as I get matters all settled up, I will let you know the expense of the house, etc.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, July 27, 1846

My dear parents: Mother's letter duly arrived, but for some reason or other, Father's has only just arrived, whilst Edmund's written and mailed subsequently to it, came here I suppose a week ago. I received it last

Saturday on my return home from Wisconsin, where I preached a week ago last Sabbath—yesterday.

Edmund has given you a broader hint than I was expecting he would, as to my excursion into Wisconsin a few weeks ago. If I had known what I do now, he would not have given, or received any hint at all. I presumed, however, that from some source you would hear about my visits to Wisconsin, and I thought I would prepare the way for further news. There is no further news to be communicated. I went up to Wisconsin, preached for Br. Lewis who has gone to Ohio on a visit, and came back. There is nothing to call me that way again. I shall endeavor to make no premature announcements after this.

I am happy to say that my health is now quite good, with the exception of a cold from which I have nearly recovered. About a fortnight ago the weather was extremely warm—the week after the 4th. I thought I would take off my flannel shirt, but I caught a severe cold by doing so, & for a week you would have thought Edmund was about. I was, I presume, threatened with a fever, but took a dose of calomel—14 grains—& castor oil and became well, enough to go a two days' journey and back. I mention this so that you need have no unnecessary anxiety in respect to me, for I do not think there is any occasion for it. I put on my flannel after one day. You need not fear that I shall be careless and expose myself unnecessarily. The Lord has watched over me thus far, and kept me amid so many dangers that I am convinced He has some wise design in continuing me here.

My house is now plastered, and for the sake of accommodating Mr. Gillett's family, I sleep there, though I have not moved there. The plastering has been on so long that I do not suppose there is any danger in doing so. There is one coat of paint to be put on the inside, and some little things to do and then the house will be finished. I shall be careful about sleeping there whilst the paint is drying. I shall not expose myself.

I shall try to settle up for the house before long—and know how much it has cost me.

There is nothing encouraging in the religious state of things. I have had some difficulty with the Methodists, in which I do not find anything to reproach myself with. Next Sabbath I shall preach a Home Missionary sermon and take up a collection.

July 30 I suppose Father has my letter relative to the \$100.00 and perhaps a letter from Mr. Chadwick before this. I have great reason to be grateful to him for building me a house, & so comfortable a one too. Still if I had not begun to build before I went East, I should not have commenced since, though if I stay here the step seems necessary—and undoubtedly I ought to remain here.

I attended the funeral of a child yesterday 14 miles off. The family had just arrived from Canada. There are a great many scenes of distress which I am called to witness here.

Please give my love to all.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Aug. 29, 1846

My Dear Father: Your letter of the first of the month arrived the present week, and you will not be surprised to learn that I have had an attack of the chills and fever. I was taken sick a week ago this evening, Saturday, & have not left Mr. Gillett's premises from Sabbath noon until yesterday & then only for a little distance. The disease is now broken up, but it will take me some time to get strong again. Mr. & Mrs. Gillett have taken good care of me and I have reason to be grateful that I was sick here instead of in some miserable cabin.

I did not preach last Sabbath & I fear I shall not be able to do anything except about home through next month. The fevers were the worst part of the sickness. I had two rather hard chills and shook some, but did not have the proper "shaking ague." By taking care

of myself, & using quinine I hope I shall keep off the chills. Quinine broke them up, though I had taken calomel & other things before.

There is a great deal of sickness *in the groves*. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population are sick at least. In Tipton there have been two deaths of infants and besides about 8 cases of bilious fever along from time to time this summer, only one very severe, all nearly well now. 120 inhabitants—a very marked contrast to the county around. The sickness is not fatal this year as a general thing & easily managed if taken in season.

My house cost	\$775.00
Well & land	75.00

The whole will cost \$850.00 when paid for.

My next quarter's appropriation & what is in Mr. Gillett's hand will pay all up but about \$30.00 & I have my board for this year to pay for. I expected \$700 would be the outside of the cost of the house, but I have guessed nearer than others that have built houses here. A good business man would have put my house up for \$100 less than I did. I do not think he would have saved much more. I do not know what I shall do with it. If I could get a good family to occupy it so as to board out the rent a few months I think I should do it.

As to the Davenport College, I have a good deal of doubt about acting in the matter at present, & so has Br. Holbrook. Whether anybody else feels so or not I do not know.

I hope Edmund will not throw away next year. I think as he does about remaining in Andover. If he gains any knowledge of Theology he will have to acquire it by himself in his room & not in the lecture room. I respect Dr. Woods as much as I can a man who defends truth in the way he does, & is so uninteresting in his manner, but I do not think his instructions ever did me much good. I should advise Edmund of the three courses to go to Auburn. Mr. Jackson of the West Par-

ish is about the best man for a private instructor that I am acquainted with.

I know how to sympathize with Br. Salter & I hope that he & Mrs. Salter will soon be at Randolph.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Sept. 26, 1846

My Dear Parents: Each of your letters was duly received. That I have occasioned you since I last wrote a great deal of solicitude I am aware and I wish it were otherwise. Not that I regret having been sick. In a moral point of view I rejoice, & if I were humbled and holy as I ought to be I should not expect any more sickness at present. If I infer what is to be from my spiritual condition, I shall have to suffer much more, and though I do not desire sickness for its own sake, yet if it can be the instrument of promoting holiness we should rejoice when God sends it upon us.

I have preached only twice for the last 5 Sabbaths. I have had another attack of the intermittent fever though in a different manner from the first, more in the form of bilious colic or cholera morbus, which was broken up after 3 or 4 days. I shall only try to preach once tomorrow in Tipton and once on the Sabbath after, here also, and by that time I hope my danger will be over for this fall.

I sleep in my house ordinarily but when I am sick I stay at Mr. Gillett's all the time. I have changed my boarding place and am now with a brother of the first Mr. Gillett. The lady where I board now is entirely different woman from the one where I have been till the 1st of Sept. I left my old place because their hired girl left. I should have left last spring had they not obtained a hired girl. I desire to be thankful for this change in my boarding place just at the present time. I have had a very good place in many respects till lately, but still in some respects not a very good place, especially for a person's spirits. I am now, for the time being very well fixed, though one young man of the

family, a brother of Mrs. Gillett, has had the bilious or remittent fever and is still weak, & Mrs. Gillett is a good deal worn down by care. Still she looks on the bright side of things and tries to make other people happy as well as herself. So that I have one reason to be very thankful.

I have let a part of my house till the first of Nov. So that if suddenly taken sick I can call some one up.

What course I shall take after a few weeks I do not know. Neither am I solicitous upon the point, though I am as near being up in a corner as I well can be. I shall either occupy my house myself or let it and board with the family for the rent, if I can find one, if I remain in Tipton. The first supposition you think improbable, and in regard to the second it is doubtful whether I can find the right kind of a family to board with. If I should have any more attacks of ague I should think seriously of starting East, as soon as it is a little colder. But then my place is in Iowa, & my whole course of life must be changed if I leave, & if I leave for the winter it will be very doubtful whether I ever come back to remain. I fear that we shall all regret it ultimately if I leave Iowa and return East on account of the giants there are here. It would not be very pleasant to have a grasshopper for a son or near relative. I am not yet prepared to assume the character of that insect. Still I shall make some movement, in fact I shall be obliged to very soon, in some direction, & whether it will be East or West, North or South, is more than I can tell.

Sept. 28 I preached once yesterday, as I anticipated, to a small congregation. The Methodist minister has been sick lately as well as myself, and the people did not expect a meeting. We shall have to take a new start. I have not had another attack, & I hope now if I can keep along one week more to be well for the rest of the fall and winter. If you should not hear from me again in a few days you may presume that I am well.

Sept. 29 The mail is in from the East and it brought

me a letter from A. Mann and a paper—*Puritan*—mailed from Wenham. But I must close.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Nov. 24, 1846

My Dear Father: I received your letter a week ago, and am happy to hear that Grandfather is comfortable, and that none of the family are prostrated with sickness. My own health is now good and I have had no attack of sickness since I last wrote. Exposure has had something to do with making me sick. Boarding in different families, and eating habitually kinds of food which I should not have eaten had I been my own master have had a greater tendency to derange my system. Still my constitution is not broken, or seriously impaired. If I should become a dyspeptic, or a broken down invalid in the course of a few years in consequence of my 3 years residence in Iowa, I could not conscientiously attribute all of the result to the climate in Iowa. A residence in Massachusetts in similar circumstances would have been attended with similar results. There is no more reason why I should return East on account of sickness than there is in respect to many other Western ministers. Neither is there any reason for my leaving Tipton which will not apply to many other cases in Iowa in respect to the removal of ministers.

There is a movement on foot which, if it shall be carried through, may affect me seriously both personally & in respect to the prospects of the church. An effort is being made to divide up several Northern Counties of Iowa and the result will be that, if Cedar Co. loses her Northern townships, there will be an effort to remove the County Seat from Tipton to Rochester which will probably be successful. This would seriously injure the prosperity of this place which is now improving. Next week the Legislature meets and though strenuous efforts will be made to carry the division project through, I think the measure will be defeated. If so no danger

need ever be apprehended in respect to the removal of the County Seat.

Yesterday morning we had the first fall of snow that we have had of any consequence. Perhaps there is an inch of snow on the ground. We had twice before snow squalls.

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving day in Iowa. I have a Thanksgiving sermon written and ready for the occasion. The same day is observed quite generally in the various states.

Dec. 1 I spent Thanksgiving in Bloomington. I preached the first Thanksgiving sermon ever preached there. Two years ago I preached the first Thanksgiving sermon in Tipton. I had a very pleasant time, & trust that you all did, at home.

I returned home on Saturday. College matters are becoming critical. The land can only be obtained upon condition of expending upon it & in buildings \$1500.00 within 18 months. \$400.00 are necessary to purchase a portion of the site. A part of this site has been donated. \$1500.00 have been raised in Davenport, but it is doubtful whether the Trustees will locate the college there unless the \$400.00 be also raised. Then there is the encumbrance of the \$1500.00. A meeting of the Trustees is to be held upon Dec. 30, which will decide the location and probably the feasibility of at present erecting the college. We have heard that you told Br. Spaulding that you could get \$500.00 for the College. Is this so?

The family in my house appear well so far. Board is simple, but in neat order, & bread good. The people are from Ohio. I think that in about 6 months I shall be able to pay off what I owe upon the house.

I wish the same periodicals continued, as have hitherto been sent.

Remember me to all the family.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Jan. 30, 1847

My dear Father: I have just returned from Denmark

whither I went to attend a meeting of the "Iowa College" Association. It has been determined to go on with the project of locating a college at Davenport, unless something unfavorable should occur which we do not now foresee. As a member of the Ex. Com. quite a responsibility rests upon my shoulders. We think of immediately putting up a building which for a few years can be used by the preparatory department, but eventually will be employed as a chapel.

The expense of enclosing this building is not to be more than \$2,000. About \$1,800 are subscribed in Davenport, and the greater portion of the land necessary donated—by Catholics. The site proposed is just below the court house—buildings to stand on the edge of the bluff. We wish to secure something more than the amount above stated—from our personal friends as far as it is not obtained in Davenport. Mr. Spaulding stated that you told him that you had secured for the College either \$300 or \$500. We shall need this in the course of a few months.

We shall soon endeavor to secure a charter for the college. This is already drafted and approved of by the Association. I am aware that we are undertaking a great enterprize, but still it seems to be thought desirable here to go on with it. Three good colleges, Jacksonville, Galesburgh & Beloit are already in full or partial operation in and on the borders of Illinois. But many think there should be an institution with which we can sympathize on this side of the Mississippi and on its banks. I have always had some doubts as to the expediency of at present engaging in such an enterprize, but either the plan of founding an Iowa College ought for many years to be suspended, or the present plan carried out.

We have now had excellent sleighing since the 1st of Jan. The thermometer has been as low as 11 below O. Below the Iowa river there is not snow enough for sleighing, and the roads are rough. I have used my buggy all the month.

I stayed at Dea. Fields while at Denmark, which was very pleasant to me, as I had a shake while there and good care taken of me. But as it was brought on by exposure to severe weather it is not to be regarded in a very serious light.

I preached for Br. Salter last Sabbath. He has a fine new church with a fine bell. But he finds himself in a hard field. Dea. Mackintire and his wife are coming on in the spring to stay in Iowa for a time. Perhaps you will come with them, and be in Burlington in June at the Gen. Association. I hope to see you in Iowa, but still I have always hoped to be so situated as to make your visit a pleasant one when you do come, so that I do not urge you to come as strenuously as I should in other circumstances.

Br. E. Adams is to be installed over the church in Davenport next week. I am on the council, and intend to be present. I was down there at a donation party on the 1st of Jan. and we passed a very pleasant evening. I received your letter of Nov. 27.

Remember me to all the family. I am in good health and spirits.

Your aff. Son,

Tipton, Feb. 12, 1847

My dear Father: I had expected to pay up my debts without drawing upon my shares in the railroad stock. But the other day I was obliged to settle up my bill with the carpenter. To do this I became indebted to Mr. Gillett. The other day I received a draft of about \$80.00 which pays me up for last year till Nov. 1, 1846.

I have not yet received a commission for this year, though I did not last year till after this time. When I do receive it, it may be that my quarterly receipts will be delayed. I now owe Mr. Gillett a little over \$70.00 which must be paid by the 1st of April. This being so I have thought it best to write to you to forward me a draft for \$75.00 as soon as possible. You have the power of

attorney in your hands and can obtain one of my shares & the balance over \$75.00 I prefer should be in your hands, rather than here. After paying Mr. Gillett I owe only for washing which is a small amount & the plasterer of my house. This debt is \$78.00. You see that my next 2 quarterly receipts from the A.H.M.S. will cover my debts and enable me to replace the \$75.00. If it were not for the fact that there is danger that if I depend on the A.H.M.S. I may not be able to meet Mr. Gillett's demand by the 1st of April I would not take the course I do. As to the plasterer, I have given him my note, and there is no immediate necessity for taking it up.

I have received the first No. of the *Observatory*. If I do not return it I shall be considered a subscriber. I think it will fill up a gap in my reading which is not now supplied & I should like to have you pay the subscription for me.

Your letter of Dec. 30 has been received. I do not doubt that the fault of the delay of my letter was in the office here. We have now rather a thick headed postmaster, so that you need not feel solicitous if you should occasionally fail to hear from me at the proper time.

Answers to questions in your last—no deaths in the church or additions the past year. There are 5 individuals *now in Tipton* professors of religion who will at the next communion unite with the church probably. I have the letters of 3. They have all moved in within a year and a half.

Population of the county gradually and steadily increasing. Tipton when I came here numbered 75. In one year 84—in 2, 106—now 140 or upwards. One store ever since I have been here—an apothecaries shop opened the past year, a new store soon to be opened, 7 buildings, 6 houses & a school house put up the past year. 6 or 8 families from N.E. & N.Y.

I have written some sermons the past year—have preached in Tipton considerably with notes.

Bathing system kept up. Do not know whether I am

balder than when in Randolph or not. Have enjoyed excellent health since I recovered from the ague. The last turn in Denmark does not seem to have injured me. Blood however at present appears to be out of order. This was the case 2 years ago. I presume that if you should ask any of my acquaintances here they would not consider me a prey to melancholy.

My sickness I trust has done me good. I am not what I should be. Still I have a desire to be holy, perfectly so, & I could not persuade myself that it would be duty for me to be at any other post than my present one.

Your aff. Son,

The President Hoover

The steamship Panama, recently acquired by American President Lines, has been rechristened the President Hoover before starting her maiden trans-Pacific voyage under private ownership on February 11 last.

This action was announced in January by George Killion, head of the line, on receipt of a letter from former President Herbert Hoover, who was wintering at Key Largo, Florida. The vessel was bought in December from the Federal Government with a high bid of \$5,704,000. It has been used primarily to carry government employes between New York and the Panama Canal Zone.

Mr. Killion said the President Hoover, with first-class accommodations for more than 200 passengers, would operate on a regular schedule from San Francisco to Yokohama, Manila, Hong Kong, Kobe and back.

Her schedule, he said, would be integrated with those of the President Cleveland and President Wilson to provide more frequent sailings in the trans-Pacific business and "meet the increasing demands for passenger and shipper service."

Jessie Lincoln Studied in Iowa

In an old scrapbook which the Illinois Historical Library received recently from Miss Mabel S. Fisher of Illiopolis is pasted this tiny item of interest to Lincoln students:

Miss Jessie Harlan Lincoln, the daughter of Robert T. Lincoln, American minister to England, has entered the Iowa Wesleyan university in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and will take the classical course.

No date or source is attached to this clipping, but the item is probably news to most Lincoln scholars.

Robert Todd Lincoln's wife was the former Mary Harlan, daughter of James Harlan, U. S. senator from Iowa during Lincoln's first term. The senator was a loyal supporter of Lincoln's policies and a good friend of the president. At the beginning of Abraham Lincoln's second term Harlan became secretary of the interior. He had been president of Iowa Wesleyan at Mount Pleasant from 1853 to 1855.

The Robert Todd Lincolns had three children: Mary (1869-1938) who became Mrs. Charles Isham; Abraham II "Jack" (1873-1890) and Jessie (1875-1948). Jessie who took "the classical course" at Iowa Wesleyan according to this clipping, eloped with Warren Beckwith in 1897. Beckwith was on the Iowa Wesleyan football team.

Jessie's parents did not approve of this marriage, but it lasted for ten years and the Beckwiths had two children, Mary Lincoln Beckwith and Robert Lincoln Beckwith, both living. One other direct descendant of Abraham Lincoln is still living, Lincoln Isham, the son of Mary Lincoln and Charles Isham.—*Illinois Journal of History*.

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