

PRAIRIE JUMBLES:-

1 BY JAMES BIRNEY DIBBLE
WRITTEN C. 1950

I belong to the Class who love the Prairie. Was born on Portage Prairie Wisconsin, with the exception of Two years lived in the Lumber Woods of Wisconsin, my entire life has been spent on the Grass, Covered rolling Prairies of Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois. I love them. So will take the Prairie for mine if you please. I love the feel of unhindered Sunlight and unhindered breezes.

Forest Dwelling proved a tragedy to me. The oldest of what was destined to become a numerous family. The great Pine Forests of Wisconsin were yielding their fine timber to civilization to be sawed into lumber for building. They paid good wages, My People had left Portage Prairie for the Pineries, where Father worked. The ~~important~~ important factors in that great transmutation was the sharp steel axe and strong, trained human Arm to wield it. Each year a stream of robust men came from the Prairies to the Forests to assist in whangin the great logs into sawed Lumber. My People were living in the Town of Chippewa-Falls while Father worked at the Lumber Camp.

I was a boy Six Years old. One day after dinner I passed out to our Neighbors Chopping Block where reposed an Axe and hand by a small dry Pine stick. Upon the impulse I placed one end of the stick upon the block, struck it with the axe, the stick broke, one Peice flew into my face, struck in my Left Eye, Totalling blinding me for Two years, when thro the skill of a good Doctor, The Vision of the right eye was restored, and thro that alone I have done my seeing from that time thro life until now at Ninety Years of age.

For some time Father continued his work, while good Dr. Berry continued in his treatments, which finally gave me vision.

When my People became homesick and decided to return to Portage Prairie my Birth Place. This was the old Family home, Father's People lived here. We continued to dwell here a few Years when my People moved to the great rich Prairie of N.E. Iowa, Howard County. We lived on the Iowa Prairies for some Years

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until Financial conditions incited another move, This time to the vast untamed Prairies of Dakota. Where they built from the Prairie soil a new home. For many years we lived upon the Dakota Prairies.

I fell in love with them. From their rich Acres we saw spring into existence Beautiful, and rich farms, All sorts of Industries, Large, thrifty Cities, and little Home villages.

For some time Necessity has compelled me to live upon the broad rich Prairies of Illinois. - In all I feel that I was a child of the prairie and rejoiced in it. The Prairies have been very kind to me and I love them

I shall never forget those Two dark years.-Just as if Two full years had ~~be~~ been cut from my Childhood.-I quite remember the helplessness of those days.

Also,How the Gay,romping voices of my rightful companions at play,effected me.-I was alone in a Windowless room.Birney Dibble had faded out of Life's

activities.-But,All the time,Folks,My Parents and good Dr.Berry were working with me and for me.How vividly that all comes back,as if but Yesterday,How I listened to the Doctor's statements day by day.How attentive to his Professional instructions.-I am sure I learned to Pray in those dark days.-

In my childish way I plead with God to help me back to vision,and when sight returned I never doubted but that my Father in Heaven had done more toward its restoration than my devoted Parents and skilled Physician.-

I remember as if but last night when the First glimmer of vision came,just one ray of light.-We were at the Supper-table,in early Evening.I was seated at the left corner of the table between Father and Mother,I can see that First,flickering ray of light.Just a mere glimmer,but to me it spelled

Vision.-My Loved ones have told me that I screamed it "I See""Isee""ISee" How that Family,Eve.meal broke up.-Quickly Dr.Berry was Summoned.-He made some carefull tests.I remember he said that Feeble glimmer must be carefully guarded,and nourished,and encouraged into vigor and strength.-

He said the most carefull treatment must be exercised,probably for Months Lest too much light,and too violent strain might extinguish that feeble Ray.

As a matter of fact,my eyes were kept bandaged,mostly,for several Weeks. I was kept from to^ostrong light,while the one Eye,the other refused to yield to Dr.Berry's efficient treatment.-

Finally after Weeks of carefull treatment and nurture,it seemed that the strength of Two eyes came into One,until during my mature life I have been able to see as finely,-as much and as far as People with Two good eyes.

I have been able to read,and write and apply myself for long days.During ~~Active~~ Years I was never hindered because of defective Vision.-

Now at Eighty-Six my Vision,I think is normal for my age.-

This,I call my Tragedy of the Forest.

BACK TO THE PRAIRIE-

"Let it be E'er so Humble,
There's No Place like Home"

Out of the dense Forests, Back upon our Beloved Prairie.-Of the Half Century Period that my Parents were permitted to live together all but Two Years were lived upon the Prairies.-The Two lived in Chippewa-Falls.-Just long enough for the Forests to place their Tragic mark upon the Family.-

I came back with increas^sing Vision. I could see.-All the dre^dfull Darkness was dispelled and left in the dismal Woods.-

I Well remember the Steam-boat voyage down on the bosom of the "Father of Waters", and the gracious Wel^lcome accorded the Wanderers by GrandPa Dibbles Family and other Prairie Friends.-

The Cruel and Bloody Civil War had been fought.-In that Sanguinary conflict, Our Families had given most liberally.-Mother's Family, the VanArmins, who at that time lived upon Portage-Prairie, sent Three Sons, George, who gave his life at Vicksburg, Ike who came home unwounded, and John, Home safely and whole, entered Medical College, Later established his Office in the Nation's Capitol, Washington, where he spent a long life in the practice of his chosen Profession admin^sitering healing and help to sick and suffering People.

The Dibble Family gave to the Service the same number of Sons, Three. JAMES, My Father, Early in the Contest stricken with the deadly Typhoid, which so confined and reduced him, that he was dismissed from the Service and sent home.-It required a long time for him to recover. At First his own Mother did not recognize him.-Altho but a child I remember Father being brot home by Comrades delegated to the task.-he was accom^apanied by a medical Attendant.

For some time his life was despaired of. I have quite a Vivid memory of ~~these~~ those Anxious Weeks.--Then Father's brother, Charles Alphonso, "Uncle Fonnⁱie" to ~~the~~ Youngsters, in the same army as the Van Armin Boys, lost a leg at Vicksburg.-Came home, recovered his strength, Went to School in Portage, Fitted himself to Practice Law, went to the town of Chicago, on the Western shore of the great lake, Michigan, and there established his Law Practice, and made for himself a prominent legal career.

Later Uncle Fonnle married the wealthy, only daughter of Dr. Winters, of Iron-Ridge - Wisconsin. Dr. Winters made his wealth thro his invention of the Iron-Ridge Paint, from the clay of the hills adjacent, the red paint used upon barns and Out-buildings. - I have visited their beautiful home in Chicago several times. - Then Uncle Fay, Father's brother, the last of the Six soldier boys mentioned. - Was in the same Army as his older Bros. and also the Van-Armin Boys. Was in some of the most Sanguinary battles of the war, including Vicksburg, He had a Charmed life, went thro the entire war without sickness or wound. - I remember well, we were at Grandpa Dibbles, it was on a Sunday Morning when Uncle Fay came home and placed his Army musket in the corner of the Dining-Room. - Fay was a Jocular Fellow. He said "We are all home but Fonnle's Leg." - Of course Uncle Fonnle lived his life upon an artificial leg. - We Youngsters saw it many times when he visited our home, as he used to do, quite often. - Aunt Sarah, however, never came West to visit us. - But was kindly disposed toward us Westerners and welcomed us to her home. -

Uncle Alphonso was very kind and devoted to our Family. - Some years later My Folks rented his farm in Howard County Iowa, and for several years we lived upon it. He visited us about every year, and we greatly cherished his kindly visitations. - Once he came attended by a fine looking man, A prominent Chicago Oculist. Of course this was a long time now past, away back in the early Seventies. Uncle was interested in my defective eye, believed the sight might not be destroyed, and the Eye might be saved, and had brought this Dr. to examine and decide. - His examination was thorough and Scientific.

His conclusion was "The Sight had not been destroyed, but was covered with a Film that had grown over it. - This great Dr. said the Film could be removed and sight restored, and he was ready to perform the operation, and leave me with Two eyes instead of one. But, He warned that in the operation there was one chance in 100 that the sight of the now well eye might be destroyed. -

I remember the discussion. It was left for my Parents to decide. They feared the risk, deciding that one good eye was better than no eye. -

That was the last effort put forth relative to my Vision. - Uncle Fonnle would have taken the chance, which probably would have worked.

My Parents happy and hopeful in being back to their Beloved Prairie, bought "A FORTY", Few Miles West of Grandpa's near Doylestown, built a new house upon it and settled happily upon it.-We lived there several years.-

Going to Grandpa's was the greatest diversion possible for my Brother Charley and myself, ~~we~~ could easily walk from our home to theirs. Grandma Dibble was the Queen of Grandmas.-Charley and I wondered why we could never take Grandma unawares. She invariably saw us coming and always met us in the door with a slice of Bread-butter, sprinkled with sugar, in each hand.-

She was a very remarkable Woman.-Born and reared in Scotland she had the Scottish brogue, which when Grandma used it was highly interesting. She never called us "BOYS", in her language we were "BAIRNS".

We Bairns were interested in Grandpa's-Grandma's church arrangements. They were highly Religious, The Family Altar in that home was as regular as the Morning meal.-Dust never could collect upon their Family Bible.-

Every Sabbath Morning found them in church, but not always in the same church. Grandma, being Scotch, of course should have been Presbyterian, but she was not, she was a Hard-Shelled Baptist.-Grandpa was a Dyed-in-the-Wool Methodist. In that Christian home was perfect harmony.-Early in their Married life those good People had worked out a plan that worked with them.

One Sunday a Month He went with her to her church, Once a Month she went with him, the other Sundays he would leave her at her church and proceed to his.

I have gone to church many times with the Old People, and their arrangement puzzled me.-For nearly 100 Years that Blessed Couple ^{been} have worshipped God in the church of the First born, and together.-

II- THE FATHERS WEILD THE PADDLES-AND GRANDPA MAKES A PREDICTION.-

My Uncle Fred, Father's Youngest brother was just a few months older than I. Our First few years were spent very much together. We were just All-Boy, At least Fred was.-One hot Sunday Morning Fred and I went into the Pasture where Grandpa's flock of big, fat Woolie Sheep ~~were~~ ^{were}. We were finding pleasure in seeing those shaggle animals run. We chased them about until they began falling, over come with the excessive heat and exertion.-

Great sport until to ^Wstern looking men appeared.-These Men were our Fathers and looked very much in earnest.-They each had a paddle in his hand, and had evidently come for heroic Business. They ordered us boys into the Shelter Shed in the Center of the pasture.-There were not many questions, The ~~EXX~~ Crimes and Guilt were too apparent, to require investigation. Here were the Criminals caught in the act of Lawlessness, ~~L~~ Lying about with tongues protruding and panting for breath, were the suffering victims of the crime, the poor overheated Woolie sheep.- Grandpa and Fred took one end of the Shed, while Father and I occupied the other end.-Grandpa's sheep very dear to his heart to say nothing of the Financial interest involved, and as Grandpa was the older, and quite gifted with speech when under certain strain, he did the talking, and we Boys surely heard something that Sunday Morning that stayed with us longer than the Sunday Morning Sermon would if we had been where we should have been, in the church.- I would not care to repeat Grandpa's speech. However, it was very impressive, and very much to the Point.

At the conclusion of the Intellectual part of the Program, the Physical began.-I can hear those Paddles beating time, and other things.-It was a very Feeling time.-Fred bellowed like a Calf. I do think, and always have that Grandpa put more power in his paddle than my father did. You see they were Grandpa's Sheep who were effected. Fred bellowed all thro the terrible ordeal, but they do say that all thro the operation every time the Paddle came down I Shouted "A.Men" "A.Men" to the top of my voice.-It looked and felt very much as if the final end had come, and the time for "AMEN" upon us.-

After the Fathers had completed their Paddle demonstration, They, As Overheated and breathless as the poor sheep, and Fred and I for all the World feeling as if we had sat down upon a Hornet's nest, ^(Grandfather) made some very relevant statements concerning Father's lack of real enthusiasm in the operation, and wound up by saying what subsequently came true "THAT YOUNG OUTLAW OF YOURS WILL BE A PREACHER SOME DAY"-Grand father was a devout Methodist Christian and surely would not cast any Contempt upon the Ministry.-Just the connection of my Act, and Grandpa's prediction I have never discovered.

Of course I did introduce the Religious element when I shouted "AMEN".

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I think the sheep of Grandpa's Flock all recovered from their drastic experience, soon regained their former ^{normal} coolness, and helped themselves to the green-grass of Grandpa's rich Wisconsin Prairie pasture.

Fred, I have always believed the chief instigator of the crime, and myself soon recovered from our part of the punishment, and before long could sit on both sides at once.--I was fully convinced that chasing sheep upon a hot Lord' day was not a healthy act, especially Grandpa Dibble's sheep.

III

CHANGE OF PRAIRIES-

After some years of happy and quite profitable residence upon the Doylestown "40" we came to a Family decision to change location, and exchange our Beloved and Native "Portage-Prairie" for some other. To us that meant "Westward-Ho."

I remember distinctly how much we disliked leaving the old home. It meant ^{very much} to our Parents. From early childhood "Portage-Prairie" with the exception of the Two years in the Pineries had been their home.--They had married here, and here lived the most of their relatives and Friends.--This was so much home to them it was hard to leave it.--Grandpa Dibble's Folks felt badly over "Jammie's, as Grandma in her Scotch always called Father, decision to tear up and break loose from the old Scenes and Associations and go "Away Out West" to possibly lose their scalps to the knife of wild Indians.--

But, Uncle Alphonso and Father had their heads together, the negotiation was completed, the decision fully made.--Uncle Fonnies would go into some new section of Iowa, buy a Quarter Section Farm, finance it, and my People would move upon it, Open it up, develop it, and "Work it on Shares", all of which was definitely settled and agreed to by both Parties.--

The new farm had been bought in the comparatively new County of Howard in extreme N.E. Iowa, Five Miles N.W. of the County Seat town or Cresco, Two Miles North of old "Howard Center", where the Parkhursts received and dispensed U.S. Mail, which became our P.O. for many years.--We were Four Miles S.E. of the little town of Lime-Springs.--The Chicago and Milwaukee R.R. passed thro our immediate Neighborhood.--The Farm was minus House, Barns, Fences and all Farm improvements.--There was not a tree nor a shrub upon the entire Quarter-Section.

I have tried to find the exact Date ² of our removal to Howard County, but have no means of ascertaining definitely. I do know we were living in our new home in the very ¹ early years of the Seventies. I was born in 1860, and must have been about Ten years old when this change was made. I would venture the guess that the change took place in 1869 or 1870. - Anyway That is quite Ancient history. -- Uncle Fannie was a good provider. He furnished the materials, paid the Bills, and my Parents did all the work of building and improvement. And, Oh, How that faithful Couple worked. Early and late they toiled, to make that Quarter-Section of raw prairie a real farm. - Father erected every building, every Yard of fence at a time when no restraining Stock law, People turned their stock upon the Highway to prowl at Will, endangering the growing crops and riner improvements. For years Stock must be fenced out. - At a time when much of the really restraining fencing of to day had not appeared. During each Summer day the roving herds would assemble and press upon the fences protecting the crops, and this constituted a major problem. - About the Eastern and Northern sides of our farm was open prairie where the herds would congregate. - From a low shed in the S.W. corner, the entire farm was visible, when the herds were gathering Father would take Shep, to Father the best cattle dog any where, upon the shed roof, point out the threatening herd and say "Shep After them" and Shep alone would cross the farm and drive the cattle away back, sometimes he would be gone for an Hour upon that task. I remember Father said "Shep is the most valuable animal upon the farm". -

A few years ago when I visited the old farm, and saw the broad fertile Acres covered with rich crops, and also the beautiful grove. with its variety of trees, all this now a real fertile farm, and remembered that the change. ~~from~~ from wild and native Prairie land had been produced, and every tree in that grove planted and ^r Nutured by my diligent Parents, I could not restrain Tears of hallowed Memory. - My Parents with their own hands actually hewed that rich beautiful Prairie farm out of the raw Sod. - To us that was always the "Uncle Fannie Place", and we Loved it. -

One Evening, as we sat in our home, from in front there came the crash of a dis. charged gun, and the howl of pain, Shep had been shot in his own Yard, Because of his fidelity in keeping the herds back from the farm.

During the First Two years of our residence upon Uncle Fonnies Place, Bro. Charley and I attended the Howard Center school, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles, as that was the closest school to our home. - But, Other families had moved in and the large District was divided and a new District formed, taking us in, and the new School-House built One Mile N.W. of our Place. - For Years increasingly there were Dribbles in that school. Ours was a rapidly increasing Family, and nearly every year for a number of years, a new Dribble name appeared upon the Record. BIRNEY-CHARLEY-WILL-ZELL-SARAH-HATTIE-IDA-I think the others-ORVILLE-LIZZIE did not attend here. - This was a large school, especially in Winter when the older Young People attended, there was no High-School outside of larger towns. With the most of Young People in that Community, all the School training obtained was within the walls of that Country School. - A quite advanced Group of Men comprised that School-Board during those days, and Superior and well trained Teachers followed each other, giving us superior training for a school of that type. These teachers were all trained and expert-LABAN HASSETT-CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBSTER-MRS. MAGGIE THAYER-FRANK CAMP-JENNIE AULD-and the last I remember most and the one we loved best, FANNIE MOON-Daughter of the County Treasurer. Came to us fresh from Teachers College, teaching for some years. We loved Fannie Moon. I shall not forget that sad day during the Summer vacation when the terrible News came, that Fannie Moon had fallen from her Pony, dragged, kicked and pounded to her death. - Just a big boy I went out behind the barn where no one saw me and wept out my sincere sorrow. There was weeping all over that Prairie District over the tragic and distressing news. - Even today when I think about that group of efficient, patient teachers who put the best they had into me, and other Young People's Mental and Moral Upbuilding, a sense of very deep appreciation, and affection attaches to my Memory. - Every one of those teachers was a scholar. My nearest approach to High School-Was the Private school held in his home and conducted by that Prince of teachers, Captain George Webster. I attended that school Two years, Majoring in Mathematics, pursuing Arithmetic and Algebra. - The Captain had a broad reputation as an instructor in those Branches. - He did me much good.

WE BUY THE EIGHTY-

-----Five-----

We had lived on Uncle Fonnies farm years. According to my computation, it was the year of 1875.-I was 15 years old.-Through the hard-work of my Parents the Place had become a real farm.-All under cultivation.-Fair improvements.

Quite secure fences.-To my Folks, these had been quite profitable Years.

Through their own diligence, Uncle Fonnies liberality, good crops and Prices my Parents had gotten a good, but modest Start.-We loved the farm, and had no thought of leaving it..I remember vividly the beautiful Spring Sunday Afternoon, We were just home, as usual, from Church at Howard-Center, when Two ~~strange~~ strange Men in a good Rig, drove to our Place and alighted, looked about in a very Snoopie manner, and finally asked Father for Uncle Fonnies City address.

One arrogant Man said "my name is Lester, James Lester, "Jim" for short, I'm about to buy this farm."-That had the shock of a discharged Cannon to my People.-Father said "That cannot be. The Place is not for sale. Have you seen, or heard from my Brother in the matter"?-"No but I am sure Money will buy it, and I have the money"-Then he told of spending days, canvassing the entire Community and said "This is the only farm about that I would buy, and I intend to buy this one"-All that was said in a most Confident, Arrogant and Insolent Spirit. My People protested in vain.-James Lester proved to be the Type of man to whom To desire an object, carried a determination to Possess it.-James Lester left us that day with the Assurance "I want this Place and fully intend to have it"--Which after Weeks of Badgering and Negotiation all came true.-Uncle Fonnies came.-And was kind. But, I remember one of his First Questions was, "Jamie, Why Don't you buy a home of your own. That would be better than spending your life fixing my property, and turning over to me each year the real profits of the farm"-A new thought to my People. Uncle assured them he would assist them to buy, if they needed help.-Joining Uncle Fonnies farm on the East full length, lay an open unbroken Eighty Acres, which could be bought reasonably. Now to cut the true story short, Uncle Fonnies prolonged his visit until Father had bought the Eighty and was sure of its possession, and he had Rounded up the sale, for an outstanding price, his Farm to James

Lester. No change was to be made until Father had harvested the growing crop.

To us a most fortunate season of the Year. Our crops on Uncle Fonnies farm were all planted and coming nicely, and Uncle had secured the Place to my Folks until after Harvest, and they had time to move.-

I shall not forget that busy, eventfull Summer.-I was old enough to catch the Hustling Spirit of it.-All of the Equipment, Teams, stock Machinery &c. on Uncle Fonnies Place belonged to my Folks.-They were fully equiped.-

It did not take long to remove their Affections and interests from the old Place to the Eighty.-It was raw Prairie.-At once Father rigged up a good Breaking team, Three good horses and a yoke of oxen.-I drove that outfit all thro that Breaking season.-We began on one side and plowed thro One-Half Mile.-We could not break the entire Eighty in one season, but we made a big start that season.-I remember Father said "Every root of that tract might be plowed and cultivated, but provision for Pasturage and Hay must be made. At odd times during the Summer a modest but sufficient house was built. A Well was digged.-Thro the entire season of Summer and Autumn, Sheds-Yards for the stock and Poultry, and hogs, &c. were prepared. Winter found us comfortably and happily settled in our own new house.-Just one bad feature. The move placed us One Half Mile from School.-But we Youngsters made the added distance.-

We lived on the "Eighty" Two years.-It has always been to us "The EIGHTY" Uncle Fonnies farm became and is today I think "The Lester Place".-

James Lester proved to be a good Square neighbor.-Mrs. Lester became lonely and Home-sick and took to my Mother, the older Woman. The Two Families became quite intimate.-They were good clean, Temperate, diligent People, highly respected by the entire Community.-

The next year we planted the land broken the year before, and finished breaking up all the new land they cared to cultivate. Planted trees and shrubbery. Mother was quite a Flower grower, and had that new yard glowing with color.-We greatly enjoyed the Eighty. It was our own, and for its size, very rich and fertile, but there developed a serious lack, It was too small, there was not room enough. I have said I was now Sixteen years old. Almost a man in Stature and strength.-I was the oldest, there ranged just below me,

One and a Half Years apart, Charley-Will and Zell, Four Husky Boys all able to do some work on the farm, The Eighty did not afford room enough for the

of their increasing strengtnand Manliness.-I know that was a growing problem with Father and Mother.-What shall we do with the Boys?-Or course according to the prevailing thought we boys would be at home.-Today,Four Years at College for boys of our age,But no College suggestion ever remotely consid-ered at that time.-It was assumed that of course we would all be farmers.

I always felt I must Preach,but that was never taken seriously,rather a joke.-But,Anyway,whatever,No thought of College.-With Father-Mother the Problem "What to do withe boys,found its answer in,Provide plenty of work for them.Keep them busy on the farm".-But,In our home too much energy and power to find room and exercise on one Lone Eighty Acres.Father was young Strong and energetic,he could do all the work of the Eighty alone.

We boys were not questioned as to any choice.-The Neighborhood Young People didnt attend college.With no other training they just fell back upon the farms,or what was quite customary,went West,where there were vast Territorys of Vacant Government land that could be had for the mere taking.Some of the

richest and most fertile sections of the entire country waiting for settlema

Young People married and went West.-But we boys were too young.-We must be provided for at home,and how?-I have heard my Parents during those day talk about,and try to solve that problem.-The only answer they knew was to find something at home to keep us busy.-Go out and rent a larger Place,but that didnt appeal.-Buy a larger Farm.But,How and where?-

I remember the day when Father came home,the Problem was Solved.-

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SELL THE EIGHTY TO JIM LESTER-BUY THE HASSET FARM.-

Father came home that day Lightfooted and full of Action,he had found a solution of the Family Problem.-Circumstances were working for them. Jim Lester wanted more land,our Eighty fitted right on to his Place.He had money and would pay a good price.-That,Our day of Good-Fortune,Father had met and had a serious talk with Cary Hassett,who owned one of the finest and best farms in the County.For the time good buildings,Well fenced,with pastures,Hayland &c.-Just a short Mile -Half from the Eighty,Just One-Half Mile on a main Highway,South of our District School-House.-It had other

advantages.-Mr.Hassett was selling and moving to another Community.Was anxious to hasten the sale and make his move,and if Father would buy the Farm he might have it for so much,an astonishingly low Figure.It would involve them in some debt,of course the Eighty would not buy this Farm,but would make a good,substantial start toward it.-Father was sure Uncle Fonnle would loan them enough to make the difference,and take a Mortgage upon the farm.

Sooner than one would think possible that was all worked out,and my ~~own~~ Folks owned that fine farm,with just a moderate Debt to Uncle Fonnle upon it I have always considered that the best move Father ever made,excepting Perhaps the one from the Wisconsin Forests back to "Portage Prairie".

This new Farm held for my Folks the real opportunity of their Lives,but ~~very~~ very unfortunately they did not see the real chance involved,and missed it.

This Place was endowed with all the natural qualities of a Stock Farm. Running clear through its very Center North and South,was the little stream of "Turkey-Creek",following a line about as straight as if laid out by a Surveyors line.Just an ambling little stream that never went dry,but could be stepped over any where except during the Spring Freshets for a few Hours,or days.Following this creek for Yards on each side,the high,and dry rich Pasture land.-Here we found and maintained the Pasture.We never were compelled to provide water for the stock.Wⁿter and Summer the Creek provided clean,pure fresh water,-That situation alone would^{be} worth about the entire Price of the Farm.The N.W.Twenty acres as fine native Hay-land.- The entire Eastern One Half of the farm,East of the Pasture,for a full One-Half Mile North to the School-House,was fine,rich Arable land,under cultivation,in one fine field, with no break,but the Farm buildings situated at the extreme Southern^{end}.-

Then across the Southern end,West of the Pasture,and South of the Hayland lay another large,compact Arable ~~Field~~ Field of many Acres and under Cultivation.

It had been proven that the Place would grow great Timothy and Red-Clover. Here in his hands Father held one of the finest Stock Farm opportunities.- But Father was not a Stockman,but a Grain-grower.They always kept a few cows.Father would not milk.-He would plow,Harrow,-Sow-plant,harvest and thresh,but the new farm was on its last legs with that type of farming. At about the time My Folks went upon that older farm the crops began failing.

I am thinking we moved upon the Hassett farm in about 1875, I know we left there in the Fall of 1879, after harvest. - Father was not permitted to harvest one full crop on the farm. - The crops would start with promise but were not permitted to ripen and mature normally. - Just as the new grain was in a soft, doughie state, torrential rains would come, with torrid hot weather, which burned the grain down, stopped its ripening, and left a shrivelled and shrunken harvest. - Then the fields so soaked almost impossible to move the harvesters upon ^{them}. Some days mire down and require digging out of the mud. -

The time for a change of Agricultural methods had come to Howard County Iowa. - Many enterprising Farmers, saw the condition, and adjusted themselves and saved the situation for themselves. Many became wealthy and Well-to-do upon those worn out farms. - They switched from grain raising to Stock. Milk and Cream found a ready and profitable market. Feeding for the market was encouraged. That inspired corn growing, which saved the Grain exhausted Soil.

All of this involved a radical change in Population. - Just then, 1878-1879 came the exodus to Dakota Territory. - During those Years, especially, a constant stream of Canvass covered wagons made their way to the great open, Prairies of that great Territory. - The land about as rich and fertile as the soil of Iowa, could be taken from the Government for the mere taking, and the meeting of certain very reasonable conditions. - There were Three Types of Entry open for that land. - 1. The HOMESTEAD Method. For those wishing to establish homes, as the majority of those coming Immigrants did. - File upon the chosen 160 Acre Claim. - Make a Boni-Fide home upon it, Reside upon it Five years, Prove ^{Up} Claim, and "Prove-Up", Uncle Sam would give a "Patent" or deed to the Place. - Millions of Homesteads were taken. (2) - Then the PREEMPTION right.

For those ^Q not caring to make a permanent home, Choose and File on the desired 160 Acre Tract, within Two years Pay \$200. and the Government would issue a Patent, or Deed, and the Place belonged to the Preemptor. - The preemption involved a Two Year residence upon the Tract. - Many so arranged it ~~as~~ as to avail themselves of both Homestead and Preemption. -

(3) - The Third The TREE-CLAIM right - 160 Acres - Required the planting and growing of Ten Acres of living Trees. The law specified how many living trees were

were required to give right to Claime and Patent. As I remember Five years were given as the time for the planting and growth of the trees.-

As residence upon a Tree Claime was not required ,it could be had at same time of either or both other Claimes.-I knew many Land Hungry People who succeeded in securing all Three Claimes, or 480 Acres, of as good land as the best of Iowa.-As beautiful homes can be builded in Dakota as in any other Section of the Country.-There lay the Temptation to the poor Wheat Failing Farmers of the East, especially those of Iowa.-Probably One Third, or One-Half of all the Farmers in Howard County Iowa, lost or sold their farms and emmigrated to the Dakota Prairies.-Several Families from our immediate Community

John B. Jones, to Lake Madison-Dakota. Their Family became prominent in the new and thriving City of Madison. Charley helped his People build a beautiful home on their new Farm.-John L. was for many years a prominent Banker, Saida became a very Popular teacher in the City Schools, while Ida, the youngest worked for years with her brother Johnie in the Bank as an expert Book-Keep^r

The Henry K. Stewar^ts, one of our closest and most Intimate Neighbors, obeyed the call, and settled upon a Claime, 8 Miles West of Flandreau-Moody County Territory of Dakota.-The Stewarts made of their Dakota Claime a Rich and Beauty Farm, and spent their declining Years happily and comfortably there.

Many, Many others of the Iowa People found their way in the Exodus to the new Promise-Land.- It became evident that Wheat growing as a Major Industry had worn out its day in Northern Iowa, just as it had in other Sections in the East.--Wheat growing is a nice clean Vocation, and with the modern equipment for its Cultivation makes a desirable type of Farming.-With the Modern, Power machinery, the drudgery has been removed, and the Vocation has become clean and attractive.-It is not surprising that many farmers prefer that type of farming.-The work is more appealing and congenial.-But, It is an Agricultural fact that constant Wheat growing impoverishes the soil, taking out many eliments of production without replacing any of value.-

In nearly all Prairie Regions it is Proverbial that the Wheat grower is the Pioneer, he brings the raw sod into subjection, and upon its newly broken Soil Wheat finds its most desirable eliments and produces favorably until

Father was a good, orderly Farmer, and Farm-builder. - Cary Hassett was not, He was careless and slovenly. When my Folks took over the farm, it was bedraggled and unkept. - Weeds infested the corners, and along the fences and the lines.

Buildings needed repairs, fences fixed, a general Cleaning up was needed. I have not forgotten how my Father and Mother, just passing out of their Prime applied themselves to the task of cleaning the Place up, and bringing order out of disorder. - And may I say right here, without boasting, That diligent Couple really transformed the appearance of that farm during the few years they owned it. - We brought to the farm Two Spans of horses, The big team, Ned -Jockey, Giant horses, Young and strong. - They were dedicated to the hard work, Plowing and the work of the Fields. -

Then there were "THE COLTS". - a smaller and Young team, dedicated to the lighter work, the driving, Town going-to Church, or whatever, to the jobbing about on the farm. "The Colts" had a very busy and important Place on the farm. - They were everybody's, on the farm, convenience and servants. -

Ned-Jockey fitted into the Farm's heavier work. - For the work they did so faithfully and efficiently, the present day farmer has his Gas Tractor, but that Modern convenience was not even Dreamed of in those days.

As a Grain-raiser, Father Fall plowed, all those broad Acres must be turned ~~over~~^e over each Autumn, between Harvest and Freeze-up. About 100 Acres of Tillable land. - I do remember that 80 Acres were set apart for Small grain growing, All of that must be Fall-Plowed, according to Father's planning, the rest of the arable land was reserved for corn, and the Truck crops, and would be plowed in the Spring, at the time of planting. -

To the job of Plowing that Eighty Acres, during the Autumn, with a 16 Inch Furrow Plow, Ned-Jockey were dedicated. - As I was the oldest of the Boys, and now was old enough for the task, I was constituted Family Plow-Boy. I really remember the day when Father reminded me of that plan. I was to be free of all other work and Chores excepting the Daily care of Ned-Jockey. - That was one of the most Welcome assignments I ever received, I loved to Plow, all other drudgery, Corn husking, Potatoe digging, Garden harvesting, Manure hauling, and other - and other sacred movements for the Hoes and Diggers. -

Any-way, most happily to me, because of my age, I was constituted the Plow-Boy of the farm. I loved plowing. In those days the plow must be held with Human hand. All day long, during Six days in the Week, I must follow Ned-Jockey, hold in Place, and follow day after day, in the furrow, my good John-Deere plow. Round and round during the days of Autumn, until those brown Stubble Fields had become blackened Furrows. To rest thro the Iowa winter and receive the golden seed during the new Spring. -And I loved every bit of that work.

We always finished our "Fall-Plowing" just in time for the Fall Freeze-up. Thro the diligent activities of the other members of the family and the "Coits", the Seasons Farm work was done. -Now, Winter and chores at home, But school for those of that age. -I remember that for several Winters our Teacher hired me to build the Fires and clean the School-House. For that I received a moderate Wage, but it gave me some Money for my Private use.

But, As I have intimated, Things were not coming well upon the farm, the crops were failing each year. -Still we plowed, planted, hoped, but gathered very diminished crops. -Always inspired with the Blief that next year will be better, but the new years did not better than the former, It finally became evident that there was no hope for improvement for their type of farming. -My People worked hard enough, but the day for their type of farming was gone. -But still we remained and tried. -We all worked, but hope faded. -Father was not the only Farmer in Howard County who clung to the old system, Plowed, Sowed and harvested great crops of disappointment and failure. -As I have already said, they failed to see their great opportunity, but when the Jones, the Stewarts, and others were running away from these conditions. [-The "Prairie-Schooners" were passing, almost every Hour. -Each one gave a Tug to the desire of my Parents to get away from their present conditions. -Fabulous Tales of the wonderfull new Dakota land filled the air, and my People's ears nd a thought. Until the ~~great~~ great Exodus of 1878-1879-spread over our immediate Country. -It seemed as if every-body was going to Dakota, and in fact Thousands were during those years, My People were caught in the great Dakota Swirl.]

I beleive with some very easy changes in their farming activities, my Folks could have staid upon the "Hassett Place" Their Debt was to Uncle Fonnies, He would be patient and not distress them, but they shook off the distress.

I remember my Parents were very deliberate in their consideration and decision concerning so radical a change as that from N.E.Iowa to the untamed plains of Dakota Territory.-But in the Autumn of 1878,when it seemed that everybody had either already gone to Dakota,or was preparing to go. At that time they fully decided upon the change.-We boys Wellcomed the change.

Charley and I were just arrived at the Gun Age.-Father that Past Spring had assigned us a corner nook of about Two Acres on the bank of the Creek, and helped us to the seed and in planting our tract to beans.-That Summer proved a good Bean season,and found ourselves with money enough in the Fall to buy Two cheap guns.-But where use them? Practically no Wild game in Howard County Iowa.-But a move to Dakota would solve that problem.In that great new country there must be much that needed shooting,Wild Geese,Ducks, Prairie-Chickens,-Grouse,Jack-Rabbits,- Coyotes-Perhaps Buffalo-Antelopes-Might be some Indian -Buck who should be shot,So the Dakota Idea struck just in time for us.-I remember that winter of 1878-79-we lived Dakota.Dakota for breakfast,Dakota for Dinner,-Dakota for Supper,-Dakota for an all Eve lunch, In other Words,All Winter we feasted on Dakota.-

At that time Dakota was undivided,as it is now,That whole vast region of what is now North-South Dakota was then the Territory of Dakota,and continued as such until 1888,when it was divided thro its middle East-West,and organized into Two great States,as today-North and South Dakota.-

For nearly Ten years my People lived in the Southern Half of the Territory But always in South Dakota.-The Ox age had not quite passed at that time. Today,we would walk up town to see a real "YOKE OF OXEN"-Many of the Prairie Schooners passing our place were Ox drawn.-My Father was an Ox-Man.-He usually had one or more Ox teams upon his farm,but not at that time,and I remember one of the First considerations in relation to the change was that of power.Today that would be no problem,get a Tractor,but that not available at that time,Horses,Mules or Oxen,Father was wise enough to choose oxen.-Of course slower of movement,but tough and enduring,more so than horses,not as subject to hard conditions as horses,and ox was seldom sick,never knew one to die voluntarily,Horses required better attention.-Then horses must

have a Grain Diet, could not survive and work on just grass and hay, as Oxen could and did.-That Summer of 1879 our Oxen would draw the Breaking-Plow during the Fore-noon, at noon unhook their chain, remove their yokes, go to our dinners leave the oxen to eat the rich Prairie grass about the plow for ~~that~~ their dinner, in an Hour they would be full and ready for the Afternoon work, at night, just put them on their Picket-line in the grass and leave them for the night. The next Morning at the First Ray of the new day, the oxen were at their breakfast, and were ready for work when we were. That was all care we ~~we~~ gave them during the work season, but one could not treat horses that easily and cheaply.-They must have proper care.-All that Father knew and he would ~~take~~ horses to that new country, but where and how can he get Two yoke of ~~an~~ Oxen?-In Minnesota, 20 Miles North of our home was a Wooded Section settled most ^{ly} by German People.-These People had what ~~were~~ ^{are} called Grub land. Land covered with small Young timber. In the Winter would clear off for the Summers Breaking a few Acres of this timber, by cutting it off and making Fire wood of it, as soon as Spring was opened they would out, or often tear up with strong Plows and teams, the young stumps, and pile up for Winter wood. One of the German Family was the Grebbins, Large family with several big boys. For several Winters Father had been driving up to the Grebbins Farm, and buying big loads of those Young, but dry "GRUBS" for fuel. They made the finest kind of good, clean Fuel.-During this Winter of 1878-.79-he made that trip, driving the Colts, Billie -Flora. This trip took longer.-The Grebbins had many oxen, When father finally reached home with a larger load of Grubs, instead of the Colts, Two fine, husky yoke of Oxen. Father and the Grebbins had been Horse and Oxen trading, and Pioneer problem of Power was decided.-We still owned Ned ~~and~~ and Jockey.-Father had rented the farm of Uncle Fonnle for that year, but the big Oxen fitted right in the Springs work, drawing the 72 tooth harrow was just play for them, while Ned-Jockey provided power for the seeder, and running about work.-My Folks were as rull plans for the new life, as the Proverb-ial Tick is of straw.-Their plans were all formulated.-As soon as seeding was done, with the Two Yoke of Oxen attached to the Canvass covered wagon, Father, Birney, Charley and Shap, the faithfull dog, with breaking Plow, and needed things of utility would start for Huron Dakota Ter.-

-Here We Go, James-Birney-Charley-Shep,
Purpose Firm, and Tingling with Pep.-

Spring of 1879-Crops planted-Will, man of the home for the Summer-Left with Mother and the Girls-We thought until our return from the great new Prairies There was left for their use, Ned-Jockey.-Father had not tried to dispose of the Stock or Things, Mother, who was a shrewd Business Woman would do that during the Summer.-She and Father had planned all of that.-They had several cows, would take but one to Dakota, they selected the one to be taken, all others for sale.-All machinery except that needed for harvest to be sold.-Father planted no corn that Spring as its later harvest would delay in the Fall.-Later they would dispose of Ned-Jockey.-

I will say right here that all of that was well realized. Mother even had a buyer for Ned-Jockey, retaining their use until they were thro with them. Directly after the "Seeding"-I forget exact date, Probably middle or late April, one beautifull Morning with Wagon loaded with Breaking Plow, Tools, and our Living Utensils, Summer Work Clothes, and a few Odds-Ends, we as above started on our 300 Mile Trek to our last great, new Prairie, the Plains of the Dakotas.-Of the Topography of the country we were quite familiar as we had studied it for about a year.-It was a radical change from the Thickly settled Civilization of Howard County Iowa, to the Treeless Plains of Dakota Territory.-Charley, Shep, and I entered with high Zest into the move.-Hour by Hour, day by day, and even Weeks, about Two, slowly passed, but each night saw us a few Miles nearer to our Dreamland.-It was a beautifull trip, a real pleasure Diversion. Not one bad thing happened Enroute.-During the day Charley Shep and I trudged by the side of the wagon with loaded Guns, but Charley and I found no game. I think the same Powder and Shot, were in our guns that we had placed there back at home.-But, Shep could have boasted of his acheive-ments.-It would be interesting to know how many Gophers he slew by the Road-side across Minnesota, it was Spring, Gopher Season, and Shep missed no chance to snatch up a little Yellow Jacket.-

The trip was a Routine. To make time travelling with Oxen long days are essential. Previous experience had taught Father that. Several Years before he

~~as~~ he had moved the Family ^{at} from Wisconsin to Iowa 300 Miles with Oxen. We arose just Day-break each Morning, Stop at Noon for dinner, and late Afternoon for night. The Oxen must not be hurried or over driven.-I suspect My good old Father, was about as good an Ox Traveller as ever was.-On the trip he kept his attention on the Oxen. If for any reason the day was especially hard he gave the teams more rest.-May I say right here that he drove that Two Team, Slow gaited Oxen over the 300 Mile trip, and not one bit of sickness with any of them. When we reached our destination not one sore foot, nor Shoulder Gall.-How Father watched those shoulders, each night bathing them with fresh, cool water, rubbing them dry, and applying an application of St. Jacobs Oil.-Of course they could not Graze on the way, and father knew just best food for working oxen, had come prepared and in the sacks in the Wagon was enough grain that Father had, had prepared during the Winter to feed the hungry Cattle clear thro the trip, and then some.-At night he would buy a bundle of hay for the oxen to munch upon during the night and early Morning. At night they were tied one yoke on either side to the wagon, and over the Outfit good old Shep kept Sleepless Vigil. We retired in our Wagon bunks at the regular hour, Slept restfully without fear.

I would recommend a trip like that to any one suffering from overwork or Rundown, you will find rest and recuperation, and pleasure.-Buzzing along at 600 or 700 Miles a day in your Cadillac or Buick will not secure you such restfulness.-You might need my Father to Chauffeur the Outfit.-He loved it. And so did Charley, Shep and I.-

Father set no Daily goal, We trudged thro-out the day, at the quitting Hour we stopped, and called it a day.-Father was well pleased with Twenty, or a little better for the day.-Father had a theory born of experience, When an ox chews his Cud regularly he is all right. He watched for that in each Ox.-We would retire at night with confidence if the Oxen were all chewing their Cuds, which they did each night of that trip.-

From the maps and decriptive Literature. Father had settled upon Huron as the Dakota Goal.-We were heading for that Point.-

Tracy Minnesota was at that time the terminal of the C.Nw-R.R. but it was being rapily extending West, and expected to reach Huron that season.

At Tracy we met Three Young Men on their way to Brookings County Dak.Ter.

These Young Men had been College Chums and had graduated from College Two years before.--Had become interested in securing Claimes for themselves, and during the Summer before, 1878, had come into Brookings County, just over the line into Dakota Ter. and secured each a Claime, had gone back for the Winter, now were on their way to their Claimes to build homes.--It happened that they had just our type of Outfit, Two Yoke of Oxen, and Wagon load of equipment, and this much we found out, each of those fine Fellows had a Girl Friend at the old home, pledged to come out and become their Wives and Home builders, I know that all that took Place in the not long distance in time.

I will say here all of those boys made homes on their Claimes. Raised Families and became Active, respected Citizens of the section.--We used to see their names in the County Papers, as Active Citizens.--

Well, We drove with those Boys for a number of days until we reached their Claimes, when we proceeded on West. We were now ahead of the R.R. that was pushing West.--Our way toward Huron lay directly thro Medary, then quite a Country Village, on a beautifull Plaine. on the Eastern bank of the Big-Sioux river.

It was an ambitious little Town, at that time filled with Land-Seekers &C. Every one was deeply interested in the new R.R. headed their way. The one great question is it coming thro Medary?--When they found we had come from Tracy, the First question "Did you see anything of a R.R. Headed this Way"?

We had just seen the R.R. and it was surely headed in that direction.--Every possible Wire was pulled, and every possible bit of influence used to bring it thro their little town, but all in vain, within a few months the new Road passed by them Six Miles North and on to Huron.--Leaving little Pioneer Medary out in the cold.--That thing happened to many Dakota Towns.--

I will say here, that directly North of Medary, a new town was established and called Brookings, which quickly ^(became) a fine Business Center.--Early in its career the "Dakota Agricultural College " The "D.A.C"--was established in Brookings, and for years has been the largest and most popular Educational Institution in the State.--Just this, Eventually the entire Pioneer town of Medary moved to Brookings, until there was left just one Farm home, The Stear s--Now, there stand upon the site of Ancient Medary a Monument

Memorializing good, Old MEDARY.--Well, What had all that to do with Father, Birney-Charley-Shep-on their way to Huron for a Claime ?-Not much just then but all of that has been vital to us since.-

Our Three Friends had urged upon Father not to go to Huron if he could secure something closer.-At Medary the People urged the same way "Don't go to Huron, settle here" They gave good reasons which have been greatly proven and emphasised since.-But where here, Every thing taken here"-Jim Nateska , the Town's leading merchant told Father that Afternoon. "Burdine Omodt" over in Moody County Four Miles South, holds a Relinquishment upon a Claime in his Neighborhood, taken last Year but not wanted by the Claimant, it can be bought cheap, settle all about it with fine People. You will have good Neighbors at once.-All To Good to be thought possible, But Father said we will go and see Mr. Omodt anyway.-Friends, that was probably the most fortunate Father ever made. We arrived at Mr. Omodt's fine home that Evening. It was all true, the Claime in question was just One Half ^{mile} West of the Omodt Claime and the Relinquishment could be bought for \$100.-We walked to the Claime that Eve. It was a beautiful Place, Father was charmed with it, and what was a little \$100. when a rich farm and a good home were involved.-As much as they could Father closed the deal with Mr. Omodt.-But Father just had the release, now he must go thro the regular legal Proceedings, which he started at once.

As I remember, within Three days after coming to Dakota Ter. we were at work upon our Claime.-There was a regular delay, but as long as we were living and working upon the Place it could not be disturbed.-

Father had told Mr. Frank Pettigrew, of Flandreau, their Attorney, that he must return to the Old Iowa home, in time for harvest, but would move directly back with the Family in time for Winter. Mr. Pettigrew said he felt sure the Papers would be there in time.-How We Three worked that early Summer!-Shep made himself right at home. But his Game supply was not as great, not many Gophers in that new country, nothing for them to eat.-

During that season as I remember we Broke about Thirty Acres.-We dug a never failing Well.-Father bought a good sized Claime Shanty that had done service for Mrs. Dr. Flavel, from our Cresco, Iowa town, who were Proving up and returning to their old home. Father bought the building cheap.

We tore it down in Sections, moved it home, and rehabilitated it until it was as good as new.-That made a large Sitting and living room for the family.

We already had a big Sod house laid up.-Ample provision in room was made for the family, To Cook, to Sleep and to live. That combined structure constituted their home for Two Years.-

The Summer of 1879 was rapidly passing and Father had not heard from his Filing Papers which had not yet come. He was becoming Anxious. The time was approaching when we must start back to Iowa, for harvest, straighten up the Business and get the rest of the Family.-Father got in touch with Attorney Frank Pettigrew. Mr. Pettigrew was a Smart, and honest man.-Told us he still beleived the papers would be there on time.-But, He emphasised with Father th that he must not take chances. The Claimes were all being watched, the First instant after any lapse in the requirements, They were "Jumped". That was occuring every day in Moody County.-"What would make the Claime Sure-Safe"? Constant Residence upon it"-Father was determined to save the Claime.-

I remember how that problem required serious consideration and Discussion. Finally Charley had agreed to this solution.-Have Mother come, bring Lizzie and Orville, the Youngest.-Father would meet her in Canby, Fifty Miles, Which all was done. Father took one yoked of Oxen, was gone a Week, brought back not only the Folks, but some needed things for the home, some lumber for completing the house.-Charley would remain with Mother and the little, children while Father and I would return for the harvest, and come back as quickly as possible--Father and I remained until the last day possible.-When we took one Oxteam for our trip and left the other for Charley to job about the Place with.-Much to be done before Winter-The buildings must be completed. And hay must be secured. That was an important item-Hay must be secured to feed Four Oxen and a cow, and for Fuel-They would depend upon the haystack for fuel with which to heat the home during the long cold Dakota Winter.-

Charley was Competent and energetic.-There was Slough hay on the Sioux River Bottoms, as high as a Man's head, Great course stuff, which made fine fuel.

That could be had for the taking, and Charley took it. And finer for the Stock.-He had worked some as a Carpenter and was quite Competent with Tools

He and Mother worked upon the Place all Summer.-They never saw the old home again and didnot seem to care.This was now their home and they loved it.
Father and I took the Younger team and started for the old home.-

Just when we started there were great rain-falls.-Water every where.Every little ravine or Draw was a freshet,Rivers every-where.-The Second day out we came to a flood,rods wide,and deep,and wildy rushing.-On its banks between Sioux-Falls and Dell-Rapids,were a great Cavilcade of Outfits and many People stranded.The rushing stream was to great to admit of Fording.-No one considered driving through it.-It was nearly night when we got there,it looked like rain again.-Those stranded People discussed the matter,and ~~decide~~ decided to wait until Morning and be governed by conditions.-Father and I were prepared for Ten days camping.Our wagon was as secure as any house.-

During the night another big rain.,But the Morning bright and Fair,all hoped the end of the rains had come,which subsequently proved to be true.

But there was no letup of this swirling river.But Men said"We must get ~~across~~ across and on our Way" Two or Three venturesome Young Fellows said we can swim it.The water was warm.-To make the narrative short that group of Competent ^{men} agreed to this plan.-Tow the teams to the other side.-All had lariats,

There were Men there who waded and swam that swirling stream a dozen times that day.-a lariat was fastened to a team,a man swam across and led the teams,one after another across.Of course the horses and the Oxen attended to their own swimming.-Every team in a comparative short while was towed across.-But the Wagons,a little different proposition,but those men were competent,They did this,each wagon box and Gear was tied to the Running Gear,Rope rastened to pole,carried a cross by swimmer,a long larial to the upside of the stream,to which Men could hold and prevent the Wagon from upsetting or washing away.-There were several Women and children in the group,these were towed across in their own wagons.-It took some Hours to make the complete passage across Our "Red-Sea",During the day others came and they were helped across.-By the Middle of the After-noon,the last Team, Wagon and person had safely made the passage.-The great success of the day had come largely through the skill of the Swimmers.-The People hurried on

To Their destinations.-Father and I started at once upon our delayed Journey Those Young,Nimble footed Oxen entered into the Spirit of it,and we reached Luverne Minn.before camping that Afternoon.-We drove East along the Southern boundary of Minnesota,through such prominent Cities as WORTHINGTON-BLUE*EARTH ALBERT-LEE-and AUSTIN,where we veered S.E.into Iowa toward our home,not far.

For some days an Idea had been Festering in my mind,but I had not screwed up courage enough to speak to Father about it.-I had decided I didnot care to return to Dakota in the Fall.-Ever since I have firmly believed that a Providential inspiration had come to me.There were Nine of us children at home, for Father-Mother to feed and clothe,and care for,approaching Young-Manhood and Womanhood.Our Claime in Dakota was Twelve Miles from any town,that a meek Prairie Village at that time.There would be no pay work for any of us.-Spend the long Winter helping Four or Five big,husky boys care for Four Oxen and one cow,and Twist hay for fuel,the biggest chore of all,I was 19 Years old, the oldest of the numerous children.I should be earning something to help the Folks,and not be depending upon them.-Then there was no school accesible to us in Dakota,I wanted more Schooling.The old home would give Pay work and School.-Let me stay in Howard County,get a job for pay during the Work season,work for my board ,attend school during the Winter.-

As we jogged along the High-way,I told that to Father one day,he gave it a little consideration,and I was surprised how quickly he fell into the Idea, and Acquiesced.-That became our agreed plan.-Later Father said"I will give you Your TIME,Advertize you,and you will,legally,attain at once to your own Authority,and be able todo Business for yourself"-All this was done soon.-To make the story shorter,-Adjoining our old farm was that of the Woodcock Bros.Rich People,one a General Sewing Machine man in St.Louis,the other C.and Mil.waukee R.R.Station Agent in Cresco-Iowa.-This,one of the finest farms in the County was under the management of W.O.Symonds,Nephew of the Woodcock Bros.-Father Lovingly arranged my future,and his arrangement brought me Two of the finest and most beautifull years of my life.The Symonds People were finely Cultured People direct from Atholl Mass.-Fine Christian Family.

No other People have ever done me as good in framing my character and deciding my future as those fine People.They refused to consider me a

"Hired-Man"-I was Birney Dibble, now their Charge, living as an accepted member of their home.-During those Blessed Two years in that Christian home I not once became Home-sick or discouraged.-All thro my Mature and Active life the hallowed instructions and Loving admonitions of that Saintly Woman, have come to me.-If all Young-Men could start Active life under conditions like these there would be fewer broken characters in the World.-

According to the agreement I was to live in the home of the Symonds, Three Winter Months do chores for my Board, the Summer 9 months work upon the farm with stipulated wages.-Father and I agreed to this, One-Half of my cash wages until I was 21 should be sent to them.-We adhered to the arrangement, I did not miss once sending the Folks their Stipend, and I had an abundance left to supply my needs.-For Two years I lived with and carried on in that Hallowed home.-As a respected member of it.-I never felt like a Hired-Man.-

On Oct. 8: 1881, I celebrated my Twenty-First Birth-day. A few days later, occurred the National Election -Day, and I had the privilege of casting my ~~my~~ First vote for JAMES .A. GARFIELD-for the Presidency, as all know he was elected later Assassinated,-I had seen none of my People for Two years, and had decided to go to them.-There was now Summer work in Dakota. Much building was going on.-During that period Hundreds of home were established upon those broad prairies.-Young men had come out taken their Claimes, started their ~~new~~ homes, gone East and Married their Sweet-Hearts, and brought them back with them and Thousands of the finest of South Dakotans today are the fruit of those Pioneer days.-The entire State was Pulsating with life.-Every building was waiting to be erected.-Rail-Roads were building. Plenty of work now, with good pay. I was no longer a boy, I had Twice been made a man, once thro the kindly offices of my Father, and again thro the offices of Old Man Time.-

I was ready to TAKE THE WORLD.-I was to spend the First Winter at home, and find work in the Spring. In the meantime Charley had got into an Egan Family by the name of Buck, and worked for them.- A Neighborhood school had been founded, and my Younger Bros. and Sisters, were receiving Six Months Schooling Per year. Father was Preaching as a Methodist Local Minister.-He was the

First Pastor in several what have become strong churches.-FLANDREAU-EGAN-BROOKINGS-ARLINGTON-and others. Every Sat. P.M. he would ride his black Pony to

his Sunday appointment.--During the Year of 1881-82-I beleive he was Pastore at Egan and some adjacent Country Points.--Egan was Twenty Miles S.E.--Father went there each Week, [There was no Church building yet.Father compelled to Hustle his own Preaching Place.--In Egan no place Fit.Old Mr.Taylor,a wicked, Profane ,blatant Man,owned and operated the quite large City Hotel,and its large,capacious Dining room attracted Father's attention.--Mr.Taylor knew him well.--Father contacted the old Tiger and said to him"Mr.Taylor your Dining-room is empty by 2.30 P.M.on Sunday is it not?--"Yes-sir"--"Will you please have it arranged,we will hold our services in there,until some other Place can be found".Mr.Taylor's First surprized Acclimation was"THE H-LL YOU WILL".

When suddenly there came a change over that Wicked man-He said"you may Mr.Dibble,and the room will be ready for you at 2 P.M." and for some Months the Room was prepared,the tables pushed back the chairs arranged,A small table placed for a Pulpit.Mr.Taylor closed the adjoining doors,and so far as he could kept order and quiet while the services were on.--Mrs.Taylor her daughters,and hired help attended the services each Sunday,during the months that the Hotel was used.Father was very Respectfull to this Old Sinner,called him"Mr.Taylor"-There was developped on Mr.Taylor's part toward Father a very respectful attitude.--He never used Profane language in Father's presene

It was remaked that many of the Taylorisms were polished off.--A few years later when Mr.Taylor Passed away ,the Funeral was held in the Dining-room and Father was the Preacher.--Father possessed the Special gift of getting along with the "Old Man TAYLORS"-Some way they saw in Father "A MAN"-Respected him.

Living upon the hill One Mile West of Egan was the Farm-home of Allen Oaks Mr.Oaks was a painter,at that time working for the Chi.-Mil.R.R.--The R.R.People were extending their Lines West and in other directions and erecting many new buildings.Depots-&c.--Allen Oaks went along the Lines and did the painting.The farm management was left,to his very efficient Wife,who went into the Field and worked with the Hired-Man.--Thro Father I secured the job of Hired-Man on the farm for the Summer of 1882.--I began my work early in the Spring and continued until late Fall.Day after day I worked with Mrs.

Oaks,agreeably.She proved a Woman could do that and maintain her Self Respec That was to me a very Pleasant Summer.Mostly Mr.Oak's work was

close enough to permit him to spend the Week-ends at home, but not always.
Thro-out all the Years I have ⁱⁿ maintained an intimate, ^(friendship) with the Oaks People.

Egan has continued to be their home. He was taken away some time ago, but Mrs. Oak, some years younger, has lived with her family in Egan during all these Years. I met her not so long since. - Their good home is still in evidence upon the Egan-Hill. - I worked for those Good People Eight Months that Summer, and for the entire season drew but \$5.-- for my Personal use.

So it was quite a Sum they paid me when I quit. -

Charley's season at Mr. Bucks closed at the same time, and we made our way home, Twenty-Miles, with our pockets well lined. -

We found the Folks with a burning desire. - They had just emerged clearly away from the old Sod adjunct to home. - They were securing a house piece- ^{by} piece, room by room. - Adjoining the Kitchen on the West, was a vacant place, about Twelve feet Square, Two sides, N.-E. already built. The old Folks had their Heart set upon building up that vacant corner. Had some money toward it, and were planning to wait until Spring for the job. - When the First Morning we were home, we asked Mother to turn the Plates over at the Breakfast table, and we placed a good, quite substantial roll of Bank-Bills under Father's plate. I shall never forget the look of extreme pleasure that lighted up his face when he saw the Bills. His First exclamation was "Oh, Ma now we can have the Addition" - People have received large Sums, real Fortunes, with less joy than our good Parents accepted the price of their desire for the home that day. Before that Morning meal was cleared away, the new ADD. was fully planned, and before the Lights were extinguished in the Dibble home that night, the material for the new Add. was on the ground ready for use. We all hopped to the task, and within a very days had passed, the Folks were using the new Addition. - That is one way things came in those remote Pioneer Days, One at a time. - I Think that right here I would love to devote One chapter Commemora-

ting the Usefull and helpfull lives my Father - Mother lived in that Community for years to come. In portraying these things I promise to keep within the range of exact truth. - Please, it is the kindly helpfull acts of my own Father and Mother that I Record. -

"IN*AS*MUCH"-

"Verily I Say Unto You, Inasmuch as Ye have done it Unto One of the
Least of These my Brethren, Ye have done it Unto Me."
MATT. 25:40-

Christ speaking to Common, Every day People. - He Assures them that Casual kindnesses, and Benefit rendered to Needy Persons in his name, go upon the Records of Heaven as Service rendered to him.

We think of People with great Means, and special Talents, as the great Benefactors, - But that there is in the work of Helping others a chance for the Humblest, God, in his Word, Emphasises Over and over.

Get this fixed, Our Pioneer Home was quite remote, Twelve Miles to the closest Towns, having Resident Physicians. - It was strictly "Horse-Buggy" Period. Years before Mr. Chrysler, and Henry Ford began to "Dream Dreams" Even "Horseless Cars" were unheard of. Many years before the Auto-Mobile came into Popular use. - The Telephone had not yet appeared. - At the present Time if out on some Farm 12 Miles from the Dr. there is sickness, Dr. needed, Step to Phone, ~~Call~~ call him, he steps into his high geared car, turns a button, and within a few Minutes is at the Place of Call. - That reminds, Perhaps no other Profession as greatly benefited by the Twin Blessings. Phone-Auto, as the Medical. And Also to People living at remote Points. -

But, During the Pioneer Days of which I write none of this was true. No Phone if the Remote Dweller needed a Dr. he would mount a horse, perhaps at Midnight MidWinter, - Ride to home of the Physician, arouse him, Perhaps go to the barn help Dr. hitch-up, and blanket up, and started on his One or Two Hour trips, Just wheel track roads, Perhaps this dark night filled with Water and Mud, or buried under Feet of snow, Getting the Dr was an act of Heroism and Courage, and People did-not undertake it unless in Dire Need, where Life-Death are at stake. - My Parents, especially Mother, saved that Community, Scores of such efforts as I have pictured. - [Probably One-Half of all the Claimes of Gov. Land taken in Moody Co. Dakota Ter. were taken by Young Unmarried Men, practically all of these Young Fellows Married their "BACK-HOME SWEETHEARTS" with Two Years of their settlement in the County. - In the case of many the

The Young man returned to the old home for his Bride, and they Married there, but, In the case of Many, -Many others the Young man did-not return, but the Girl came to him. -She came as close as she could by rail, in many early cases 50 ^{miles} or father from the destination. They were not acquainted with Ministers in the Towns, and shrunk away from them. -

My Father was an Ordained Methodist Local Minister with full right to perform the Marriage ceremony. And really, Perhaps more as a Personal convenience to themselves, He became Popular as a "MARRYING PARSON" - The Young Couple on the way from the the train could stop at our home and in Thirty Minutes the sacred ceremony performed and they on their way again, unless Mother kept them for lunch or dinner., as she often did. - This Tale has a true Historic Fact, it actually occurred in Scores of Cases. - Father's Record for marrying Young Homesteaders ran high. - For that he never made a Charge, but there was a standard amount those Young Fellows voluntarily made, All the same - A FIVE-DOLLAR-Bill. - Of course that fitted into the home Purse nicely. -

If Father was a Convenient and Popular Marryer, He was even more so as a Buryer, with this exception There were more ^{of} Mariages than Funerals. - With the Exception of Catholics, Father Buried People all over that great Community. -

I know Father's Funeral work was very fine. - I have watched with admiration my Father engaged in the Solemn task of Laying some neighbor away to rest.

He could adjust himself, and did to each case. - This was especially Well- come to the Afflicted ones. - Father would respond to any call for a funeral.

They came for him from quite remote distances. He never refused to go.

For this Multitudinous Work he never made a charge - Some times the Friends would make a Small offering, but it was not expected. -

Now Mother, I have spoken of the effort of securing Medical attention.

I have also spoken of the many, many newly Wedded Couples coming into the Community. - And it so happened that after a proper time Babies began coming to those Prairie Homes. - Every Case required skilled attention.

May I say no Woman ^{in day} would take the risk those Young Mothers took in those days. - Now nearly all Babies are born in the Hospital, under the Skilled care of Trained Drs. and Nurses. - But, back there no Professional Dr. or Nurse,

But, very fortunately there was a Qualified "MID*WIFE"-My mother, Mrs. J.W. Dibble.-Had recognized skill in this important direction, where over and over Two lives were involved.-I will not dwell upon this at length, Suffice to say that for some years my mother was called upon for this type of work.

The Stork had the fashion of coming at his own convenience, and Folks had to accept his calls.-Practically all at night, they came for Mother at any time. And, Like Father she never refused. They came for her with all sort of Rigs.- Luke Doyle, and Irish Catholic came for Mother one night, in the interest of Maggie, who had a call from the Stork, But Luke Doyle did a bad thing that night, we hardly forgave him. He owned several Span of horses, was a leading Farmer, But those fine big Bays, were invertebrate Run-a-Ways.-They ranaway with Luke just whenever they Pleased, and Luke brought them for Mother, just a Mile from the Doyle home, Luke was nervous and careless, The Bays took advantage just after Mother was settled in the rig, they struck out, became unmanageable Mother was thrown from the rig, striking upon her extended hands, and both wrists were dislocated, and never got fully over the accident. Always lumps, and weakened Wrists.-This had happened, at least the last of it in the Doyle Yard. Mother gathered herself up, and as the Stork was impatient and would not wait, Mother proceeded to care for Maggie and Wellcome the little Doyle.-I have said Mother never recovered fully from the accident.

When Father reproved Lukie for bringing the Bays, Doyle said they had not shown any vicious inclinations for some time, he thought he had them converted.

Father said "When your next Baby comes, do not bring the Bays after my Wife".

Well, For all this and many Scores more Mother said She never lost a Case Mother or Baby. And never made a charge. Mostly she ~~never~~ received nothing, for which the Drs. charged \$35.--as the regular Fee.-The most of these people ~~paid~~ paid Mother nothing. Some would whisk her a gift of Calico Cloth enough for a dress at Five Cents a Yard.-For quite an extended period if Mother had charged \$10. or even \$5. a case it would have supported our Family. May I repeat she never charged, nor lost a Baby.-

You would need to study the whole condition involved, to see what Mother meant to the Community.-There was born then under Mother's Competent Care Practically an entire Generation, many who now live there.

This will end my true Story of my Competent Parents in that Community, which they loved most sincerely, and were highly Beloved and respected by the Community People.--Scarcely a home for Miles about that had not felt the benign touch and influence of those People.--Their activities in that Place continued for a number of Years.--It has always been a quite Isolated Place. The Dibble Claime was in a line, Twelve Miles straight South of Brookings, on the G.-NW.-R.R.--Twelve Miles straight North of COLEMAN, on the C.M.StP.- R.R.- Sixteen Miles N.W. of Flandreau, the Moody County Seat on the C.M.*St.P.R.R.- From the Stand-Point of Rail-Roads and Towns are concerned that Isolated condition has never changed. The Family Claime is just as isolated now as it was in their early experience.--

Our Family relations to this Community will be shown in a future Chapter.

This bit of Intimate Family History I call one of the PRAIRIE-NUGGETS-

-- VII --

WHEN WE MEASURE LIFE BY PASSING TIME,
THE HUMBLEST TASKS BECOME SUBLIME.

"B FORWARD-MARCH"

South Dakota was settled with an Intelligent and Thrifty Class of People. It did-not offer the inducements for Idleness, Dissipation-and Crime, that the great Cities did.--Our People were not all Saints if measured by the ~~strict~~ strictest Standards of Theology, but they were decent, and sympathetic, and have always given sympathetic support to the higher things of life.

All over the Territory the First Institutions planted were the School and the church. My People moved upon their Claime in the Fall of 1879, the children missed the First Winter from school, but after the year of 1880 there was never a lack of good Schools.--Institutions of Higher Learning, Colleges and Universities came almost at once.--At the very First day almost ahead of Settlement came the churches.--Scarcely no Community within the ^tate has missed a Sabbath because of lack of accessible Religious Service. The ~~Exhib~~ Catholic and Lutheran ^h People were on the First day providing Religious Privileges for their People.--All Evangelical churches were here from the First providing for their Followers.--

Father came to Dakota an Ordained Methodist Minister. Within a few Months

after their Settlement Father had regular Ministerial work in the new Community

During First number of Years on their Claime Father did Ministerial Work in the surrounding towns. The work on the farm was done by the boys, with Oxen, Will now the oldest at home, a steady, earnest Hard-working, Young Man. Father rode his pony to his Appointment on Saturday. Always had Two or more Preaching places for Sunday. Early in the Week he would return home, but in his time between then and returning, Superintending and working upon the Farm. One Mile from our Claime North came the Winneger School-House. This fine Country-School Building, was so Centrally located, so Commodious, and in the ^every Front Yard of those fine New-England Bred People, and Public Spirited as well, as to make it from the First, and thro- out all the Years a Place of Public Resort. The Winneger School-House was always Available for Religious and Refining Services.

The First Summer arter coming to Dakota arter the above building was erected and dedicated to the Public Uplift and Good, My Mother with a Two or Three other Women established a Sunday school which carried on in the School-House for Years. For some Years my mother Superintended it. Every Sunday Afternoon, while Father was absent with his work, The Oxen were Yoked to the Farm wagon, the children all loaded and driven to the Sunday-School. The School was Interdenominational. My Folks were Methodists, the Winnegers were Episcopal, nearly every Denomination was represented there, including many Lutherans. That Cosmopolitan Spirit has Characterized that fine Community for ove^r Half a Century. ~~At least Three quite Prominent Min-~~ At least Three quite Prominent Ministers came out of ^{that} S.S. As well as other Christian Workers.

We shall have something more to say about the Winneger S.H. later.

-----That-School-HouseHouse--as--a Community Center is worthy to Classify as

--:A PRAIRIE-NUGGET+--
: : : : : : : : : : :

--VIII--

BIRNEY and CHARLEY, BLUNDER INTO A SERIOUS MISTAKE.-

This will be a "Nugget" of little darker Hue. Charley and I had each reached the age of Personal responsibility, Were both of age. Like every Young-Fellow of our age we were anxious to get a start in life for ourselves. But got off

on the wrong Foot.-Father had a Friend, Charley Mills, a Bach, owning Three Quarter Sections under cultivation, in a Fine farm Mid-way between Our home and Egan. In passing back and forth from his home to his Ministerial work Father would ~~never~~ ^{often} stop with Charley Mills, some time for dinner, some times for over night.-Mr. Mills was a Native of New-England.-He had some Domestic plans for himself.-He wished to spend a time at his Old-~~home~~ ^{home}, in New. Eng. And wished to rent his big farm.-He did not care to dispose of his Farm equipments, Teams, Span of horses and One Yoke of Oxen, and his entire equipment of machinery and tools.-He would also furnish Seed grain.-

He offered the farm to us for rent.-We finally agreed with Mr. Mills that we would buy the oxen and the horses, Mills taking a Mortgage upon the Outfit, and Our share of the crops. There was our serious mistake, a Mortgage upon our crop, which left us nothing. With the crop Mortgaged we could sell nothing and could pay nothing.-We found that true later.-We had Mortgaged away our only resources, the crop.-But, We were inexperienced.-

Charley and I worked like Drivers that entire Summer.-Our Farm work was ~~not~~ well done in season.-But, All crops were short that year.-Mills permitted us to sell grain enough to Pay him One-Half of what we owed him, and the expense of raising the crop. We had to hire a man and team for harvest, the Oxen would not draw the Binder.-Mill's old binder bothered us, and we were delayed. Our harvest was very expensive, Then threshing and drawing the grain. Charley was uneasy, did not wish to work the farm another year. We had made nothing, much, that year.-Paid the equivalent of the value of the Oxen.

Mills wished us to remain upon the farm another year.-Charley was offered a good chance to drive a Rural Mail Route between Flandreau and Brookings. He must have a team.-We divided the meager Profits of that year. With his share Charley was able to buy a span of horses by running in debt for part. He fitted himself with the necessary rig, and took the Rural Contract.-

According to our contract to Mills, we should plow that big farm, work for the rest of the season.-Now, What should I do?-I had our Horse team to use upon the farm but could not take it away because of Mill's Mortgage. He had been wise enough to look after that.-Well, Finally decided to try the farm another Year. Did the plowing during the Fall. Planted the crops next Spring.

and watched them grow.- 37-- I donot care to rewrite what has gone before.-Suffice to saythis year on the farm was about a reduplication of the Year before.-If any strong Young Man ever put Two Years work in one,I did that year.And that dear old team.Practically we were in the Field when the Sun came up each Morning,and there when it went down at night.-Men working for others have regularHours.Well,I had from Daylight to dark.-

For harvest Charley took a vacation from his route and worked for me with his team.-I had bought a new Walter A.Wood Twine Binder,which did its part with delightfull despatch.-The threshing and Grain Marketing with haste came quickly.-I had decided that it was foolish for me to rent the farm for next year.-But according to our contract I must leave the farm plowed for next Years crop.-That took me all the Fall,with my characteristic long days.

I spoke of Mr.Mills returning to New Eangland.These he induced a fine Yankee Woman to cast in her lot with him and come back to be his Wife and Home-maker.-During the year he had,had a new house built on the West Quarter for himself and Wife.-Directly when I had the plowing done and was about to quit, one of those good horses was taken sick and died.-Mills had a Mortgage upon them,it was my plan to finish the plowing,which was all his benefit,and turn the team over to him.-Now,I turned the horse over to him and told him I was through.-He was not satisfied.-For Two years I had worked hard for Charley Mills and with Wages.He got the whole thing after I had raised the crop and paid the cost of it.-I learned Two or Three good lessons during those Two profitless years.-No man can make a profit on his share of the crop on a Dakota farm.If I could not,with no one depending upon me a man with a family could not.-Renters live not alone from a Share of grain,but from Stock,Cows Butter and Cream-Poultry-Hogs-&c.And the best of them are always in debt and Mortgaged up.-When I think of that type of life I shiver.-But Hundreds of Families live that type of life,moving from Place to Place.

I remember the reeling of relief that came over me the day I climbed into Father's Wagon for home.I felt like Out of Prison.-

One feature of it has gratified me,I went through that Ordeal free from debt.-I had not made a Dollar,had put a few Dollars in it,but came out clear I settled satisfactorily with Mr.Mills.-I was again free to do something for myself.

--:SOME SMALLER NUGGETS:- (THE MILL AT ISINORE*)

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Three Months of every Dakota ~~Winter~~ Year is Winter.-Dakota Winters donot offer work to the Jobless.-I came from Mill's with a great desire for Wage earning work.-With nothing to do at home I decided to go to N.E.Iowa at our old Howard County home and visit some of the old Friends.-As my good Uncle Orville, and his kindly Wife, Julia, were living in Albert-Lee -Minnesota, and I would pass thro Albert-Lee, I would stop and spend a few days with Uncles' Folks. I was on a still hunt for Work.-As quickly as I reached Uncles' good news met me.-Aunt Julia's Brother had the contract for the dismantling of a large Flouring Mill in Isinore, S.E. Minnesota, and the shipping of the Machinery and Equipment to a new Mill that had been erected for it at Big-Stone Lake-Dakota Ter.-Uncle knew I would find a Winter's job with his Brother-in-law.-With his kindly introduction in my pocket I went tp Isinore at once, and found the situation as Uncle had described.-Went to work at once, Received real pay, and worked until Late Winter. It proved to be a real Providential opening.-Good inside work.-We dismantled and loaded the Equipment upOn cars for the Dakota Prairies.-I have wished I might see the mill in operation, but have never happened to be at just the point where it was located. But have no doubt but that Thousands of Bushells of "No I-Hard Wheat" have been transformed into rich Flour, with that machinery I had helped to take down and Load and ship.-I was invited to go with it and help unload and Place it in its new Quarters, but had made other Plans.-However that had been a delightful Winter.-I am glad to inscribe this bit of history as a "NUGGET"-

2. ANOTHER LITTL NUGGET-

For nearly Five years My Brother Will had been the man of arrairs upon the farm, but he had come to the timewhen he was old enough to begin working ror himself, and turn the work of the Home Farm over to Zell, the next in order, which was done.-Will was keenly alive to make something.-North Dakota was in the Limelight at just that time and had attracted our attention. We going 40 and mor Bushells Per Acre. Men on the Wheat Farms receiving from \$20. to \$40. a month, with all expenses paid, &c.-Will and I had decided to go up in the

Great Wheat Belt of North Dakota for the next Summer.-I went from Isinore home to my People-As I remember in the last of March Will and I struck out

for the North.--Our selected destination was Jamestown North-Dakota, about ,as I remember, Thirty Miles North of Ellendale at the extreme Northern boundary of South-Dakota.--We took the C.N.W.R.R.at Brookings for Aberdeen, where we caught a C.-M. ST.Paul train to Ellendale, Thirty Miles North, from there to Jamestown, Thirty Miles, afoot and carried our Suit-Cases.--By the Way, when we returned home in the Fall, the Gap between Jamestown and Ellendale R.R.had been completed and we rode down upon the First Passenger train over the line.

We went to a Jamestown Hotel and secured a room.--We were told there that the Farmers wanting help would come to the Hotels looking for Men.--So we settled down and waited, but not for long. Just a few days later, One day, a nice looking, quite old, Gentleman, appeared hunting for Two Men for the Summer Will and I had hoped we might find work at the same place, but that was much to hope for.--This Man's name was Sanford, He had been a College Prof.and School teacher all his mature life, until Two Years before he and his Wife had resigned from the School, and had come to Stutsman County-N.D.--gone up Thirty Miles N.E.of Jamestown to Daisy-N.D.and bought Three-Quarter Sections of Wheatland, nearly all under cultivation, and settled down to farming,--Their Place was plain, Shackie, Pioneer.--Of course these old People were finely cultured and educated.--We found the characteristic reserve of People of that type.--Will and I looked good to the Prof.--And before long we were both hired by the Old Gentleman for Twenty-Five Dollars a Month, with Board and Washing. Mr.Sanford's Farm Power consisted of Two Three Mule outfits.Mr.Sanford gave us each one of those Long-eared Out-fits, and for Eight Months we lived with Cared for, and worked these teams.--For the Summer Our work was all on the Fields,--Seeding, Harrowing, During the Breaking season Breaking new soil, with, our Mules and Sulky-Breaker.--We had a bed in the old granary, separated from the house.--There was an Elderly Woman who had lived with them in Ann Arbor Mich.and a Ten Year old girl, that had come to them from some relative.

Mr.and Mrs.Sanford were sincere Christian People, Members of the Congregational Church.--He Superintended a Country Sunday-School Sunday Afternoons. They had a single Family horse and buggy, into which Mr.S.and his Women Folks crowded on Sunday for the S.S.--Will and I were never invited to attend,

the Sunday School, of course there-- 40-- was no conveyance for us if we had desired to go.--I think there was not a Preaching Service available any where in that community while we were there, Yet the Prairies were quite well covered with Settlers.--A few Miles to Daisy, which probably had churches.--The only use the Sanfords made of Daisy as a town was a market for his Wheat. It was about Forty Miles to Jamestown, they did their Household trading there Will and I did-not get to town all Summer until Fall when we drew the Wheat to Daisy.--No Church services.--Mr. Sanford was very strict.--They observed Family Worship after breakfast regularly.--They observed the Sabbath Religiously demanding quiet upon the farm.--When Mr. Sanford hired us, he stipulated he ~~was~~ would permit no Profanity, nor abuse of the teams.--All that was proper.--

Will and I did-not find the Old Gentlemen's "Blue-Laws" Irksome.--

We were told, However, that he had, had trouble with hired Men who protested some of his restrictions. Men insisted that Sunday was their day in which to do or go as they Pleased.--Will and I did not Chafe, our Father at home was preaching Two or Three times every Sunday, and conducting funerals and Marrying People nearly every day,--Our Mother Superintended the Winneger S.S. every Sunday, and our Younger Bros.--Sisters were in S.S. each Sabbath. Why should we not observe the day in Religious respect.--

But it hurt us to find that the Sanfords could not trust us, we must be ~~watched~~ watched. We were "Hired-Men and likely to break-out into some Mis-de-meanor".--

That very thing made the Summer more unpleasant to us than any other thing. There was not one bit of real Fellowship for us all Summer, we were just hired-men, I think the Sanfords would have been surprised to find that we had Souls.--But that we were from a Strictly Christian Home, Both of us Religiously inclined, Each of us at that very time resisting the call to preach, to which we each yielded not much later, and spent many years each in.

The Sanfords did not help us Spiritually that entire Summer.--When we were at work some distance from the house the Prof. would stand upon an old shed and watch us thro his Spy-Glass.--We were watched constantly all Summer.-- Will said it made him feel like doing some mean thing.--When we meet in Heaven I hope Prof. Sanford and I will be located in different sections of the Glory Land. and as I was just a "Hired-Man" we probably shall be.--

Summers have a habit of doing this one passed away. ---
oyed our work. The Mules and we took many steps.--
le worked for the Sanfords just Eight Months at \$25. a Month, and had no ex-
ense.--Except in Grain drawing we were not in town during the Eight Months.
uring the Summer we drew \$8 together \$5.--We sent by Sanford to Jamestown for a
few little things, I remember a Straw hat for each he paid Ten Cents. A joke
out good enough for "Hired-Men"--The time came for us to quit and return home
home.--It had grown so cold we had come in from the old rickety ~~KIX~~ Granary
to a bunk on the Kitchen Floor.--Forty Miles to Jamestown, Mr. Sanford did not
offer to take us there. He paid us our good "Wads" we might find our own
conveyance. Just one way, WALK, We were so happy to be on our way home and to
Civilization that we anticipated that little Forty Mile Jaunt.--We planned to
arise from our bunk at Midnight and start on our tramp, which we did. The
good old Lady did not offer us a lunch, but Will managed to make a little
sneak on the Cupboard and get a loaf of bread, which we took for our break-
fast.--At Midnight we passed quietly on our way.--Down the road we happened to
look back and the lantern was glimmery about the barn. The Old People's Mis-
trust continued, they were out counting the Mules, to see if we had ridden
any away.--Well, We were Two happy Lads on their way to where they would be
loved and Trusted--HOME and Loved ones.

May I say in the conclusion of this Nugget, that while the Sanfords paid us
all they had promised to, Their Spirit of indifference toward us, and their
Mistrust of us led to just one actual Mis-de-meanor, during the Summer, the
Pilfering of a loaf of the Old Lady's bread.--The stress of the prospect of
walking Forty Miles with no breakfast led us to that Criminal act, which I
suspect the Old Tight Wads never recovered from.--

3--Still Another little NUGGET--
IDRIVE A STAM ROUTE--

Thro Correspondence I had secured work for Winter.--The "MIDWAY P.O." was a
mile and a Half S.E. of our home. It was kept in the home of MR. TAYLOR, a fine
old man not able to do Manual work, but a keen Business man.--For some time
they had kept this Country P.O.--Now, To them was falling from our Brother ~~SM~~
Charley, the Mail-Route between Flandreau and Brookings. Charley was quitting

the Route just when I came-home.-It was all arranged he should. And I take the Route for Mr. Taylor.-Taylor made ~~me~~ ^{had} me this Proposition, they a Couple span of horses, Two or Three Cows and some minor chores to do, For driving the Route I would receive Twenty Dollars a Month.-That the Gov. paid. Then, If I would live with the Taylors and do the chores Morning and Eve, They would ~~give~~ give me my Board and washing during the Winter. Going to the Taylors to live was about like going home, I knew them so well, and they were such fine old People.- The Mail must be driven Six trips a Week, MONDAY to Flandreau, TUESDAY, to BROOKINGS, -the other trips alternating in that way.-The MIDWAY P.O. was sonamed-MIDWAY between those Two towns, to be exact each trip 13 Miles each way Six days each Week.-Quite a steady job and quite Routine.

I left Midway about 8 A.M. for Flandreau and One intervening Office, Returned by this Office during the P.M. reaching home 5 O'Clock.

Next day leave Midway at 8 A.M. Stop at Intervening P.O. GALA, in the home of Mr. Francis, Brookings Noon, Home same way P.M.

Much mail passed thro the Mid-way Post-Office. It was at the Center of a quite thickly settled community, and handled all the mail, in and out, Letters, Papers Magazines, Parcel-Posts, and whatever passed thro the Mails.-

They received One Mail each day. One day from Flandreau, the next from Brookings.-We aimed to have the mail ready for Delivery at Five P.M.-The crowd ~~was~~ sure to be there at that time. A foot, Wagon but mostly Horse-Back.-I had nothing to do with the Delivery. I placed the Sacks inside, and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, with sometimes Annie's help, attended to the distribution.-While they were at that task I hurried thro my chores.-We were always ready for our dinner at Six or Six Thirty P.M.-As I remember the Evenings of that Winter were delightfull at the Taylor house.-Warm, Cozy, Lots to read, people stepping in ~~for~~ for their mail.-Always much life there.-Then the mail was put up to be ready for me to throw into my rig in the Morning and start upon my trip.-

I have always looked back upon that Winter at Taylors as one of the most pleasant of all my Young-Man-hood.-The chores were just a few Minutes exercise. The Driving was steady and confining, but not much real labor. I greatly enjoyed the Family relations. The quite Maiden Daughter of the Family, Annie, was home. She was jolly, and she and I had a good time, Chafing each other:

I was home nearly every day, just One Mile away, directly across the Omodt
Claim. In a few Minutes after dinner I could run home for the long Evenings.
On Sundays I was free between A.M. and Eve Chores.--After Breakfast, Home, if
church in the Winneger S.H. attend with the Folks.
Proper to say that before this Father had exchanged Oxen for horses for their
Farm work.--Father still preached.--Zell was manager of the Farm Activities.--
The Younger children in School.--

Charley, Will and I, had formed a combination that brought us deep interest at
all that Winter.--We Three older Brothers had decided to go West, only it
proved to our disappointment to be North, in the Spring and take Claims,
Will is old enough now.--Charley would buy a new Lumber Wagon, Will and I each
furnish a Yoke of Oxen. We decided to buy steers and break them.--Charley
and Will were spending the Winter at home.--We had picked up the Steers for
our team, and the boys spent the Winter breaking them to drive, and getting
our Out-fit together.--But, I will leave that for the next Nugget--
That fine Winter passed too quickly. I might have continued with the Taylors
but My plans with my Brothers prevented.--
Thus ended one of my most shine NUGGETS.

LITTLE NUGGET NUMBER 4--

"Whoa, Haw, Gee BUCK,
HERE WE TRY OUR LUCK".

About April 1st. 1886, We boys with our fine selected and well broken Oxen,
and Charley's fine, brand new, shine Studebaker Wagon,--Break Plow, a complete
Camp equipment, all of which stirred our Youthfull Pride, started for LOGAN-
N.D.--where we had decided to locate.--All went fine on the trip, The Oxen w
travelled fine.--Shep snatched up the Gophers along the way.--We all kept
well and enjoyed the trip. It was a real Lark.--Upon reaching our chosen des-
tination we found no Government Land open for Homesteading it had all been
taken.--And we were forced into a decision. What shall we do?--Upon enquiry we
found that just over this little intervening range of Coteaus, in Stutsman
County Lots of Government land, so we elected to go thro. the hills to Stuts-
man County which we did. There was no road thro the Coteaus, but that had all
been Surveyed, and for some days we picked our way along with the Survey

Mounds.-It was a rough drive thro the Hills but we enjoyed the Novelty and Romance.-When we finally emerged much like coming from a dark room.- However we found what we sought, Gov. Land.-Just across the Corner N.E. was Jamestown N.D.-We were about 8 Miles South of the Main line of the GREAT NORTHERN R.R. East and West thro the State and on East to the Twin Cities. To the Casual Observer that was a beautiful cuntry.-Seemed to hold out great promise to the Home seeker, but the more carefull observer found some very serious faults.-IF WAS TOO HIGH AND DRY.-Not far enough away from the Coteaus.-Too many rock.-But we wanted land, this looked good, to our untrained eyes. And, think Just a few Miles from the growing, Hustling County-Seat, Jamestown.-Anyway, We enthusiastically accepted it. There was no Residents very close, but we didnot care for that. To get Government Land One must Isolate himself.-We selected each a Claime, and went to the Land-Office and Filed up on them.-At Jamestown we bought lumber with which to roof our CLaim-Shacks, which we must build , on each Claime.-We must start a few improvements, but we had until next Year to begin operations upon the Claimes.-We did not plan to remain there permanently.-We dug a few stone, -Tried to break a little, which proved almost impossible the ground was so Dry and hard.-But we decided to build a Centrall Shack at that time and have it ready to come to the next Summer. Which we did from sod.-To make a show of effort we piled up a Sod shack on each of the other Claimes. We worked hard on the Three Claimes for some Weeks, until time to return home for harvest.--The final day came at last. We had done all we could at that time to secure our Claimes.

I shall not ever forget the Morning we started for home. There came to me a very definite and positive feeling that I should never return to or see this Claime again.-Some new feelings were beginning to arise in my thought. Something was definitely saying "Donot Come-Back, There is a finer life for you".

I had made some very defnite decisions during the past few days. I would not waste my life on that North-Dakota Stone Pile.-I saw that we Boys should not have been up there.-If we really wanted farms, the best place to secure them was right about our home in good Moody County.-That Country was in its infancy.-Many People who had come from the East and taken Claimes were tiring of them, and they could be bought cheaply. That our best opportunity.

It was a Depressed trip home-Very fine in its actual movements, but serious in thought. I had not said a word to the boys concerning my decisions, but I must

One Afternoon as we ambled dreamily along, Charley sitting in front driving the teams, Will and I were walking silently behind the wagon, something was said about going back in the Spring, and impulsively I said "I am not going back"- "Not going back" "No, you Boys may have my Stone pile, if you want it".

Will asked what I intended to do, I answered "I'm going to school and fit myself to be somebody" He said that is just as I have been thinking. I'm not going back".-That Afternoon, trudging along in the dust behind the oxen, Will and I talked the matter through. We did not know how Charley would feel about it. That was in some ways the supreme decision of our lives. It was not the final decision but this opened the way later for the Supreme decision.

Charley, at first was Grieved. He said we had betrayed him, let him down, that we had agreed together upon the plan and we were obligated to go through with it. I insisted kindly that I had my individual life to make, and could not permit myself to be forced back on that claim which had become repulsive to me. Will felt the same way. Some way a new life had sprung up in me and was asserting itself.-We talked it through with Charley. He insisted our quitting destroyed the Project and ruined him.-What would he do?-We told him we would give him the Oxen and the equipment, to make it possible for him to complete his claim.-Charley still owned his Horse team. As I have said the new Wagon was his.-And later it all came right.-He became resigned to our quitting, but would not surrender his claim. He would drive his horses back in the Spring, and open his claim with them. He would accept all the loose equipment of the trip and camp.-It happened that the Central Shack had been built on Charley's claim.

I will now finish Charley's story.-In the Spring he drove out to the claim. He tried hard to make something of it but could not.-He became acquainted and fascinated with a Widow, whose first name was TOLLIE, married her. They became discouraged trying to make something out of his claim.

Right across the corner N.W. of Father's Place was the "Leonard Quarter", just now for sale cheap. Father bought it for Charley, who came home as quickly as he could. He and Tollie worked hard and were getting a good start when Charley

broke down with Asthma, and was compelled to seek a warmer Climate.--First they went to Oklahoma, he was better for a Couple of years, when the old trouble came again. The Dr. ordered another move.--This time they went into Mo. Where he became free from his troublesome Ailment.--They got along nicely down there. He did some preaching, and they were nappy for years. A few Years ago Charley passed away. So far as I know Tollie is still living. She has a couple of Children.

Directly after we returned from North Dakota I worked thro Harvest and Threshing for Ike Thompson, a Neighbor of my People.-- Will and I were fully determined to go to College and made our plans to that end.--The School year was divided into Three Terms, or Sessions, FALL-WINTER and SUMMER.--However the College year really began with the "FALL-TERM"-- That was the time we planned to begin, about November FIRST.-- We would be a little late. There was to be an event of high interest take place at our home, on Thanksgiving Day, and we must all be there.--The First Wedding in our immediate Family was to take Place that day, Sarah, our oldest Sister was to Marry Andrew Whealy, a Young Widower with one little boy, Robbie.--Father would perform the Ceremony.--I will just Note Andrew Whealy was one of the very finest of Men. He and Sarah lived on their beautiful One-Half Section farm, Eight Miles West of Flandreau, Six Miles North of Colman, and Six Miles straight South of our home Place, and raised a large, fine family of children, all of whom are mature and have Families of their own.-- But, Now, The Great Event is over, Will and I are Packed, The day following Father is to take us to Brookings, 12 Miles for the Dakota Agricultural College.-- All that Transpired. This has been a NUGGET of importance to Will and Me, Very vital decisions had been made, Not simply the decision to attend School, but the yet unforeseen results of that Decision.--

--:NUGGET FIVE:--

------(Good)-----
"HURRAH, For the Old "D.A.C"-
---For Brother Will and Me.--

The DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, under its First Familiar name, but later the SOUTH DAKOTA &c. but now "THE DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE" is one of the very oldest Institutions of Higher Learning in our State.--I have not at my disposal the exact Date of its Beginning, but back in Territorial Days, some Years before South-Dakota was organized as a seperate State.--Will and I entered the College in 1886, and it had been Functioning some Years. Had 300 Students, and a strong Faculty.--"State College" Throout the entire time of its existence has been the most Popular and prominent Institution of Higher Education in the State of South-Dakota.--They have always maintained a highly Democratic Type of Teachers and Students.--Nearly all the Students have come from the Common homes of the State.--Thousands of Young People have come to its Halls from the State's greatest Industry the Farm.--But all Professions and Industrys

If any-one should ever take time to read this you will Please Remember it is written wholly from an Old Man's Memory.-The Record of these events are in the main quite correct, but Memory may err sometimes.-This is probably about as correct History of those times as could be obtained.-

When Will and I entered the "D.A.C." in the Fall of 1886, there were on the Campus just Two Major buildings, what came to be known as the "Old Dorm", Then South on the Campus, housing the "Girls Dormitory" General Boarding, or Eating Hall. If my Memory serves me correctly the Domestic training was carried on here.-Then old "Centrall Hall", stood somewhat Aloof, just North.-

The Lower Rooms provided the Recitation Department of the Institution. All Classes were conducted here-The Upper Story was taken over with the Boy's Dormitory.-I remember distinctly that while Will and I were there One Hundred boys, or Young Men they were, had lodging in the "GOAT-PAS^tURE"- That great bare floor was divided into Coops, or stalls, each to accommodate Six Fellows.-The Partitons did not extend up to the Ceiling, but just a little higher than the cheap Bedsteads. A fellow so inclined, and some time he was, could throw a pillow, or any other object over the Partitions to the extreme side or end of the entire building, Fifty feet or more.-

But, in those Coops we sat and Studied. If one applied himself too closely a pillow would probably land in his midst.-Each Six were expected to keep their Coop in respectable condition.-Thro-out the First several Years, it is safe to say, the most highly Loved and respected Male member of the Faculty was Prof. Robt. F. Kerr. Prof. Kerr had spent many Years in Japan in Missionary and Governmental work. Japan had not shot at Old Glory at that time and was not so well known by the most of People as now. I remember how a Group of Fellows would gather about the Prof. in the Halls, Upon the steps, anywhere, and listen to his highly interesting and instructive talks upon Japan.

Well, Prof. Kerr was the Inspector of the "Ram-Pasture" when Will and I went there. At about Nine O'Clock A.M. (Each Saturday) the Prof. would tap on each door, which he would open, and greet each Coop, seperately, but with the same Words,

GGOOD MORNING, YOUNG GENTLEMEN"-Always just that.-Altho on Saturday the good

Prof. found practically every Fellow at his table busy with his studied. This happened because each Sat. Morn. a boy was posted at the end of Hall, and

when the good Prof. emerged below, this Fellow hurried down the hall tapping gently at each door, warning for quiet and Order.-I shall not undertake to describe some of the happenings of the Ram-Pasture. Remember there were too Red Blooded Fellows cooped in those Pens, and they ~~have~~^{might} as well been in one great room.-But out of that Ram-Pasture came some bright and Thorough Men. Men who have made their way to prominence in the Professions, the Industries the Future Politics of the State.-

May I say this, I shall write here just of my own experiences. I am not writing a history of State College. I am not qualified to do that.-

Will and I were kindly accepted in the College, and ~~soon~~^{very} soon assigned to our Classes.-I wish to say we found it quite easy to get hold of our work and proved no greener than the ^Rak-File of the Students of our Grade.-

I do remember the Institution had just One Senior, when we went there, MERTON ALDRICH, -who had come to the Institution already started. The College was not old enough yet to develop a Senior Class, and Mert Aldrich was graduated alone at Commencement Time.- You will probably see more concerning the Aldrich Family later.- Grant Houston was a Farm boy who had come into the College from out near Huron.-He was assigned to our Coop, and there quickly sprang up between Grant and me a very Intimate Friendship which has lasted throughout our entire Mature lives to date.-Grant is Two Years younger than I.-He completed the Course at D.A.C.-Went to Chicago took a Medical Course, Inherited an older Bros. Practice and Office in Joliet-Ill-where his entire Professional life has been spent. He married, and they have gathered about ~~the~~ them a beautiful home in the City of Joliet, as well as other Property.

Grant is very decrepid, more so than I. We exchange Visits quite often. Well, to return, Grant Houston roomed with Will and Me in the Ram-Pasture.

We secured our meals at the Dining Room in the Girls Dorm.-

A few Months after we entered the College there came special Opportunities for work. The Classes were gathered and dismissed by the tapping of the bell rung from the basement of Old Centrall.-Every Hour or oftener during the Day the bell must be rung. Then at other periods, as RISING, LIGHTS-OUT, &c. The Bell Ringer had a fine job, and it fell to my Bro. Will.-Five Minutes before the

time for Class Will was expected to pass out and ring the bell .-He did that all the rest of the time he was there.-Of Course all that has been done for many Years Electrically.-It happened that at that time those in Authority wanted Two Young Men to care for the Recitation building with its halls. Grant Houston and I secured the work, which paid very well, carried some responsibility.-There was fitted up a very pleasant room in the basement for the Bell-ringer, The Hall Attendants, and a Young-man having some responsibility at the Barns with the Stock.-Remember this Institution has from the First Specialized in Blooded and High-Grade Stock.-Horses, Cattle, Swine and Poultry &c.-So when Will, Grant and I moved into our very fine room in the basement which was furnished up without cost to us, Doc Bronson, The Stock Boy of whom I just spoke, moved in with us.-That room became our home.-As I remember there was One "Fly in the Ointment", the room became a retreat, a loafing Place for the Boys from the Ram-Pasture, in the same building.-Fellows would take liberties there they would not in the other rooms, which were more closely guarded.-We soon found that it would be up to us, to keep order, that the Authorities held us responsible.-We wished to maintain the Good-Will of the Fellows, and needed to be carefull of our treatment of them.

I do remember that became a real Problem.-Boys filled the room.- Grant's and my work began at Four O'Clock when the classes were thro.-Open the Windows, pick up the many papers, Sweep, arrange the furniture, Do whatever needed to be done.-Be good Janitors.-For the Dusting Process Grant and I opened the Transoms, walked thro the Aisle, and flaunted the Dusters thro the open Transoms.-In the group of Recitation Halls was that of Mathematics. Good old Prof. Lilley was the Professor in charge.-He was a real sitter, take his seat at the beginning of the Session sit Mobile, until the end.-One Mathematical Class, Arithmetic, Algebra, &c. Would come in and out all day, each class using the Black Board with a liberal amount of Chalk. Chalk produced Dust, Prof. Lilley, a kindly man would be buried in Chalk-dust each day.- Shaking our clothes thro the Transom didnot satisfy Professor Lilley.-It became a Staple with Grant and Me, "Did you forget to dust my room this Morning, Young Gentlemen"?-Of course we assured him we were trying our best, but the Mathematical

Department was recalcitrant and difficult to manage.--Prof. Lilley was our Problem, he seemed to really think his room should be kept clean.

At the College at that time were Two or Three Lady Teachers and Leaders whom we all loved, for Instance Carrie Daniels. Miss. Daniels was in charge of the ENGLISH DEPTMNT, She was a good thorough teacher, but that was not why we all loved her. She took such a fine sincere interest in us all., Especially religiously.--She had a great influence over the Boys.--I am sure that Carrie Daniels had more to do with Will's and my Conversion than any other immediate Person.--Fellows said "Miss Daniels makes me want to be a Christian" I heard no one resenting her kindly, Tactfull approaches.--She was a Member of the Presbyterian church but she would go into other churches when the Revivals were on and work with the Students. No doubt but that scores were led to Christ by that beautiful, Christian, Cultured quite Young Woman.--

One other Popular Lady of the College of that time was Miss. Nellie E. Folsom, the Preceptress.--Miss. Folsom came to the College from New England at about the time Will and I did.--She possessed one of the most attractive Personalities I have ever known.--Just after President Grover Cleveland had married the other Nation wide Popular Miss. Folsom, a Cousin of our Nellie E. she came. But we did not need Mrs. Cleveland to attach our Miss. Nellie to us. The Boys called her "Peachie" out of respect for her.--

She was Preceptress, not one girl could leave the Institution without Miss. Folsom's ~~consent~~'s consent.--Every Fellow wishing to take a girl out must get her consent.--She did that so beautifully that we all loved her.--

It was nearly a Mile down to Main-Street from the Dormitory, long walk for the girls at best.--One Third of that distance was out on the unbroken Prairie with no protection, upon an old, wooden Side-Walk a foot off the ground

Miss. Folsom tried to protect the girls in Inclement weather.--

One Saturday in approaching Fall, it was cold, Snow in the air, Cold wind had blown all day, All during the Afternoon the Preceptress had been refusing the girls permission to go to town.--Toward night the wind ceased mostly, the clouds were chasing each other off the Sky.--There was something Will and I wished to take our Girls to. We called at Miss. Folsom's room and asked if Miss. ~~Cumt~~ and Miss. Doughty might go out for the Eve. After she had asked a few

Questions She said "We think it not fit for the Young Ladies to be out. I have been refusing the Young People all the Afternoon. -Where-Up-On, Will the Plausable said, "Why. Miss. Folsom, It has cleared away, the wind has gone down, and it is really nice out" -"Oh, Well, of course if that is true, if it has Cleared off, and the wind gone down I would not object to the Young Ladies going with you". -We got our Girls, took them to town, spent the Evening, Finally brought them home, and as Will and I were approaching our room we heard a storm raging. Our room was packed with a crowd of Angry Boys. -When we entered that Angry Mob became Vehement. -Such Favoritism they would not tolerate. They would show that Peachie, that she could not deny them and permit the Dibles. &c. They all scolded at once. They would show them. -Any-way we had deceived "Peachie". -As a matter of fact Will and I did not intend to deceive, the howling Wind had subsided, the sky was clearing, but it was growing intensely cold. Too cold for Girls to make that trip, but those Girls made the journey to town and back. - Sunday Eve when Will and I went to Peachie's room to secure the Girls for church, we were afraid she might reprove us for Yesterday's experience, but she did not. She was just her fine Sweet, Smilie, Peachie Self and said "Certainly". As I look back upon those days I am sure Miss. Folsom tried ^r had to do her Duty as Preceptress, and grant the Young People all the Favors reasonable and possible. -

--:WILL and I YIELD TO THE SUPREME CALL:--

Neither Will nor I were Professed Christians nor Members of the Church when we entered D.A.C. -We were both Religiously inclined. I felt a very definite call to the Ministry; but had resisted all my Mature Years. -I had started in the Christian Life several times, but each time refused to do what I knew God wanted me to do. -Through my refusal to accede to My Heavenly Father's Will, I would speedily lapse back. -I had come to know that the time had come, when my Call to the Christian Life, involved a Call to the Ministry, and my acceptance of the Christian Life was really the Acceptance of the call to Preach. Some-way I seemed destined for the Ministry. My Friends, beginning with Grand Pa expected me to enter the Ministry. - Conditions seemed working favorably for me. It was in the Winter of 1886-7 - that Dr. J.G. HALL Pastor of the Metho-

dist Episcopal church in Brookings, the church that Will and I attended regularly, planned a Series of Evangetistic Meetings for Two Weeks in February, Under the Leadership of Rev. W. H. Selleck, the Bright Young Pastor of the Methodist church in Watertown Dakota Territory. Upon Dr. Hall's First Announcement of this Campaign, I felt this was intended for me, that these meetings would seal my destiny. I must say "YES" not simply to being saved and becoming a Christian, but the devotion of the rest of my life to the Ministry. Dr. Selleck came and proved to be the right Man. A fine convincing Preacher. We all loved him. The church was filled at each service. There were some fine Christian workers in the church at that time. The BROOK'S-LOCKWOODS-PROF. and MRS. LILLEY-PETER AND MRS. ERIE, PROF. KERR-And many other Members of that church And one we must not miss, who was not a Methodist, but a Presbyterian, But who attended all the services, worked with the Students during the day. One who influenced many, Carrie Daniels, an honorable and efficient member of the College Faculty. ~~Miss~~ The Alter of the church was filled in every service by Seekers and workers. Will and I "Went Forward one Tuesday Eve, and were Converted. Settled Two things definitely, our Christian life and the Ministry.

The day following my conversion I went to the Parsonage and had an interview with the the Pastor, Bro. Hall. He told me "I expected you Bro. Dibble".

The next Sunday P.M. We attended the Young Peoples service that had in it the Spiritual Glow and Force. It was reported that One Hundred Young People had given themselves to the service of Christ in the meetings.

At the close of the Service that Sunday After-noon, The Young Lady leader said "We will be Dismissed with the Benediction by the Rev. J. B. Dibble". I was not a Rev. at that time, and I had no Benediction, but while we were rising to our feet I improvised a voluntary Form of Benediction that I have used mostly Thro-out my Regular Ministry.

Dr. Selleck became prominent in the work of the church. Some Years later after Aläka came into the Lime-Light, he became the Superintendant of our Methodist work there. After the Meetings I straightway united with the Methodist church in Brookings. But, Will, However, Was "Going with" Elsie Curtis who was an ardent member of the Baptist church, and out of respect for her and because of her influence. Will united with the Baptist church.

However, Will's entire Ministry was in the Congregational Church.-

-----:GRANT and BIRNEY CREATE A BED-(S)*Lam:-----

Grant-I Aimed to obey to the letter, orders of those in Authority.-However we found that some-times literal Obedience caused trouble.-Here's a case in hand.-

In the Year 1886, I beleive it was, the, fine large new NORTH Building was erected upon the Campus, Comprising the Three Major buildings that stood for several years.-The South Hall-the Girls Dormitory-and general Kichen and Dining-Hall, and the Domestic-Economy work was done there-Then the "OLD-CENTRAL-Building, Recitation Rooms, Boy's Dormitory &c.

In the new building were Three capacious Stories.-Beginning at the First, and lowest, Fine Domestic -Economy Aprtments were provided. A kitchen was furnished, and also a Dining Room.-And other Apartments.-

The entire Second Store was set-aside for large Public Auditorium and Speaker's Plat-Form.--The Upper, and Third Storied was dedicated as a Girl's Dormitory.- I have forgotten how many Sleeping rooms there were, but it was large and Capacious, and added greatly to the working efficiency of the Institution.- The new building was completed in time to be cleaned, furnished and ready for occupancy with the beginning of the new College year.-

Grant Houston and I, ever alert to make a Dollar secured the Contract of Cleaning up the building, alacing the Furnishings and fitting it for occupancy.-Included in the contract was the Ladie's Dormitory.-

Piled up in the basements of the old buildings had been dumped in a battered, broken, Furniture Junk from the old Dormitory.-After looking the old pile over, Grant and I put up to those in authority, a heated protest against the use of the old Furnishings in the new Building.-We tried to convince them that much of it was unfit to use.-They became impatient with us and us to enderstand , that the decrepid condition of the Furniture was not affairs, the BOSS man finally said "YOU DO THE BEST YOU CAN WITH IT, AND L
-LET IT GO"-

That became our CUE, do the best we could with it.-
That pile contained the cheapest, Flimsiest lot of furniture I had ever seen.

I am sure nothing so poor, and cheap would be made and sold today.-
About One-Third of it was wholly unfit to use, especially the beds.-

But we hopped to it and "DID THE BEST WE COULD WITH IT". We bolstered, and tied up beds that we knew could not stand actual use.-
We have been wrongfully accused. We were hayled before Miss. Mason, The Matron, and some other Leaders and formally accused of fixing the beds so they would Collapse.-That was positivly untrue, we did not fix one bed to crash, That was not our crime.-We were only guilty of sitting up old beds that we knew would not stand.-We did literally as we were ordered to do-OUR BEST WITH EVERY PEICE.-Miss. Mason insiorted it was a crime for us to leave a bed that we knew would stand not stand Human weight, and subjecting the poor, tired, girls to a night of Nervious Strain, Fright and Panic.

ONE THIRD OF ALL THE BEDS IN THE DORMITORY COLLAPSED THAT FATED NIGHT.
It was all described at the breakfast table.-The Girls were in a panic.
Grant and I heard our names taken in vain over and over.-Those Girls were swearing vengeance upon the "Hired men" who had played that dirty trick.

They were bent upon driving us from the Institution.-

In the quiet of our room Grant and I agreed that our "Goose WAS COOKED".-

We felt doomed to Everlasting hatred and contempt. TOO-BAD-

The worst feature of all was the serious fact that "OUR BEST GIRLS had gone down in the terrible crash.-They would probably never go with us again.

On the next Sunday P.M. with My Heart I went to No. 13, and Gingerly asked my Young-Lady to go to church with me, She voluntarily shivered, rubbed her shin and said, "I DONOT KNOW THAT I CAN WALK TO THE CHURCH. I HAVE BEEN CRIPPLED EVER SINCE THE CRASH".-But she decided that after the hard things she had said, she should go to church.-Which she did and with me.

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Grant-I scarcely never knew just what was done to rectify the terrible catastrophe that we were accused of producing.-Our Policy was keep still about, let it blow over, Quiet down, Die Out.-Some of the Baser-sort of Young Fellows thronged our room, and seemed really envious of us, that they could not have an opportunity to exploit their skill, and were vociferous in stating what they would have done with a similar chance.-They would like to "SET OLD PREXIE'S BED UP FOR HIM SOME NIGHT"-We observed that nearly all the Profs. Grinned when we met them, and One or Two of the more Sporty Fellows both Grinned and Winked.-Of course the GIRLS were quite Cool and reserved toward us for a few days.-Some of the Girls said "I could not sleep, everytime I dozed off there came that Awful crash, followed by the poor victims Screaming in the Hall.-Some of them insisted they had not got into bed yet, just as they had turned the sheets down and were climbing in, the old thing collapsed with a terrific crash. Some were caught in and mixed up with the wreckage..That was before the Day of the Automobile and the Air-plane, and some of the more recent Crashes had not occurred yet, But the D.A.C. People of that ^{time} always insisted that, that was the greatest crash recorded up to ^{date} ~~that time~~.-If all the dire Calamities had fallen upon us, that were hoped for for us, neither of us would have celebrated his 80th. Birth-Day as each of us have, and more, and ever once in awhile get together and have a good laugh over that direfull Experience.-

-----: "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE:" -----

I must take you back to the beginning of my College Experience, in fact to my very First entrance to the Class room.-At that time each Student was assigned a permanent seat. Prof. Updyke who did the seating tried as far as possible to have the Alphabetical element prevail, so that alphabetically the members of the class would be grouped.-

Each Morning the Class Roll was called, in a serious and impressive manner. This was before the time of "HERE-HERE", Our response to our name was "PRESENT" The custom was to call the Sir-name First, then initials, for instance,

"DIBBLE J.B." "DIBBLE-W.L."-"HOUSTON-GRANT"-&c.-The seats were in rows, having narrow Aisles, just room for one to pass between the rows.-

One strange thing about life is People meet their destiny but donot know it-But,Sometimes one does know.- A silent,innate voice speaks to the inner Consciousness,warning or the fact.-Since that my First day at D.A.C.I have had some very Positive convictions concerning the fact of the Spirit and Invisible Sphere in life.-Several times in my life ,invisible,mysterious facts have been Innately revealed to me.-And the greatest of these at this time,The very Moment of which I am speaking.-I was not searching for a girl, for a mate.Never had thought of such a thing.Had not been ready for a mate. One Girl had want just as much to me as another.-I had never experienced a thrill because of Feminine appeal or association.-I was not at the college for a girl.-That would have been my remotest thought as I went to school that Fatefull Morning.--The seat assigned me was directly across the Aisle from a strange girl whom I saw for the First time.-"THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE

Right there my heart spoke to me.Said some things it had never said before. Some way I felt as if I had found something of great value.As if I had inadvertently met a great discovery.-Those mysterious impressions were not caused by any advance look or act upon the part of "The Girl Across the Aisle

From her appearance I might not have been there.She did not see me.The only sign she gave that she was conscious of my presence was to turn from me so her back was partly toward and between me and her face.Ultra Modest and reserved.-Days before I received the slightest act of recognition on her part.I did-not gaze at her unduly.But as she continued that attitude and posture of SemiPartial concealment of her face,and the act of positively ignoring me,I studied her all within the bounds of a proper interest. I doubt if she knew that I studied her,or paid any attention to her.Naturally we passed in and out together seeing each other .Sat and recited in the same classes.But no recognition.-I was greatly impressed with the "GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE"the First day.She was my type,A positive Brunette,a Robust-Plump Figure,Until later my Pet name for her was "Chubbie".She had the marks of a strong,positive Personality.She was not of the Dainty, Infant,Violet type of beauty,but strong and vigorous .All of that and more had possessed my serious thought.-I was interested in "The Girl Across the Aisle"- And yet I didnot know her name.I must find out who she is.

I was ashamed to manifest any interest .In fact there was ne one for me to ask.I think Will was the only one in the Institution whom I knew,and he would not know,Anyway this was my Secret,my Personal affair.-

I conceived this plan,I would wait until Roll-Call Tomorrow Morning then I will listen to the name ,and to the response of "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE".

Which all,ultimately worked out fine.-I had not yet learned the Alphabetical Grouping.-I must be alert or I shall miss the name and response.No one else knew that I was upon this scheme.-I listened to Prof.Updyke,and watched "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE".Down the List came the good,old Prof.with his deep,Sonorous Voice-The "A"s-the "B"s-the "C"s- Still no response from the Girl Across the Aisle,Finally the "D"s-"Dibble,J.B.-Dibble-W.L-&c."

DOUGHTY-HETTIE-A modest response-"PRESENT"--So she is a Doughty,probably one of the Doughtys of White.-Father knew some of them.-There are several Families of them.Father had preached in their Community several times.There were many Doughtys.He had met several,had been entertained Two or Three times in the good,Methodist home of Daniel Doughty.-And so this Girl"Across the Aisle was Hettie Doughty.Which all proved to be true.-Later Hettie told me that she had caught our names as had hers,at Roll-Call.-"DIBBLE,DIBBLE,She wondered if we might be Sons of Rev.Dibble,whom she had heard preach,and who had stayed at Uncle Dans.-?- So without having met each-other,we had been introduced by Prof.Stephen E.Updyke.

--: THE COLLEGE GET-TOGETHER-and SOME ULTIMATE RESULTS:-----

About Two Weeks after the opening of the new College Year,Plans were making for a great Get together,of all the College People ,Faculty and Students.-This should be the largest Affair,ever.-It worked itself into an effort to make it Universal,"The last Teacher,and last Student must come" Fine Program,of Choice Music,Eloquent and Informing Speechifying,A real D.A.C.Dinner,to be served at tables.- Then this Challenge,"EVERY-BODY SHALL MATE UP,AND COME IN PAIRS.-IF YOU FELLOWS WISH TO BECOME ACQUAINTED,GET A GIRL,AND BRING HER TO THE GET-TO-GEATHER"--That challenge caused a great Stir,and hasty response.How quickly the Fellows began moving about on the Campus,with "Blood-In-Their EYE,All headed for the Woman's Dorm.-

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The Students were largely Secretive concerning their Personal plans.--Every body,nearly ,had a plan and was working it.--

Of course the older Students,those who were here the Year before,would be mostly already Mated up,but the new Comers must make advancements among Comparative Strangers.--May I say another strange thing,From the Moment that the Mating began,there was no doubt in my mind as to whom it would be with me,Of course "THE GIRLY ACROSS THE AISLE.--And directly to her room I made my way.I was not afraid she might be taken by some one else,She was Mine.--

Miss.Hettie.Doughty and ^{her} had never spoken to each other,Not a Nod of Recognition,but she is going to the Function with me.--I met her in the Dorm Hall.--I spoke to her.Asked her to excuse my approach to her.-- You are Miss.Doughty""And You are Mr.J.B.Dibble"- Would she Accompany me to the "Get-to-Gether"?-After one short Moment of consideration ,with one of the Sweet Smiles,that characterized her,She would be happy to.--Later she confessed that she had expected "THE FELLOW ACROSS THE AISLE" to come.--Just a Moment,but we were acquainted.-- I know there were several beautiful

Matches made at that Social Gathering, for life.Several Future homes were born that Fated Occasion.--Hettie has told me that she never during her Four) Year Life at the D.A.C.encouraged any other Male Company but mine,And many times after I had left the Insit^tution,at considerable Personal expense I went to the College attended some Function,that Hettie,My Girl Across the Aisle,might have an Escort.--Fellows tried to break the lock to her Personal Seclusion,but never succeeded.One Fellow declared he would,"That Dibble Fellow had no business to Lock up one of our Class girls and go off and leave her,He would show him, But,The lock of Seclusion held.She Continued to be my "SWEET GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE-Until one sad day in the far^dis-tant Day God came and took her from me,But She is still my GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE between Time and Eternity.-The Sunday Following our Formal Acquaintance we attended the Methodist church for the Evening.-I seriously doubt if there was a Sunday Eve during my Stay in the D.A.C.when we were both there,that "The Girl Across the Aisle" and I didnot attend the Sunday Eve Service together.-- I had not Committed myself to the Christian Life,nor the Ministry.--From now forward the D.A.C.Air was alive with interest in the coming Social Function.--It was in every-Ones thought,and upon every tongue upon the Campus.-I donot know what the Girls talked about those days,but among the Fellows the Current Question was "Who are You Going to take"?

In a group one Fellow asked me "Who are You going to take? DIBBLE, J.B.? Who, Me? Why, I'm going to take "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE", That caused some merriment. The Boys thought ^{it} Funnie-I heard the expression several times later Well, As all great occasions do, The long-looked and planned for "Get-together", came to a realization. Probably the accepted Goal "Every Member of the Faculty, and every Student Present", may not have been quite realized, That would ~~not~~ scarcely be expected, -But it came near to fulfillment. I am sure it was a lonely Evening for anyone upon the Campus not there.-

The entire Student Body was practically Mated for the Occasion. As I have already said "There were several real Matches that had their beginning upon that Memorable Occasion.-Again, To Hettie and me there began that night an intimate Fellowship that continued for full Forty.-Years.-

In February of that Winter occurred in the Methodist Church of that City the gracious Revival led by Dr. Selleck of Watertown, that resulted in the beautiful conversion of One-Hundred Young-People, nearly all Students from the College.-From that class of Christian Converts came not only several Ministers, but Young People who returned to the Home churches thro-out the State, united with them and worked in them.-Christian homes were later established from that meeting.-Within Three days after my conversion I had committed my self to the Ministry.-Some way it quickly got out into the Institution. I received much encouragement there and also in the church, with which I united the next Sunday.-About Two Weeks after my conversion, Good, Dr. A.D. Traveller, Presiding Elder of the Watertown Di^o. was to be in the Brookings church for the Sunday Eve. Service. Thro Dr. Hall the Pastor, Dr. Traveller had sent word that he would receive me in that Sunday Eve. Service.-In that service the church was packed, mostly by Young People who came to see them make a preacher out of Birney Dibble.-The Good, Presiding-Elder had arranged a very beautiful and Appropriate Ceremony which he administered.-I went home that Sunday night, a Minister, For sure, not very much of a Minister, but the First step had been taken, and I may truthfully say, there was ^{no} stop with me until after Forty-Six Years, Tired, sick and old I was compelled to quit.-Of course my relations with the "Girl Across the Aisle" were still Perfectly Casual. She was just a 19 Year old Farm Girl,

But always ardently and intelligently Christian. She had been greatly interested in my conversion. Had used her active influence to that end. She was modestly interested in my Ministerial plans, ^{was} ~~was~~ pleased with them. Said she was sure I would make a good Preacher. - But, Our Relations were such that she was compelled to practice a modest reserve, but every Sunday Eve we attended the ~~the~~ Services in the church together. - We were both active in the Young People's Society at the College. - She was still my "GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE".

I missed her greatly if she was not there, but she always was. -

I remember those days Vividly. I was thinking deeply upon a matter Private to myself. - Where would this Blissful Fellowship end? - What should I do? - Even though I might, I was not ready to marry. - Should I try to draw her into a relationship I was not ready for? - I have prayed over nothing else more in my life than I did at that time over that very thing. - The thought came to me "Settle this matter. Later you Two can arrange it together." I think about the next day as I was passing thro the hall of the Ladie's Dorm, Hettie was standing alone leaning from an open Window. She didnot know I was near, When I saw her alone The same feeling I had on that First Morning came over me, I went to her. We talked casually for a few Minutes. Then I declared my love for her. Reviewed my feelings toward her ever since I had known her. - And finally I asked her pointedly if she would consider Marrying me. She was serious about it. Protested, just mildly. - But finally said she would if I ~~would~~ would wait Three Years for her to graduate from the College. I remember she said "If I am to be a Minister's Wife I should complete my College Course".

I assured her I would wait for her. I know that during those Years of waiting that I never tried once to prevail upon her to quit and hasten our date. I needed that time to get ready for her. I had, had no experience in the Ministry. Now, With that important matter decided I could go ahead and make definite plans which I did. - Of course it was too bad for me to quit College but I could see ^e no other way. - Dr. Traveller had assured me that if I wished and would come to the Conference to be held in Yankton the next Fall he would, ^{be} glad to help me into the Conference and help me to an Appointment. Plan unfolded to me. - Upon uniting with the Conference I must Pass an examination upon the Common Brances, and Two or Three ~~other~~ ^{other} Branches relating to Theology. - I would try to secure a Summer School when I could do.

that preliminary work for my Conference Admission.-Within a few days my Application had been made and accepted by the Board of the Home school for me to teach a Two and One Half Months Summer School.-I must go before the County Supt. of Schools in Flandreau-Dakota Ter. Moody County, all which I did. Passed, and received my Contract to teach the Summer Term.

I will cut this short.-The school went fine.-The Patrons and Officials made no criticism of my work to me, and I know I could have had the Fall and Winter term if I had wanted it.-During the Summer I lived at home.-I dug hard all Summer upon Pre-Conference Studies. However that work at that time came easily to me.-After my school closed I worked for my Father thro Harvest.

Then threshed until the day I went to Con.-At the D.A.C. I had an intimate friend J.D. Allison, about to Join the Conference also.-He ^{was to} drive his rig to our Place, drive to my Sister's home, Mrs. Andrew Whealy, who lived Six Miles South of our home, and Six Miles North of Colman where we would take the ^{train} for Yankton, the Seat of the Conference. Which all we did reaching that city late in the Eve, and went to the Portland hotel for the night.- We had left our rig at my Sisters, Andrew Whealy's and walked to Colman.-

THE WAY INTO MEMBERSHIP INTO A MINISTERIAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Admission into a Methodist Annual Conference has a Scholastic Basis.-

After the Preliminary Pre-Conference Examination of the Common Branches, and a few Preliminary Branches of Common Theology, the Course is arranged into Four Annual Groups.-This practically identical ⁽¹⁰⁾ Course may either be taken in one of our Theological Seminaries, of course the better way, and the only way allowable now in most Conferences, -Or the Course may be pursued in Ones Home and Examinations made each year for Four continuous Years by a legally Elected "Board of Examiners"-I was a Member of that Board for many Years.- One of the First Official Acts of the Convening Conference is the Examinations of the Undergraduates, in order of their Relation to the Course.

In the "Dakota Con." in my early Ministry pratically no Young Men went to the Seminaries for their "Course", but took them in the Con.-

I said the Course is Identical, I have good reason for knowing that, but had not investigated or considered it.- In the beginning of my Membership in the

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Dakota Conference to remain in the Conference for my Four Years Course.

Get it off hands. I would be Married then, and my Wife may go with me, Then we can go to Garrett-or Drew-or Boston-or Denver:-

I did hard work on my Con. Course, each Year passing with satisfaction the ~~Re~~ Prescribed work.- Upon my graduation from the Con. Course, while it is still fresh in my mind, Hettie and I went to Chicago, and I entered Garrett-Biblical Institute, one of our Church leading Seminaries.- But, I soon found that Garrett would be an Identical Review of the work I had Faithfully Pursued in my Con. Course. I must purchase the same books I had sold or given away, and Pursue the same Subjects I had been digging thro for Four Years.-

Now, Of course the Associations, the Contacts, the Reviews would probably not have hurt me, and best and about all the Prestige gained in having actually passed thro the Seminary would all have had some profit, but at that time I *did* not feel like taking time to go over that was as familiar to me as to any Instructor in Garrett, to my Youthfull thinking too much to do at home, so we made the Mistake of quitting. In early Spring went away out to the Pioneer ~~town~~ town of Bowdle, and during that Summer built and Dedacated a new church that has been in constant use ever since that year of 1893- That beautiful little Temple would probably have gotten built if I had remained in Garrett and played my ^{Way} over that already threshed out straw.- From the Stand-Point of energy, Means and time involved I still think the Prestige, quite Expensive, but probably worth it.-

DEACONS and ELDERS.-

Full Membership in an Annual Conference involves Two distinct Ordinations and Offices-DEACON-ELDER:- Each Applicant unites with the Con. by vote of the Con. upon TRIAL or Probation.- In that capacity serves Two, years with Reelection each Year.- During this period he is deprived some Ministerial Activities Cannot Baptize, nor Marry, Unless granted special Privilege.

At the end of his Two Year Probation if his Studies are Passed, and he is accepted by Vote of the Con. he may be received "Upon Full Connection" and be ordained a Deacon. When the entire Privileges of the Con. are granted him.

He could not hold the higher Positions of the Ministry, He must still

Serve Two Years, receiving a Scholastic Test each year, when at the end of the Second year as a Deacon, the Con. may elect him to "Elder's Orders" and ~~Elders~~ install him an Elder, which graduates him from the Con. Course.-

He is now Eligible to any Position in the Church. There is no Position in our church he may not Aspire to.- In that particular a Bishop is no more than the Humblest Pastor in the church.- Place, or Ministerial Position is determined by Appointment and the Election by the Gen. Con.- Any Member may be thus Appointed by the Bishop or elected by vote of the Gen. Con.-

A Bishop is just an Elder who has been elected Bishop.- This is true in relation to all Offices of our Ministry.-

----- : I AM ACCEPTED UPON TRIAL IN THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE: -----

It is not required, but most usually the Candidate has had some Ministerial experience before entering a Con. as a Member. I had had none.- Had preached ~~me~~ but once, and that on a Sunday Eve in the Brookings church upon invitation of Dr. Hall the Pastor.- In the Methodist Church in Brookings at that time was a Fine Group of Life-long Methodists.- They were real "Sermon-Tasters", They not only knew the Virtues or good preaching, but they knew the defects as well.-

I at once found myself under the efficient instruction of those good People. They made me in the next Six Months.- Every detail remarked upon. Posture- Attitude-Voice-Clear down to the Unfolding of my Handkerchief. Nothing escaped. In one service I sat directly back of Mrs. Wm. Brookes, One of the finest Christian Women I have ever known, as kind as a Mother, On this occasion I sat with Bowed head while the Pastor prayed. Whereupon Sister Brookes leaned back and whispered in my ear "Methodist Preachers Kneel in Prayer, Bro. Dibble"

I wonder how that good, ²Sainly Woman would enjoy these days, when practically no Minister kneels for prayer.- I have this to say ^{my} for credit, I never once resented this Straight-Lacing. I knew those Folks were my best Friends, I yielded and permitted them to mold me.- For Years they called me their Preacher, Though I was never their Pastor.-

Well, Well, I had preached but once when I united with the Con. but for some time had been under the drastic and efficient Moulding of those good old Saints.- I Believe they did me more practical good than a Seminary Course would have done.

--- :MY PRACTICAL MINISTRY BEGINS:---

"I LOVE THY CHURCH, O GOD,
The HOUSE OF THINE ABODE,
THE CHURCH OUR GREAT REDEEMER BOUGHT,
WITH HIS OWN PRECIOUS BLOOD".

I Personally know that One may really live in One Place, and at the same time, maintain existence and serve in another.

It was hard for me to leave the good Old D.A.C., and above all My Sweet little "GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE".-I left for other Places of Activity but my ~~heart~~ heart did not leave that sacred spot.-We said "GOOD-BYE", but she went with me.-Hettie, during those Days of separation, was deeply interested in my Activities, and I kept her constantly informed of my plans and work. There was a large sense in which we worked together during that period.-She knew all about my limitations, did not criticise them, but sought to help me eliminate them-In seasons of discouragement which came, no other helped me so much as Chubbie, My Sweet-Heart "Across the Aisle".-

As you remember I am at Yankton in attendance upon my First Session of the Daktoa Con.-I later attended about 45 Sessions of this Con.-May I say here I passed, easily, the Scholastic requirements, the investigation of the Con. Relations Com.-and was accepted into the Membership of the Con. and made eligible for an Appointment by the Bishop and Cabinet.-

This Session of Con. proved Stormy.-During the previous Winter the Sole Educational Institution, The Mitchell University, had burned to the ground, leaving simply a big hole in the ground filled with ashes.-The Con. must do something, But What?-To this ~~question~~ ^{question} there was not immediate answer.-Different views were vehemently expressed.-All night the Con. Giants wrestled with ~~that~~ that question.-Some advocated lying down on the proposition and quitting.

Some insisted the Institution should be rebuilt on its former site.- Then with different Men greed entered in, and these Men sought to prevail upon the Con. to rebuild, but in their town. I am sure that question created ~~the~~ the most heated debate I ever heard in an Con. Session. But, Finally Common-Sense prevailed, the Con. decided to rebuild the "U" in Mitchell, which was eventually done, and it has continued thro-out the Years as one of the

Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning in our State.-

Monday Morning when the good Bishop announced the Appointments for the year, he read "MIDWAY-J.B.DIBBLE", I was confused. I had pictured a real church, I knew One Midway, but surely it is not that, Why, there is no church in Midway, not a Dozen Professed Protestant Christians in the entire Township.

I went to my good friend Dr. A. D. Traveller, Presiding-Elder, who had been instrumental in getting my appointment.-, I asked him where Midway was, he answered it is up there between Brookings and Flandreau, You go there and put that over or off comes your head next Con. Time. "I was disheartened. My impulse was to throw up my hands, Quit, not go.- I was deeply hurt and disappointed, more than that Chagrined. What a way to treat one trying to get a Start. Is that the best the Con. can do for me?- I assured Hettie I would come at once and report to her. How can I face her with this. The First night home from Con. my good, old Pioneer Father told me a lot I needed to know, and he was right.- "You know this is a new country. Really just settled.

Things are not established yet. This entire Community is made up of fine intelligent People. They have lived here, some of them Ten years, they have been neglected by the church, now as the church proposes to help them and has chosen you, a strong young-man to do it, and you back-down and quit." The old man said all that, and more.- While he talked a few rays of light broke in.-

What about Hettie, She would not want to be tied up with such a Project. She will probably give me my walking Papers if that is the best I can do. How I missed judged the fine loyalty of the Girl Across the Aisle.

Any-way I would go and have it out, if she wants to quit me, All-right. I went to Brookings and to room "I3" of the Dorm.- After I had made it as bad as I could, I saw she was greatly pleased.- She thought it so fine that I would not need go away off. Then the need was so great. Those poor, neglected People may have a Minister.- Now, I wish I was able to go with you and help you.- You say, She said there are no Christians, then is that not the Place for a bright Young Minister?" When you read this today believe me when I tell you I think I would have quit had it not been for the Christian Sense of that bright School Girl-While she urged, the burden rolled from

heart. I have never doubted from that Golden Day in my life, that if I had yielded to my Cowardly impulse and quit, Hettie Doughty would never have become my Wife. - That would not be alone a surrender of my Appointment, but the surrender of My Ministry. - One thing she said that day that made a deep impression upon me was "If Quit this, If you donot go where you are sent What will WE do". - Sometimes I tremble when think of those days, and what I might have caused to happen. - My wise Parents, with my loyal Sponsor, Hettie, saved me for earnest work for life. -

That beautiful Autumn Evening as I rode old Blind "Dick", to my Father's home, I was the happiest I had ever been. - On my trip home there unfolded to me plans that made possible my work thro that year of 1888 and 1889. - I had one year in the Ministry before the sate of South Dakota was organised.

-----: MAKING AN APPOINTMENT, MY FIELD OF LABOR LAID OUT: -----

The average Minister goes to a new Charge and finds every ^{thing} ready for him, Good home to walk into, Sunday Morning a Church ready, and expectant Congregation, Choir with music prepared, Men ready to take the Offering, Every-thing ready, but I had nothing, Must make my Charge. - I will briefly state the situation. -- Entering the State of South-Dakota from Tracy Minn. is a Line of the Chicago-Northwestern R.R. extending West thro Brookings-Huron-crossing the Mo. River at Pierre, extending W, to Rapid City -Black-Hills. -

Twenty Five Miles South of Tracy is Pipestone Iowa, with a line of the C.M.-St.P.-R.R.-entering the state of South Dakota at Pipestone, and extending West thro Flandreau, -Egan, -Colman, -ⁿWetworth-Madison-Mitchell- on West crossing the big river at Chamberlain, extending West across the great Plains to Rapid-City-the Black-Hills. - Those Two lines of R.R. Parallel a few Miles apart that entire distance. - My People's home was located Midway in that dividing Section. - Between those Lines of R.R. one of the richest and most beautiful Sections to be found anywhere in our country. - At the time of which we write that section fully Settled with a fine type of intelligent People. Many of them Young People just establishing their new homes. Ever since the settlement of this vast section it had been abandoned and neglected by the churches. - Scarcely a Methodist church in all that great Area. - Churches a plenty in the Two lines of R.R. Towns but not accesible to the Hundreds

of fine Families isolated in that rich Section ,without Religious Attention. A Veritable Spiritual Water-shed.-Roads were just Wheel-marks in the grass.-

The most of the streams were unbridged.-Practically every Family in that Section lived from Ten to Fifteen Miles from the towns where the churches were.-Of course no Automobiles in those days,some of those People still drove Oxen.-Permit me to make this statement which facts would verify,There was scarcely a Family living in all that section who could get to a church on the Sabbath if they had tried to.-

Right now,in the Fall of 1888,Ten years after that rich section was settled the Methodist church is trying to provide Church Facilties for the People.

And I,Humble I,had been honored by the church as the Instrument to launch the Church there.-And Shame upon me,I was inclined to turn down and run away from one of the greatest Opportunities any man ever had.But,I Praised God then,and I Praise him now ,that thro.the prayerful entreaty ,and Counsel of Godly Parents and my Sweet Girl Across the Aisle I was saved from the Cow^ardly act.-

I MUST HAVE A CONVEYANCE,Cannot do this Task Afoot,Cannot expect to use

Father's Farm norses thro-out the Year.--From the beginning of Methodism the Mode of conveyance for its Ministry had been the back of a good Standard --horse.I had ridden Horse-back all my life,but where could I get my horse.- It happened that just before a Group of Broncho Sellers had disposed of a bunch of Bronks,One little White Devil had gotten away from the Drovers and refused to be caught."Oh,Well he Wasn't worth much,Anyway,Let ~~him~~ him go".- They told the Winneger and Frances Boys that if they could catch him they might have him.For days those boys,for the Pleasure of it,and that Bronk played Hide-Seek,and sveral other games,but finally the boys won out and found themselves with an ugly,Conscienceless,Murderious,kicking Bronk on their hands.-They were afraid of him.-When they tried to Mount him,he put up a First Class "BUCK" and kept them off.-They were afraid to get near him He would kick just as hard with his Front feet as with the Rear Ones.

I never knew him to fail to kick viciously if his feet were touched in cleaning his Stall,or bedding him.-But for comfort in riding get a Bronk. I could see no reason why that little White Devil should not carry me about over my Prairie Appointment.At that time the horse had not been born that I was afraid of.That Rascal came the nearest of making me afraid than any horse I have ever used.-He could Evolve and put up the largest variety of pure,unadulterated Meannesses of any Animal I had ever tried to be on Friendly terms with.-

Well,The boys would take \$25.for him.That was cheap at that time for a whole horse,I gave the boys Five,Five-Dollar Bills,and led my Champion Kicker home.-How I got him Civilized enough to get a saddle and bridle on him,is a story I will not take space to relate,but I did,then I managed to get myself on his bucking,squiriming Humped up back.He didnot get me off I gave him a long fast run,and I found I had the finest Saddle horse I had ever ridden.-I will ~~hag~~arten the story and say.I could sit in that saddle all day and that Pony would skip over the ground like a Bird.He never tried to play a trick on me when I was on his back.-He tamed down very much.We

called him "TONY"-But to call ⁶⁷him the name he was most called sounds like Swearing.-Now,I have my Conveyance,I must have my Program and Place in which to preach and conduct my services.-The Evening after the day I visited the "GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE",My Parents mapped out a schedule,which I followed satisfactorily thro-out the entire year.-

I must have Three Preaching points each Sunday.I had plenty of room,I could have made an endless number of Appointments,but desired Three adjacent and Compact.-All our plans were just Tentative.I was subject to the Judgment and inclination of People,upon whom I had no authority and Claim.-

Three adjoining Communities fitted together finely,and were easily accessible and each with a large School-House at the Center.Of course I must get the consent of the School-Board.-I was known all over the Triune Community.

I started on Tony early the next Morning to call upon the scattered Members of the HUGHSON School-Board,East of the Sioux River,and Six Miles from my Father's home.-I was greatly surprised to find that the Hughson People wanted me as badly as I wanted them."Yes,Indeed we might use the School-House".

All that day,all over that Community I received encouragement.-There was a fear I might fail them and not come.- I left an Appointment for 10 A.M.the next Sunday.-And that day I didnot have one sermon.-

The WELLMAN School-House was Six Miles S.W. from our home.I was Personally acquainted with the WELLMANS-WHAELYS-LEES and many other prominent Families in that fine Community.The next Morning I rode Tony to that Community,First to Father Wellmans home.He was considered the Father of the Community.-

YES SIR,I need go no farther,I may use the School-House.But I spent the day from home to home,with each Member of the School-Board visited and from each a most cordial and urgent consent to make the S.H.the Center of the Appointment,there.-During the day I encountered the same urgent request to not fail but come.Would they come for a service next Sunday Eve 7.30,"Indeed they would and circulate the Service.-I shall have something more to say about

Wellmans later.-Tony and I Loped home that Eve with light hearts.

Every-thing coming our Way.-Foolish,Of Course,but it seemed to me that Tony was becoming more serious.He was at the Center of a big task.His poor,little Bronk life may count for something after all.I never quarreled with him nor Struck him.-

I anticipated no objection to the use of the Winneger S.H.-They were Pre-disposed.Mother's S.S.had been held there every Sunday P.M.for years.. But I thought best not to seem to be taking Liberties,I would see each Member of their School-Board ,Which I did with the same result~~tx~~ as Hughsons and Wellmans.-Now I had assured Three of the finest and largest School-Houses any where in all that Section.-That Eve my Parents and I planned the Sunday Schedule,thoughtfully and Prayerfully.-Now,I must write to my Girl across the Aisle,which I did telling her all about it,inviting her to my Initial services the next Sunday.-She answered that it was like a fine game. Our services were in her thought all day Sunday.My Parents and I mapped out this schedule as the best in our thought.-Announcements were already out for the Sunday Services where I would consult the People as to schedule,as I wished them to feel that it was their services.-And I will say that during the entire year upon the slightest provocation I consulted the Congregations

I-decided upon this permanent schedule,-WINNEGERS every Sunday Afternoon.
HUGHSONS,Next Sunday 10.30-WELLMANS-NEXT SUNDAY 7.30 P.M.-But Hughson and Wellman would alternate with A.M.-Eve.-Hughson one A.M.Wellman the next. That worked fine without friction all the year.- I found it Comparatively easy to preach to ~~three~~ all Three congregations.These People were simple intelligent Farmer People,starved for the simple Gospel of Salvation.My messages were simplicity itself,but those Hungry People feasted upon them.

I had nothing to parade or show-off,just the simple Story of Redeeming love ,Redemption and Personal Salvation.-The Gospel of Evangelization.At each S.H was an organ,and in every place some one to play.-It was during the days of Moody-Sankey-and P.P.Bliss-The Gospel Songs were the rage all over the country and were being sung by every-body every-where.-As quickly as we could we sowed our Three Communities down with the Gospel-Hymns,Every body wanted them.And when the Revivals came and their Souls warmed up,Everybody used them Oh! How those Farm People sang!-I would go a long distance to attend one of those services,especially the one at Hughsons.-The People had Fasted so long,they feasted.-I have not one written word of any sermon I preached that year.My messages were made in the saddle on skimming Tonie or in my rig as I travelled among the people.-My Sermon Preparation consisted largely in choosing a vital suggestive Gospel Passage of Scripture for a text.

---:69:--

---:A FULL YEAR OF INTENSE EVANGELIZATION:--

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ,
Tune my Heart to Sing Thy Praise,
Streams of Mercy Never Ceasing.
Call for Songs of Loudest Praise."

I did-not require a Seminary to teach me how to conduct a good old Methodist Revival Meeting.-In our old Iowa home where I grew up,we lived in the Revival.We had no other diversion.During Winter we went from one to another.Father was an Adept Evangelist and spent Winter largely in such Meetings.

Directly upon beginning my work I found the People hungry for a revival, even People who didnot Profess the Christian life.-

Within One Month from our First service we were in and Evangelistic Campaign at Hughsons.Carrie Roscoe,a Young Musical Neighborhood Girl,led our singing and it was wonderful.-I cannot describe that glorious Ten Days of high Worship and Praise,mingled with the shouts of victory. I will hasten to say that during that brief period 52 Unsaved People had come to our Improvised Alter and given themselves to Christ and were happily converted.-That became one of the happiest Communities I ever knew.-Jubilant Songs of Praise and victory Swelling out from nearly every home in the Community.-

We at once organized a Methodist "CLASS" with more than Fifty People Unitiⁿed upon Six Months Probation.

OUTPOURING OF BLESSING UPON THE WINNEGER COMMUNITY-

"There's A Fountain Filled with Blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's Veins,
And Sinners Plunge Beneath that Flood,
Lose All Their Guilty Stains".

We began Meetings at Winnegars directly at the close at Hughsons.- That Meeting went off for a quick start.Some things conspired to assist it There were in this Community a mere small handfull of Christians.My People.Bro.-Sister Benbow-Mr.and Mrs.Winneger were Members of the Episcopal church back at the old home in Mass.-Then the People of this Community were in close touch with the People at Hughsons,some of those new Converts attended this meeting,and their glowing Faces and shouts of Joy,inspired here. Carrie Roscoe led the Music here in her fine efficient,appealing way.

This Meeting was Characterized by the remarkable conversions that occurred.

The Slocum Family,including Wm.P.then a mere boy,but later with his Wife, Lizzie Dibble Slocum,have been for 48 Years among the most efficient Members of the Dakota Con.--I must tell about Cpt.and Mrs. McKee.- The McKees had

come to Moody County a few Years before, securing a Claim a Mile or so N.W. of the Winneger S.H.-They were a fine old Couple, and soon became ^{Known} popularly thro-out that Section.-The Captain had been a Sea-faring man all his mature life until they came to Dakota Ter.-They built up a fine Farm home.

They were highly Public Spirited. Were in every thing that made for the Community Uplift and Goodwill.-They were not Professed Christians, nor Members of any church, but their Daily living and practices, with one exception, were above criticism. The Cpt. had spent his life on the Great Lakes, and had Imbibed that habit that Seamen are Addicted to, that of Profanity, the Captain would Swear. Not in a Flagrant, offensive manner, if it is possible to Swear Politely the Captain did-so. He would sit in your Parlour and in Casual conversation with your Wife emphasize and Punctuate his remarks with ~~his~~ his Polished Explosives. So much a habit that he Damned Unconsciously.-

From the First service of the Meetings at Winnergers, Captain and Mrs. McKee gave Respectfull hearing and attention.-One night while the Meeting was on in its Power, Mrs. McKee, left her seat and Husband and went and knelt before our Improvised Alter, and gave her self in consecration to God. Her apparent Sincerety made a deep impression upon the Audience.-May I say this here, during my Ministry I have seen Hundreds of Most beautiful Conversions but I have always considered that of this Beautiful and Cultured Lady, the most charming I ever witnessed.-The quiet, humble, act of it caused that House rull of People, Saint-Sinner, to silently weep with Joy.-

At the conclusion of the impressive service I met the Captain who was crying like a child. With enthusiasm I greeted and Congratulated him, but he was broken up, and said "Oh, Birney you have broken up my home. You have taken Mary away from me. This is the First time there has been any break between us, the First time One has gone where the other cannot go. You have spoiled my home"-Oh, No, not spoiled your home, but Blessed it. You must do as Mary has done, give yourself to Christ, as she has, and your home will be the more Blessed and happy. You must come with Mary"

The Good, Grizzled old Sea-dog with tears flooding his face replied "No, I cannot do as Mary has done. She will go her way and I will go mine". I protested and urged the Heart-broken Old man and among other things I said

I said "You must make it an subject of Prayer and God will take the Swear all out of You" --That last statement caught the old Man's heart.

"Oh, Do you think he can, Birney. You would not want me Swearing around your Church". --They went home, the next Two nights Mary was in the Service without the Captain. --She was not worrying about the Captain. She said "He is working it out, He will win". --The Third night those Two appeared with Heaven lighted faces, radiant with joy. The old Cpt. came directly to me exclaiming "He did it He did it" --"Did What Captain"? --"Why, What you said he would do, I beleive he has taken my Swear all out, and Mary thinks so too. When Mary went to Church I got down among the cows as I did my chores and wrestled with God, I know he has saved me. I have not been inclined to Swear since" --I said "Halla! eujah Praise God for Religious Cows". ---There were several other very striking conversions in that Memorable Revival. --

Some Two or Three years after this, after I had married, Mrs. Dibble and I were in Brookings one Eve. and went into a Drug-store to make some purchase, As we went in, Behold there were The Captain and Mrs. McKee. As quickly as they saw us, with the Captain Shouting Praises to God, they made their way to us. He grasped my hand and shouted "He did it, Birney, He took it all out. I have Sworn since. Praise God" --That was the last time I saw those old Santified ~~Saints~~ Saints. --Thro-out my Active life since, I have considered the Salvation of Captain and Mrs. McKee among the most striking of all my Ministry.

In its results the Meeting at Winnegers was a Repetition of the one at Hughsons. Practically the same number, about Fifty were converted, and these and a few others united with the Winneger "CLASS".

--:AT WELLMAN THE BIRTH AND ORGANIZATION OF A PERMANENT CHURCH:--

While the distance between Hughsons and Winnegers was practically that between Winnegers and Wellmans, The Association between the latter was not as close as that of the former. --The Wellman Community was more Isolated and alone. -- Then it was not thought best for Carrie Roscoe, our Sweet and efficient Song leader to accompany me there for the anticipated Two Weeks.

I cannot tell how much I missed her in the services from almost the First one of my Ministry I had had the inspiration and help of her fine leadership, and the People loved her. --It will require Eternity to say whose influence in those meetings was the greater, Carrie Roscoe's in Sacred Song or mine in presenting the Gospel. We never discussed the matter, we had each done our best, but I would miss Carrie in this meeting and did. --However as every-one either sang or sang at it we made it go. --

It was a fine, Highgrade Community, with but Two or Three Families in it at ~~at~~ all Proressing the Christian Life. Mr. and Mrs. Wellman, life long Methodists and recognized Community Leaders. Backed the services with all their consecrated might.

In that Community was a condition that overshadowed every thing else, and filled People with a great fear.-The Community Folks felt that they were constantly living upon a threatened Earthquake. The condition seemed headed for a Tragedy.-Two bitter enemies lived a short distance apart in the Community. Old Mr. Allen and Cal Smith.-Probably Devilish hate round its deepest development in the hearts of those Two Murderous men.-They had nated for Years.-They had Freyed upon ~~either~~ ^{each other}. Had destroyed each other's property.-One day Smith saw one of his valuable horses standing all day with his head down, not eating. He went to it and found the blood flowing, its tongue had been cut from its mouth. Smith had to snoot the animal. Smith knew, The Neighbors all knew who did it, but it could not be proven, no one saw Old Man Allen, perpetrate the dastardly deed.-Ever once in awhile such things happened. The Perpetrators succeeded in covering up ~~the~~ tracks, but the Community knew who the guilty persons were.-People in a sense held their breath. It was expected that some day the tragedy would break, with the crack of a gun, Allen or Smith would fade out.-

One night Mr. Allen was in the Service, Did nothing wrong. Sang with the others, gave fine attention. at the close of the service he left for home with the others.-I remember Father Wellman said that night in the home, "If Cal stays away, there will be no trouble, Mr. Allen will cause no disturbance.

But that School-House is too small for Old Man Allen and Cal Smith. But the next night Allen-Smith were both there, on opposite sides of the little room.-I was just a big boy, this was the greatest test of my courage and tact. I must show no fear, no Partiality, and I must not forget that God's Grace is sufficient for those old sinners. I would go straight a head with them just as I was doing with Mr. Wellman and others. Perhaps this God's day of Grace for those Men. At Hughsons we had seen an Old man as great a Sinner as Allen or Smith, gloriously converted, these Men might.-

Both of these Men knew me perfectly. I was a Neighborhood boy, had threshed at each of their homes.-We passed thro the service with no untoward act. At the close I greeted with a Handshake both of these old Belligerents. However I did not tell them I was glad to see them there and hoped they would come again for that would have been lying, and Grandma Brooks of Brookings would have said "Methodist Preachers do not Lie, Birney". I sincerely hoped that was the last to us of Allen and Cal Smith, but it was not, I had one of the toughest experiences of my ministry before me. I must save our Meetings. I must not permit those old sinners to break them up.-The next day I gave myself up mostly to Personal Prayer. Had a feeling all day that we were facing a tragedy.-I did not have many to consult, it was really my personal problem, but I felt that in case of a real disturbance the several Men present favored the meetings and would stand for them.-I decided the best policy would be to keep the service moving rapidly with Worthwhile things along our chosen line. Treat Allen-Smith just like the others. Give them no grounds for resentment. The People were greatly enjoying the singing of the good Gospel-Hymns. The music was just like bread to a starving man. We would sing. I selected a number of the most sprightly Hymns we knew. I threw myself into them.-We would sing a few songs, I would exhort, and so forth. The Spirit honored the service. Allen and Smith each broke in and Aired their views, but said nothing wrong, only it was all Lying Pretense. We hustled the service thro to the end, dismissed it, the People had been blessed, no one hurt.-As I remember Allen and Smith faded out of the picture, and undisturbed we went on to a happy conclusion of our effort. The entire Community had been stirred.-

This community was a little more scattered than the others, but the regulation number of conversions, a few more than Fifty.-These were at once gathered into the "Wellman" Class.-With these our full number of new Church Members were more than ~~160~~ 160.-Dr. Traveller, the Presiding-Elder reported it as the greatest Revival Year anywhere upon the District, and one of the greatest in the Dakota Conference.-

This had all taken place during the First Three Months of the Con. year, all before Christmas. Now, My task was to nurture these Young Christians and keep them in the fold and keep them growing.-I lived out on that big field during the year.-I kept up the Spirit of Evangelism-Preached and Sung lustily, and kept the People happy and shouting.

--:THE DONATION OF A RED WHEELED BUGGY:--

It is not easy to fall in Love with a Broncho Pony, they are by nature so Treacherious and Devilish.--I think, however, that quite a real intimacy grew between Tony and myself. I am sure that as much as a Broncho is capable of affection I had Tonie's Love. Every hair on his tough little body was snow white, and I tried to treat him white, and he reciprocated, with at least Bronk Affection.--I Beleived he was doing the best he knew. I never scolded nor beat him.--He was no more to blame for being a Broncho, than I was for being a Man.--Of course Men do not like Bronchos, and neither do Bronchos like Men.--When Nature originated the First Bronk it made a serious mistake, by putting Springs into his rear heels, which when touched go off, and one in the Spinal Column that doubles up when the saddle is touched, but after the initial "BUCK" Tony came down on ALL-Fours and skimmed along all day like a Bird. I read portions of my Conference Course,--Prepared Sermons, Rehearsed ~~them~~ them on Tonie's back at Full-Lope, but after Months of Agreeable Fellowship the time for seperation has come.--One Sunday Morning toward Spring a Group of the Hughson Men said "We were in Brookings Yesterday and met Sam Lockwood, he wishes to see you, You had better go to him soon".

Now Sam Lockwood was a dealer in Farm Machinery, and Vehicles, wagons, Buggies &c.--Monday Morning Tonie and I loped to Brookings, 12 Miles. Went directly to Mr. Lockwood's Emporium.-- He took me to his Buggy Floor, where were several fine rigs on display.--Mr. Lockwood said "A Delegation of Hughson Men called upon Saturday and made an arrangement for a rig for you that they intend to pay for. They instructed me to let you have any rig on the floor that you wish"--I looked them over, Some very fine and quite expensive, but I didnot wish to impose too far on their generosity, and finally decided upon a beautiful Top Buggy, for \$100.-- But I said "I donot know that I can take it, as I have nothing to draw it, I know Tonie would not, I will be back soon".

The leading Liveryman in Brookings was a Mr. Frink, from our Neighborhood, with whom I was very intimate. I had driven his rigs many times, and always kept my horses there when in town. When in town Father had kept his teams in Frink's Barn for years. Tony was then in the Frink barn. I went directly to the barn.

In those days Horse trading was a Major part of the Liveryman's Business. I told Mr. Frink my situation, "No use to get the rig unless I have something to draw it. I would like the Rig" - "You shall have it" - He led out a pretty moderate dark mare, in good flesh and sprightly. I looked her over, he told me how he would trade. I saw he was inclined to be generous, we traded. I knew the Harness dealer quite intimately, I went there directly, and bought a new single harness, took it to Frinks and fitted it to my Mare. She accepted it without protest. - I went to the "Farmer's Home" and got dinner. - Led my new horse in her new harness to Mr. Lockwoods, and attached her to my new Red wheeled Buggy. Mr. Lockwood said it is the finest rig in Brookings. I drove it to the College, got "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE" and we proudly drove as far East to Aurora, back to the College, then home. - During the rest of that year that Rig was in Daily service. My little mare proved perfect, Gentle, Willing and affectionate. -

--: A WARMING UP CAMP-MEETING:--

Since the close of our Revival Meetings we had succeeded quite well in keeping ^{our} the Spiritual fires burning in the Hearts of New Converts. I actually lived with the People. With my new rig I was fitted to keep going among our People. - The term of our Sixmonth Probation would terminate in June. I hoped to round these good people into the "Full-Membership in the church. There ~~was~~ were many to be Baptized, I was not ordained and could not perform that sacred Function. - At old Medary in the bend of the Sioux River was a Beautiful ~~grove~~ grove of timber covering about Th~~ree~~ree Acres. I conceived putting on a Ten ~~da~~ days getting together Meeting with Dr. Traveller, Presiding Elder in Charge ~~wh~~ when the Baptisms and Receptions could be attended to. Sunday would be a large day. Dr. Traveller agreed, right to use the grove had been secured from Mr. Stearns, the owner, who said he would help clean it up. We dated the District Tent. The People urged to attend as much as possible and bring their Gospel Hymns. - My Folks as usual equal to the situation secured some small tents and planned to live on the Camp Grounds during the Meetings. - Friday Sister Hattie and I drove to the college, Five Miles and got the "Girl Across the Aisle" and took her to the Camp with us for the Week - End, as my folks had made provision for her. - Later she pronounced it one of the finest events of her life

The Camp meeting had caught the People just as the Revivals had. They felt they were being given attention.-and they reciprocated.-came and helped Mrs Stearns and I clean up the grove and fit things for the meeting. That meeting proved a great success in attendance, we had beautiful June weather thro-out. Those Three Communities contributed their People, our converts all, and to serve they did all they could in every way. 150 new Converts sang like Angels. Dr. Traveller was the popular "Presiding-Elder of the Brookings Methodist Church, and they attended the services in large numbers. Also from Aurora East and Arlington and even father West.-It was a great Methodist Camp-Meeting.-

Dr. Traveller was a great Evangelistic leader.-He preached each Eve.-Upon our invitation the Outlieing Pastors preached.-

At the Sunday Morning Service, at which Dr. Traveller preached, there were surely more than 500 People.-One of the greatest services I have ever attended. God's Presence and Power were deeply Manifest.-I have passed that grove many, many times since that our day of Pentecost, and always stand with uncovered head and Praise god for that season of Blessing. It seems to me now when I pass there that ~~that~~ little grove is jubilant with the Shouts of Praise from that Hallowed Day. The Afternoon of that Holy Sabbath was given over to the Baptism and Reception into the church of 162 Candidates.-

Dr. Traveller and I stood in the Sioux River for over Two Hours while that Holy man administered the Sacred Rites of Baptism to More than 160 Persons. It was characteristic of our Converts at that time that they all united with the church.-Later, after I left them, the People of the Hughson Class, all of whom lived not far and many quite close to Brookings, were transfered in Membership to the Methodist church of that City.

At the conclusion of the Batismal service that great Sunday Afternoon, the vast Concurrence of radiant People remained standing on the banks of the Big-Sioux-River and sang together Jubilantly, Sister Carrie Roscoe leading,
"Oh, Think of the Home over there, ~~xxxxxx~~
By the Side of the River of Light,
Where the Saints all Immortal and Fair,
Are Robed in their Garments of White"

That Glorified Group of Christian People never all met like that again. None of the older People are left.-The most of them at that time were mature. I tremble when I consider what would have happened to those 162 Converts if I had shown the White feather instead of listening to Father and Dear HETTIE ?

After this great Meeting I still remained on that charge and continued to do all I could. But, I felt that my Mission there was about closed and my work done. - I was removed at Conference time to Willow-Lakes-Clark County.

The Methodists in Hughsons mostly United in Brookings. The People of the Winneger Class were a little more mature and were left upon their own. The work there has always been more or less Desultory. - The Class has lost its Individuality and faded out. But the Wellman Class, unlike the others has retained its organization and Individuality throout the years, Fifty-Six.

Built a fine Church Plant. Has maintained all the Current Church Societies Maintains Preaching services, Sunday-School, &c. each Week, - The Wellman Church has been for years associated with Colman in their work. At present time, 1946 Bro. Wendell Johnson is their very efficient and Popular Pastor. My Personal Ministry extended 46 Years, It would be too much of a task to follow all those years in detail, so I choose to trace in a more General way my experiences of the many passing Years, and note the most striking and interesting Incidents and Events Under the General Title of,

-----:NUGGETS FROM AN EXTENDED MINISTRY:-----

I

The 1889 Session of the Dakota Conference was held in Huron. I have forgotten who the Presiding Bishop was, but from that Bishop I was Appointed to the church in Willow-Lakes, Clark County. - After Con. I returned Home, packed my few belongings, loaded them in my Red Wheeled Buggy, and drove my Spry little Mare to Willow-Lakes, which was situated on the Great-Northern R.R. Midway between Watertown and Huron, about 75 Miles from my home. - It was during the Month of October, always one of the most delightful seasons of the year. I remember how beautiful that trip was. I thought, Sang, shouted all the way to Willliow-Lakes. - I was really going on my Own for the First time in my life. The year past had been full of Victory and holy Triumph. I have always considered it one of the very greatest years of my Ministry, but I had been home with my Parents, to whom I could constantly go for advice. - Now, I shall be upon my own resources and judgment, but I didnot fear. -

In those Pioneer Days Methodist Ministers didnt consider Conditions Much.

Churches were in the Formation and the making, the Preacher was there to lead in the making. If churches were Low, lift them up, If they were narrow and circumscribed broaden them out, -If they lacked Adequate Buildings and Equipment, Build and Secure. -Mostly the People were moderately poor, not Poverty stricken, But hard working Young People getting a Start. -Many, many of them had been reared in the church at the old Eastern home, and expected and Welcomed it on the Dakota Prairies. -There in those early days were the Parents of Thousands of the best People the churches in the State have had.

The Pioneer Pastors had the leadership in producing all that. I relived that trip the other day, some of the old ecstasy and Joy came to me. -When I reached Willow-Lakes I found our church at very low ebb. -They owned one good little Three Room Cottage-House, which they called the Parsonage. I came to love that little home. It was a restfull retreat, and plenty large for me. Nice little pantry with quite a number of different sorts of dishes. A bed-Sofa-some common chairs and other things. I beleive there was a small Coal heater. -I had brought nearly \$300. from my previous Charge. Owed no debts. Had ordered the books for my Con. Course for that year at Con. and paid for them. I remember I also bought Two or Three books that would help me with my Sermon making. -Bought quite a number of Copies of Whedon's Commentary, completed the list as they were Issued. That Set of books repose, I think on the Shelf in Son Paul's Library. Those Authorities are not much used these times, having been Succeeded by more recent Authority. -In my earlier experience to quote Dr. Whedon would close any Methodist Argument. -

I found no Methodist church building in W.L.

The School-House was a One Story long building divide^d across its middle into Two Apartmens, at that time but one Aprtmnt in use by the School And we Methodists were using the Vacant Apartment as a Place of Worship. Our People had their Aprtmnt furnished for worship with a lot of old, mostly Home-made, broken up Furniture. -Prof. Burt Matthews a Local boy was the teacher. Each Week the Prof. permitted the Pupils to play in the Vacant Aprtmnt, and they managed each Week to get our things scattered about, and some of it broken. Each Saturday I spent the Afternoon, Straightening up, and mending the broken

seats for my congregation to sit on during the Sunday A.M. Service.-This was becoming an intollerable Bore.-At that time the Matthews Family Professed Atheism.They were uncouth.The Prof's father would trudge about Town Bare-footed.His Teen age Sisters came to our S,S,Barefooted.-They lived a Mile North of town on their Claime perched on a hill looking down into the Dry, ~~xxx~~ Rock~~ed~~ filled bed of Willow-Lake.-Finally I went to Prof.Matthews protesting their treatment of our Church equipment.I found him waiting for me.He received me very unkindly.He told me what he thought of the church Snouging its Place ~~of~~ worship,and "If we did not like ^{it} we might move out any time"- I went to the fine,Gentleman Chairman of the School-Board.He talked to me very kindly.Was sorry that Prof.Burt assumed that attitude,and then he told me this,they were about to order us out as they had engaged another teacher and were about to enstall another Apartment in the School.Which all they did beginning with the new term.And,By the Way,The Sister of Burt Cornwall, one of Clark Counties most Extensive Farmers.His Sister Maud Cornwall came from near Winona Minn.to teach the extra school.-She was an Ardent Congregationa alist,and associated herself with that church in W.L.-Later just after I left our church,My Bro.Will came to the Pastorate of the Con.Church.He found Maud active there.-Their association ripened into a close Attachment,and After Will had been Pastor ^(Two by ones) there he and Maude Married,went directly to Chicago where Will entered the Con.Theological School,the Chicago Semenary, where he took the entire Course.-

Well,back to the church,now we were turned out we had to do something. There was a very good Public hall of good dimensions ,Clean and Well furnished which we might use for our services at a very moderate Fee.We rented it,and it made us a very cozy place.-The Haw^d's Family lived on their farm Two Miles East of the town.Mr.Hawes assumed the oversight of the Methodist church.His only Daughter,the Wife of a Young man ,a Country School teacher, near town and living in the Hawes home.The daughter was quite musical and assumed charge of the Music in the church.-

One day Father Hawes came in with his Hay Rack wagon,and he and I gathered the Methodist Junk,loaded it and he took it home.-As he was perched

upon his load he said to me "Are you going to try to build a new Methodist Church here this Year, Bro. Dibble", I said "You know that ^{is} what I was sent here for, Bro. Hawes" - He became angry and said I wish to say to you Bro. Dibble, ~~that~~ hat if you undertake to build a church, Myself - Wife, Daughter - Husband will all leave the church." I said "That would be bad, We donot want you to do that But the fact is , Father Hawes, You People have held the Methodist Church down too long, and God, helping us , we shall dedicate a new church before Conferen~~s~~ He drove away angry. - I had good backing in Dr. Traveller, seperate from him I had no help. Dr. Traveller, a very Ambitious, energetic man, had told me after my Appointment to W.L. that he expected me to build a church during that year, and I expected, or course, to do it. We had no Building Site. The Great Northern R.R. People owned some Lots scattered about the town, Two away over N.W. in the weeds out of town, they offered them to us, but I would not accept them, I wished to be closer, and the Company owned Two very fine lots right in the heart of the town, Just a few Yards from the Depot, just back from Main St. in front of the S.H. and between the fine Congregational Church and Town, I wanted those Lots. At First they turned me down Flat, we could not have them but I kept after them until we might have them upon the agreement to erect at once a good Church building which we agreed to do. I remember how happy I was when the transfer of the Lots to our church was finally made. Armed with that I was ready for work. - In our church was a very fine Well-to-do Man and his wire, Mr. - Mrs. C.H. Chase, the Town's Lumberman. - The Chases and myself built the church. Father Hawes and his Family had sat down, refused to help the Proj~~ect~~ect, in fact were opposing with all their force. Mr. - Mrs. Hawes did not actually leave the church, but became Quiescant, and did not attend our Services. The Daughter, however, dragged her Pror. Teacher Husband with her from our church. She went to Rev. Hitchcock Pastor of the other church seeking Admissin but he would not receive them. I had issued them a discharge from our church, The Congo Pastor told them "You are Trouble Makers, If you cannot get along with Bro. Dibble, you could not with me" - The poor Woman round nerself without a Church to Boss in the town. - The Chases and I would put our heads together for the new Church. They had influence and money, and inclination.

We had decided the type of building we desired. Such structures were being

erected in other places of the size of Willow-Lakes. During that Pioneer Church building there was a very definite system.-New churches were being built all over the Con.-During Two Years 22 Methodist churches were erected and Dedicated, nearly all of the same Architectural Type the "I9-A."- Those churches were costing from \$1500. to \$2500.-to build. of that amount the Church-Extension Board of the church would let the new church have \$500.- \$250.-a gift, and \$250.-a loan.-The Chases were efficient Business People, I made them my close Advisers, we built the church.-The Church Board will place at once its Application/~~to~~^{with} the The Board of Church -Extension for its \$500. which we did ,receiving the amount in cash while the church was under construction.-I intimated that Mr. Matthews owned the old Rock filled bed of W.L. We needed some of those rocks ,but Mr. Matthews was a Professed Atheist, not a lover of the Church, any way, he can only scold me, I will see him.-I drove to his home. He greeted me like a fine Gentleman, invited me into his home.

Finally I told him my errand, I wanted rock enough for a church Foundation. I remember the Smilie answer he gave me "I reckon the Lord made those Rocks they are his, if he needs some for his house, he should have them, Help yourself"-When I asked him about the price, said "Nothing, I will come to the new church"-I had the privilege of preaching to the Matthew Family in the new church.-Will stop with that unusual Family a Moment.-They were bright, People hungry for Mental Stimulus, About that time Prof. Burt ,who had taught the local school, secured a teaching position on the Faculty of the D.A.C.-put in his entire Mature life in that Institution, and probably became the most influential and vital Member of the Faculty. He passed away only a few years ago. He and I became intimate Friends.-He had Three Sisters, when we were in W.L. those Teen age girls attended our S.S. bare footed, they went to the D.A.C. Graduated, and became fine, beautiful and Cultured Women.-To me the Matthew Family has been a living example of the power of a strong BACK-GROUND. They had that.-Well Now the new church.-On a Sunday at church ,I asked Five farmers if they would come in Monday with their Farm-wagons and teams and do some work for me and the church. "They Sure Would" and did, Five big Farm Outfits make quite a display-When I unfolded my plan, they shrunk back Mr. Matthew

was an Infidel, they were somewhat afraid of him. -He came to the Rock-bed where we were loading, greeted the men cordially. -Said help Yourselves. He cautioned them to be Choosie of the rocks selected, not all rocks could² be used. It took us some Hours to load. It was a Mile into town, We drove in a rocky Procession, I marshalled them about a Center, I remember saying "Brethren ~~Those~~ Those are good, solid rocks. no danger of breaking them if they do strike hard. Those good Farmers caught the hint, and bagged those Five loads of rock upon that pile, that was about as large as the City Hotel, when the loads were grouped. -I had taken these men to the hotel for dinner. -I verily believe that while those rocks were being pounded on the pile that One Half or more of all the Men in town came out there. "What's going on" "Whatⁿ are you doing" - Why, Havn't you heard? Wer'e building a new Methodist Church" - Directly after the loads were off and the good Farmers had gone to their homes, I went to my home, Cleaned up, changed, took the Subscription Paper I had formulated the night before. and started out. Before I retired that night I had practically called upon every Business man in town. and had received a Subscription of something from every one. Later when Dr. Traveller reported the enterprize to the Church Papers he said practically every man had made a Subscription. - The Hardware man would furnish the Hardware, Nails and Fixtures. The Druggist would furnish the Paint and Oil, and they did. Many Men Subscribed Day Labor. Mr. Chase said^{we} were to get our Lumber Supplies from his Yard, and he would wait until after the Dedication for his pay. - There were all the Lumber Supplies Provided for. The Hardware, and Paint supplies provided for, Much construction Labor, and I Assumed all Painting. There was the building ready to be nailed together. - We found a Mature Trained Carpenter who would assume the leadership of the workmen. He should be paid. One of the strangest things happened. That new building became the Center of activity. Men in no ways connected with the church would come with hammer and drive nails for an Hour or so. Much of that church was built after Supper in the long Dakota Twilight. There were not^{many} persons in Town who did not drive nails in that structure. - Some of our Women tried their hands at Lathing. I worked every day in whatever was doing. The Watertown District Camp-Meeting was to be held at Gary in early July, and

all District Pastors were expected to attend. I was working about Night-day and really needed a little recreation, I would go to the Camp-meeting. I had not seen My good "GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE" Since Christmas time, I wrote her to go with me. She and my Sister Hattie were rooming together, You will both go with me Friday P.M. and back Sunday P.M.-That all proved agreeable with Hettie-Hattie.-I secured a Double team of Manly Waldron in W.L.-Drove to Bhookings, got the girls, drove to Gary, staid at the hotel, enjoyed the services, back to the college Sunday Eve. Home to W.L. Monday A.M.-and back at my Churchbuilding.-One Afternoon when the train came from Huron a group got off with Father Hawes, they had been down to Huron to a Lodge meeting. And That Old Man who had not given a Cent, nor One Minute of time, or one Word of encouragement to the enterprise, Strutted about with his friends showing off "OUR NEW CHURCH"-I heard the old Strutt say "We thought while we were building that we had better do it well and attractive"-I was painting, and let him Spread Eagle.-I will say that with some more Strutting that Old Man Hawes attended the Dedictory Services, and gave \$25. toward the building, which was not so bad for the old Man.-I wish I might be able to give the exact date of the Completion and Dedication of the building, but I cannot, I have for gotten the date, I do remember that I preached in it several times before Conference. On the principle that a new broom sweeps clean, our beautiful new church was filled each Service. The building was a thing of Beauty.-As Dr Traveller and I stood looking upon it the day before Dedication, the Old Warrior who was dedicating new churches every Sunday said, "You may continue in the Ministry many years, Bro. Dibble, build many churches, but you will never have a greater Victory than that" I do not think I have. That Beautiful structure was created out of nothing but Faith, Venture, Audacity and courage. Upon the day of Dedication Two fine new Families from the Church in Watertown, Tom Macbath and Wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Mason, these new People at once fitted into the activities of the new church.-All cost of the Building was Provided for upon dedication.-THIS WILL BE MY "PRAIRIE *NUGGET" No. I.

II

At the close of the Con. Year Dr. Traveller asked me if I cared to remain in Willow-Lakes and enjoy the new church? - I answered "NO", that I could not "I havn't another rig to put into this church." Piece by piece my Beloved Rig, Little Mare, and Red wheeled Hughson Buggy had gone into the expenses of the year. I had received \$100. Missionary Money, but had received practically nothing from the Charge. The most of the Year I had Bached in the little Parsonage. But our beautiful Victory filled me with Joy. - I passed in good shape My Second Year's Con. Course, was accepted into Full "Connection" in the Con. and Ordained "DEACON" - I was advancing. - Dr. Traveller said he had another Church for me to build. - I Wellcomed that. - At Con. I was appointed to Kampeska and Hazle, with Florence Midway between, as an Afternoon Appointment.

I considered this my First real Church. There were many People connected with this Charge. Three regular Organizations. Each voting a definite Salary, what I was not accustomed to, and the Fabulous Salary of \$800. -- and House. Pretty small today, but average at that time, I felt on my way. I had a real Charge. I was happy. - Kampeska and Hazle were Ten Miles apart, I must arrange it to give each of the Appointments One church ^{Service} each Sunday. - Hazle was a live, little town with People rather above the average in Education and Culture. Not a large Country Contingent, and the People in town rather preferred an Evening service, and they surely supported it. I think I had in Hazle Evenings one of the finest Congregations I have ever had. - Kampeska preferred the A.M. service, So we fell easily into this Schedule, KAMPESKA-A.M. - FLORENCE - 2 P.M. - HAZLE-EV

The only bad feature of that was the fact we were away from home every Sunday night, but in good weather we drove home after the service, mostly.

As a little Sentamental gleam, we had a fine new Base-burner, with its Mica Bellie that would glow in the dark, approaching home we would try to catch the gleam First. - Of Course just now, it was not WE but I. - The church had rented a real, Full sized house for the Preacher, expecting him to have a family. - I chose a room, and we rented the rest to a family, I boarding with the Renters. It all worked fine. I was away on the Field much. When I came home at 11 O'Clock tired, I always found a fine lunch awaiting in my room. That proved to be one of the most Years of my Ministry. -

Kampeska was a quiet, dead little Burg, in the heart of the great Two or Three Thousand Acre Estate of the Millionaire Robinsons of Chicago.-These Acres were arranged into fine farms. A mile from the town was one of the most beautiful Lakes in the state, "Lake Kampeska".-On the beautiful Sandy shore, with the Pure waters lapping up, was located the capacious and fine Capitol of the Robinson Estate. Mr. Robinson owned about every thing in sight O.P. Jacobs, the General manager of the Estate, with his Cultured and fine family dwelt in the fine home. They were recognized as among the First leaders of our church in the Village.-From June until the First frost each Summer Mr. and Mrs. Robinson lived on their Estate at the Lake. They were ardent Churn People. I preached to them each Summer. With us they were common. They left their Millionaire stuff in Chicago. Mrs. Robinson moved as one with the Women of the Church. Worked in the L.A. Society with the Farm Women. The Old Folks were greatly Beloved by the People.-The beautiful little church we worshipped in had been built and given to the Kampeska Methodists by the Robinsons.-Every Three Months, a check for \$25. came to the Pastor from R. He furnished all the fuel the church used.-They loved the church, but never tried to "Boss" it.-It became known that "THE GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE" and I planned to marry later that Con. year, as she was to graduate with her B.A. at the Following Commencement. Mr. Robinson owned practically all of the town one day he and I stood on the St. in conversation when he said in his fine friendly way, "I hear you are to be married, Mr. Dibble,"-"Well, I have heard something like that myself. I beleive that is the plan"-" Well where are you going to live"? "Oh, I Don't know, the Lord will provide that"-" No Sir, It is your Businee to provide a home. You have no Business to bring that little College Girl here with no Place for her to live"-"Do you see that empty house over there, pointing to a really fine One½ Story House near. Oh, Yes, I see it. "Well, Dibble, I'll tell you if your men will get a move on them. Dig a base-
ment over there by the side of the church, move that building over there and fix it up, I will give it to them for a Parsonage" I answered "Oh, Mr. Robinson, I am sure They will"-"Well, I want to see them at it".-As he was turning away, he turned and said "It will cost something to move and fix that house up, I will give them \$200. toward that end. Every bit of that took Place in the next

few months with astonishing ~~Despatch~~ ^{---:85:---}.--That was 1891-Hettie and I were married just befor Con.on Oct.7-and came at once to Kampeska and spent the few remaining days in the house the church had rented for me that year.

(Then we returned from Con.the Parsonage was not quite ready but was being pushed to completion.The Jacobs' took us in at the Robinson Home at the Lake-side where we remained Six Weeks.--We had been returned to Kampeska for my Second year.My faithful Sweet-Heart was no longer "The GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE"but the sweet Companion at my side.--That began a beautiful Companion-ship,which continued for 36 beautiful Years.--

One day the new parsonage was ready,we shall now have our own home.One Afternoon Mr.Jacobs took the big Farm Hay-rack wagon to Watertown,Six Miles to assist Hettie and Me,select our Furniture.We drove our own rig,Top buggy Bay-White Ponies.--Our new furniture went directly to our new home,which was very lovely and Roomie.--We followed our Furnishings and were at once happy at home.--That Parsonage still stands where we put it,and has been the Pastor's home since 1891-55 -Years.--

---:I REVERT BRIEFLY:---

In the Autumn of 1890 I went to Kampeska.--The following year,1891,was one of the Busiest Years of my life.--We did several important tasks that year beside my regular work as a The Pastor of a vast Parish,Preaching Three times each Sunday,Mid-Week Tasks,Funerals &c.--and Carrying on my Con.Course of Studies which I never neglected.During that Summer we had Two new buildings,Twelve Miles a part,under Construction,over which I had direct Supervision.--A fine new church in Hazle.--The People of Hazle were rather superior in their tastes and demanded that their new church should be attractive.For it they selected a beautiful Site.Beginning at the West end of the East-West Main St.was a moderate Incline .To look up Main St.was to look up hill.At the West end of Main St.it stopped turned North and South out of town.--Our good Church People secured a building Lot directly across Main St.and facing down the St.So in looking up the St.One looked directly into the Front of the Church.--A most beautiful effect.--

I think the Hazle church was built about the easiest of any church we erected.There was no other church in the immediate Community.Every body wanted this church and helped build it.But I was expected to give it

Personal Supervision. During the Early Fall the new church was completed and Dedicated.-During the late Summer the Residence building that Mr. Robbisonⁿ had given them for a Parsonage was moved upon its permanent Lot by the church, and Fixed over and fixed up, into a fine Preacher residence.-

I also had supervision of that Project.-Then get Married, which after all proved a very easy task, when every thing was ready.-Hettie and I had agreed upon Oct. 7-as our Wedding day-at The Bride's Home S.W. of White with Presiding-Elder, H.H. Dresser of Watertown as the Officiating Clergyman. More about that in a Moment.-The day before the Wedding I went to Brookings, Secured a Two Day lease of a Livery rig from the BRINK Livery, drove to my Father's home 12 Miles South, and remained over night. Picked up a few Personal Belongings and took them with me. The next Morning, trailed by my Folks in their Family rig we drove to Hettie's home, Twenty Miles.-

At 11 A.M. we were to meet Dr. Dresser on the train from Watertown. We were ~~there~~ there on time, and so was the train, but not Dr. Dresser, but instead a Telegram saying, Missed the train, cannot get there, secure Springer, who was Pastor at White at that time. But told Hettie's Brother who Accompanied me, "I will not see Bro. Springer until I have talked with Hettie, she has not want^{ed} Bro. Springer. I was filled with more or less of dismay, "What Shall we Do" Hettie answered at once and said "Why, Of Course, Have your Father"-She told me later that all the time she had greatly preferred Father, but, The Presiding-Elder should be given Priority.-Mr. Doughty, Hettie's Father said when told, said "Good, Of course have your Father, That's what I have said all the time". So the old Community Wedlock, Rev. J.W. Dibble, married us, and we were secure^y joined.-The Wedding was not One Minute late. I have said that I was married the day before I was born-Born October 8-Married Oct. 7--

Hettie and I remained at her home that night, driving the Livery Rig to Brookings the next Morning intime for the train to Kampeska.-

I was still copying the rented Parsonage, and Hettie and I went there for the few days until Con. in Sioux-Falls.-The First Eve. Home a fine Reception was planned in the church.-On that day October 8: 1891-"Chubbie"-My Sweet Girl Across the Aisle-Hettie, launched her Ministerial career which continued

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with unbroken Fidelity,-Devotion,-Enthusiasm,-and efficiency for Thirty-Six Beautiful Years.- A few days after our Marriage we went to Sioux-Falls for the Annual Con.-Nothing eventfull,I passed all my Studies.-

My good Memory Jogger reminds me of this change.-Two days before Con.went to her home at White,On the Following Monday she met me at the train in White and we went on to Sioux-Falls.-

---:1892:---

1892 was a quiet,uneventfull year,with the Kampeska Newly Weds.-

The New church was completed and in service.-After Six Weeks at Mr.Jacobs the Parsonage is ready,and we move into it "As Snug as Two Bugs in a rug". As the School closed for the Christmas Vacation the pretty ,little teacher came and prevailed upon Hettie to Board her in our home.-We hesitated preferring to be alone,but the little teacher plead so hard,was so lonely for Younger People,more refined and Cultured association that Hettie,took pity on her and shared our home with her.-She was very fine,fitted into our home circle and we enjoyed her very much,and she said beautiful things about our home.

This year I will finish my Con.Course,and in the Fall will go to Chicago for our Seminary Course.-I have already described that.Spent the Winter of 1893 First World's Fair Year in Chicago,with Will and Maud,just married.

The year proved very pleasant and happy.The new church and the new Parsonage and our new Relationship made it a Memorable year.-

From Con:and my Final Ordination as an Elder,we went directly to Chicago. Will and Maud were prepared for us,had secured a very good Suite of Rooms. We expected the regular Financial help That the church gave its Theological Students, I was planning to attend the Congo School,The Chicago Seminary but our Methodist People refused to assist me unless I attend one of our own Church Schools.-All right,I will go to Garrett in Evanston,which I did.

On page 6 I relate my experience at Garrett and our return to Dakota in the Spring and our going to Bowdle and Bangor for the Summer,and the erection of the new Church in Bowdle that Summer.

We came to Bowdle in March,before Conference in October we had launched, Erected and Dedicated ,and used A beautiful new church,that is still in use But the Excessive work in building the new church,broke Hettie down.The Dr. said she should quit and go to her home,or some place for rest.Dr.Akers the Presiding Elder of the Aberdeen District ,upon which we lived,came out to see us.Consulted the Dr.who said that as Con.would soon come,and she might find a change she might remain.Dr.Akers said he would see that we should have a Move at Conference.The Dr,said that the Girlie was homesick.Bowdle and

~~General~~ Bangor were away out on the Extreme Frontier. There was no Parsonage. We had had very comfortable rooms over the R.R. Depot. - That new Country at that time was rapily filling up with People directly from Russia. - We were highly interested in watching the People who had been there longer greet the Friends just arriving from Russia. Men embraced like Women. Befor^e Con. we packed our furniture and left it with the R.R. People subject to our order later. Hettie went to her home, while I went to Conference. - We had been in Bowdle just Seven Months and had built a beautiful new church, still in use. But it had broken my Young Wife down. But she quickly Recuperated when with her People. - Hettie's Collapse was the direct ~~cause~~^{result} of the work she did and the manner in which it was done. - Out in the country where ^{we} were practically no Modern Homes. - No Electrical Utilities for the home. - In the average home no Telephone, Rerrigation as we have it today, unknown. -

Ice Cream could not be bought of the Druggist and Confectioner, If you want^{ed} Ice Cream Assemble your Freezer, crack your Ice, mix your cream and season it, Pour it into the can and pack the can with powdered Ice, turn the Freezer for many minutes, until so frozen can turn no more. - All that time working in ice and ice water. - Our Ladies of the Bowdle L.A.S. built an Ice-cream hut on Main St. and a ~~Group~~^{Group} of Women Froze and served several Freezers of cream Three or Four Afternoons ^{a week} all Summer. If they took in Ten or \$15. an Afternoon and Eve. they were pleased. - They were paying for their new church. All thro. the heated season they were puddling about, often with feet wet, with Ice Water, handling Ice constantly, Hettie was the Pastor's wire and thought she must do it every time. - I have often tought about that and other Summers and wondered that not more Women Broke-down. - With that type of work she had gone to the limit. - She always thought she must be in the hardest work. Often she worked every time while the others changed off. - She never shrank from the work. - Well, There is another Prairie Nugget. - The next one will be more Pleasant. -

III

It was the Autumn of 1885. - I have forgotten where our Conference was held, what Bishop Presided, all of which does not matter. I do remember that just before leaving Bowdle I had traded the Pokey Pony that we had for^a Semi-Broken

I mean a One-Half Broken, wild American horse. Not Broncho, but a little meaner American horses Bred on the ranges, and caught Wild.- This was a pretty Bay Mare weighing about 1200 Lbs.- Trim, an attractive animal, But as ugly and treacherous as the Devil himself. She was a would-be Murderess, she tried to kill us several times, Once in crossing the James River approaching Redfield S. Dak. as we drove up the High Approach of the bridge, where no fence or guard when near the top. she deliberately stopped, and started to back, which would have thrwn us down that Twenty Foot embankment, I saw her game, leaped from the rig caught her Bit and prevented the Catastrophe.- A gain near Raymond we were driving along side a deep gulch on the Hill-side, when that Beast, quickly and deliberately swerved to the gulch in an effort to throw us into it, which thing we missed by a few inches.- We bought that pretty mare from Horse Drivers in Bowdle.- I took Hettie to her home at White, and drove to my home. My Brother Charley was there Farming and had several horses among them good old Flora, Gainly and Homely of Physique, crooked legged, but a Fine traveler, About the finest Driving hore I ever owned, as gentle as a kitten. Father had raised her and I knew her. Charley wanted my She Devil Mare, he could manage her on the farm with the other horses. He worked her for years without trobb- le, While Hettie and I Loved Fleet-footed, enduring Flora and drove her several years, on different Charges.- Well, Well at that approaching Conference we were appointed to Ashton, -Athol- and a Country Appointment Eleven Miles N.E. of Ashton.- Ashton was a quiet little Place on the bank of the "Jim" River Ten Miles N. of Redfield.- The People of Ashton were very proud of their Culture, and there was some. Living th/ere was the Lee Family, Timothy-Whitta-cher-Andrew-Pool Lee, for short "TWAP" Lee.- These People were from our old Home-Cresco-Iowa, and from our church there. My People were intimately acquaint- ed with them. Mr. Lee for some years had been the County Supt. of Schools.- The Lees were a Musical Group, and for some Years travelled as the "North- Western ~~Nitxgkxx~~ Nightingales"- By the Way, Mr. W.O. Symonds, Foreman of the Woodcock Farm, where I lived Two years after my People came to Dak. Ter. was a Tenor Member of that very fine Musical Aggregation.-

Well I found the Lees a Popular family in our church in Ashton, and active in the Music of the church. Rosie Lee later became an active Member of the

Musical Department of the Wesleyan University in Mitchell-S.Dak.

Some other our Families became quite closely identified with the Wesleyan. While we were in Ashton Mr. Levi Pierce and Wife, among our most active and highly Respected Families, were called to an important Managerial Position in the Mitchell College. - George Boyers, another active and Respected Families, accepted a Position with the College and moved to Mitchell. - Now, With the Lees, Levi Pierces, - and George Boyers removed our not large church, was weakened. - During that year one of the most unfortunate incidents of all my Ministry took Place. Ashton had just one real, Professional Dr. a Youngerly man and his Wife. - They were not identified with the church. Were Ultra-Socialistic, or completely surrendered to the Social Life, and led in those things in the town. Our Church Leaders disapproved of many of the Social acts, of the Dr. and his wife, but wisely kept still concerning them. But, the matter became so rank as to become intollerable. Some of our Young People were coming under the influence and practice of these Social Leaders. There was a constant urge upon me to Criticise the thing in my Pulpit. Until a certain act transpired that seemed to be the last Straw, and I announced my protest for Sunday Eve. - They tried to Smother me, Packed the front of the church with their friends and Cronies, - and caused some degree of disturbance while I was speaking, which simply Fired me up, until I said some things I had not planned to say, and would not, if they had not disturbed me. At the close of the service our leading Church People Commended warmly our effort, but some of these later when the church came under criticism, turned against me. They took the position that I had gone too far. A leading Young Lady Clerk at the P.O. was in the Drs. Clique, She would watch for my coming to the P.O. and throw my mail thro the Delivery Window on the Floor, and I would have to pick it up, after she had done that several times, and evidently intended to continue. I gave her a talking to. I said "Donot throw my Mail on the floor again" I reminded her that she was just a Hired Girl of Uncle Sam, that if she did that again I should leave my mail on the floor, secure Witnesses and report her to the P.O. Drptmt. - Which I would have done. She ceased that dirty act, but didnot cease her hatred of me.

On September 4:1894-occured the greatest event in our Home history to that date, the Birth of Robert, our First born.-A fine Twelve Pound baby.-In bringing him into the World his Mother passed thro a critical experience. We would say now that she should have gone to a hospital. But, that was hardly thought of in those days. Many children came into the World without even the help of a Professional Dr. In every Community were One or more Women qualified for that important event.-Well, Robert got here Safe-sound. It took his Mother ~~some~~ some time to recover her strength.-

The Conference Year was drawing to a close. Some way the People in the church, in Ashton, had held off, and did not encourage any intimacy with the Pastor's Folks. We had felt alone all the year. We ascribed the coldness and indifference of the Church People to the Fracas we had with the Drs. Folks, we thought our People were in sympathy with those Folks.-Our Church People seemed to enjoy my Preaching, they came to church, gave respectfull attention but that was all.-They didnot care for us after Twelve O'Clock on Sunday.

It was really a game of Freeze-Out, and as Conference time approached, there was no thought on our part, of returning for another year, and it did not occur to us that the church would tollerate us.-We felt that they were looking forward anxiously to the close of the year that they might get rid of us.-At the close of the last Prayer-Meeting service Three leading Men, George Boyer the leader, said to me, we wish a Private talk with you Bro.D.-may we go to your home" "Indeed, Yes". The First time during the year, any of them had ventured to our home.-I must not take space for all that conversation, farther than to say it was all in respectfull order and Spirit.

Bro. Boyer reprisented the church.-He surprised us when he said "There is a Unanimous desire on the part of our Church People for your return. Our People believe in your sincerety and love your preaching. We are not a Demonstrative People." I reminded him of the fracas with the Social Group. I remember I said "You Folks Nagged me into criticisng that thing, then went back on me for doing it." I said "You should not have a Pastor that you must constantly apologize to with the leading People in town for"-Then those Men told Hettie and me that the church had been in full sympathy with us all the year. We believed that crowd got what was coming to them. Not one Member quit

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the church because of it. Now, Bro. Dibble, those People have boasted all the year how they would see to it that you donot return, if you donot, they will take the credit for it. And we object to a bunch of dancing, carousing Worldlings, running our church, and sending our Pastor away. We have the church at heart, and believe we will have a good ^{year} if you return"-They said more.-

In some ways that was the hardest year of our Ministry, but later Hettie and I agreed that we should have remained in Ashton, The Ashton church wanted us, the Athol Church, and that of the Country were very pronounced in their desire for our return, but conditions had been so lonely and cold, we didnot have courage enough to face another year. And moved, and Ch, Such a Move.-

IV

Edie had been with us since the Baby's birth, now, at Con. time they went to their home, while I went to Con.-We were appointed to Webster, one of the hardest Appointments we ever have received.-The church was cringing before its Boss, Mrs. John Norton. She bossed the church, she bossed the Pastor. I can see her hired man coming to the Parsonage and informing me that Mrs. Norton wanted me to come to her home at once. where she gave me definite instruction as to what I was, and was not to do. The Nortons were wealthy, lived in a fine large, richly furnished house. John Norton was the Owner of a large Dprtmnt Store, several farms, and much other property, among which was his Racing horse that he was so proud of, and which he took in his Gig to the Local Race-Track with the Riff-raff of the Community each Sunday Afternoon when weather permitted.-After he had taken the offering at the church, and got the shekels in his pocket. For all Purposes the Nortons owned the church. In Personal Character they were as rotten as Humanity can be. John Norton was a Flagrant Woman's Man. She said to her Neighbors that she did not care how many Women her husband had if he would leave her alone. Under the Dictatorship of Mrs. Norton we spent a miserable, unsupported year.

During the Winter our hearts were filled with panic as we nearly lost our Bobby boy with a siege of Scarlet fever.-At the last Quarterly Con. of the year Dr. Dresser, gave the church a severe chastisement. He reminded them that they had had Three Pastors within a few months, Men would not remain and be bossed by the Nortons. I remember he said "We have no more Preachers for youm

to Crucify, there shall be no Minister sent you by this Con. and neither was there. - There was really not much Christian Manhood and Womanhood in the Webster church at that time. But with the Nortons, and Abbots, and some others the church was recovered, it has rebuilt, and is recognized as one of the better churches of the Con. today. But we Moved at Con. time. Had done better than some other Men had, who quit during the year. We had no trouble. I could see no use in quarrelling with them. Put in the year and left in order.

V

Good old Flora trotted us to the A, B, Doughty Farm - White-Where I left her, My Girlie previously from Across the Aisle, my Curly headed, active son Bobbie and went to Con. I have forgotten where, and who the Presiding Bishop was. It was the Autumn of 1895. No other Bishop has been more kind than that Bishop who Appointed us to ARLINGTON-HETLAND and the CO-NEERS, the Country appointment. We have considered that one of the very finest Appointments of our Ministry.

There we had Four beautiful years unbroken by a single untoward incident.

The People of that charge just knew how to love their Pastor's Folks.

Congregations were large the entire period. - They knew good Preaching, and were a source of great Inspiration. - One beautiful, favoring element was the fine Group of Non-Church Members, many of them leading Business Men who attended and supported our church. - One Eve as Hettie and I had just returned from the Con. in Vermillion where we had been returned to Arlington for another year, a group of Men, not one of whom was a member of the church, came to the Parsonage and greeted us, handing me a paper, I have it yet, which stated the Preple, whose names followed, all Non-Church Members agreed to pay the amount opposite their names, not to be applied upon the regular salary, if Rev. Dibble, was retained but not if he was not returned. - The amount totalled something over One Hundred Dollars. In view of that the Official Board voted an increase of \$100, to the salary for the year. - We came to love those People and that Spirit of Good will has always continued. -

I returned from Con. happy in my Appointment, left Wife and Baby with her People and drove Flora to Arlington, Put her in the Livery Barn and myself in the City Hotel where I planned to stay over Sunday. At about Nine O'Clock Three

Men came to the Hotel went to the desk and said to the Land-Lord "We are looking for a stray Preacher, got any here"? He said "There's a Stranger I-Dont know whether he is a Preacher or not" With that I made myself known to

Brother C.C.Maxwell,-John Bennett-the other.Bro.Maxwell said"We donot do that way in this church Bro.Dibble,get your bag and come with us,which I did Went to the Maxwell home where I staid over Sunday,and until I got a bed up in the Parsonage.-Then Flora and I trotted over to White, got the Family, and returned for Four, perhaps the happiest years of my Ministry.-Hettie and I knew that about a certain date we would require a Dr.We had consulted Dr.Schoonmaker,our local Physician,who would take the case.But later when nearing the time,Dr.Schoonmaker said he was being called away,but had made arrangements with Dr.Egan,of Hetland, Five Miles away.-There was no Telephone At the critical time some one would need go for the Dr.I made arrangements with a Young man who was likely to be available to go for Dr.Egan on Call, All of which he did,with the result that when he got to Dr.Egan's office he discovered that the Dr.was out of town,would probably be back soon,and would come right over.-In the meantime,that approaching Baby would not be detained,but insisted upon being born.A near Neighbor Woman had had limited experience,Came and did what was needed.When the Dr.came a little later the Baby was born,washed and dressed,and Hettie was getting along Normally.

He gave Hettie an examination and assured me she was getting along fine, and said 'I could have done no better myself'.-From that case Hettie got about in Normal time and condition.-But,Now,I shudder when I think of the risks we took,but it didnot occur to us then that the Mother should go to the Hospital.There was no hospital near.-What should this fine new boy be called? We quickly agreed upon Paul for his First name,but we thought he should have a Second or middle name.We tried several,but we desired the combination to be smooth,Three names that would flow easily.-Paul What?-Just then,about the day Paul was born,Perhaps the World's greatest man,Premier Wm.E.Gladstone, of rich old age passed away,and there was our name PAUL GLADSTONE DIBBLE. It was suggested that we were loading the little boy down with too much

name.He might not be able to measure up to so much weight,but he has,and we made no mistake when we named him Paul Gladstone-

If the Maternal Preferences of that Young Mother had been regarded the name of that Babe would not have been Paul, nor any Masculine name, But Mary-Susie or some Feminine name, as she greatly wanted a Girl Baby. But as she could do no other she graciously accepted the fine boy, so PAUL GLADSTONE found his Wellcome place in the Family Circle.--Paul came to us May 13:1898--

We came to Arlington in the Autumn of 1895, it is now approaching Autumn of 1899, we are closing our Fourth Happy year. Not a Word had been said in our hearing of the approaching year, We were at the height of our Popularity, But, One day as I walked to town, there came over me a sudden ^eAvulsion for the ~~XX~~ Place, a feeling that my work there was done, that I should not come back, that we should move. We were having a happy time going thro the Forms, and that was all.--There was nothing to build, nothing to fix, I wanted a job. The Dis. Supt. said we might move. As quickly as we proposed moving there came a Universal protest from the People. GrandPa Aaran said "Brother Dibble, The Wickedest decision you ever made was when you decided to move from Arlington".

Arlington had not yet formed her present rule, that the Pastor shall remain Six years, then move.--I was not in favor of remaining as long as I could, or until discharged. There had been Four Years of perfect Love and harmony, Every body Loved us, I conceived that was about the time to move, and insisted upon it. And did.--So Hettie and our Two fine Boys, went home to White, and I went to Con. I have forgotten where, and who the Presiding Bishop was, but the year 1898

VI

Ever since Hettie's and my Marriage there had been a constant demand for us on the part of the White Church.--A good church in White at that time. Good Membership, and especially fine Congregations, Church filled Twice each Sunday Fine harmony, fair, average Property, good Interest. There was a determined demand for our appointment. Of course it was going home to us. The church was Completely Doughtyized, On the Church Records was a list of 37 Doughty names on the Membership Column of the church.--They were all really good, assertive Old School Methodists.--Their conception of "CHURCH-WORK", was Two services on Sunday-Sunday School,--Prayer Meeting Thursday night, a Revival Meeting in Winter. That line of Activity they would support to the last one. To White we were appointed. Hettie and the boys already there.--I went to Arlington

Secured Two Hay-rack wagons and mover our things to the Capacious Parsonage at White. We had a good year at White. I found it a pleasant Congregation to Preach to. They insisted they had a Premier Preacher. -We had a fine time among our relatives. Could not move about any where without running upon an Uncle, or Aunt, or Cousin, and they were kind, appreciative and respectfull.

One sad event marred our year, the death from Consumption of Hettie's Sister Edith, or Mrs. Bert Merrill as she was. Young People. as so often happens with that dread disease Edie went with the birth of her little Daughter, who lived and became Ruth Merrill. -Brother Burt took the loss of his Young wife very hard. It took him Years to recover from it. In fact his entire life was shaddowed by it. He insisted upon caring for the Baby, which he did. Ruth was a beautiful child, Brother Burt reared her into a beautiful Womanhood. -

One day as Con. was approaching I received a letter from Dr. Dobson, Supt. of the Sioux-Falls Dis. urging me to accept the Pastorate of the Yankton Church for the next year. That call was greater than I could resist, But I was selfish, Yankton offered what I wanted, Was quite a City, the Church carried quite a prestige, and was a-way-down South in the Con. -The Church in White resisted our removal, had a large deligation of Men at Con. Pulling for us. After I had made arrangements with Dr. Dobson for Yⁿakton I assured the White Deligation that I would keep my hand off, and go where I was sent, But I knew about where that would be. So to Yankton we were Appointed in the Autumn of 1900.

VII

After Con. We hurried back to White to Pack-move. -We had come into Possession of a team of Drivers and a large Spring Wagon, that I had bought of A.D. Maxwell in Arlington. We drove the Out-fit to Yⁿakton, the trip taking Two days, The intervening night we spent at the Hotel in Lennox, and on our way the next day, which was Saturday, and was due to Preach in Yankton Sunday. During the ~~My~~ day one horse, "John" went very lame. We stopped at a Black Smith shop, had his Shoes attended to but his lameness continued. We got to Volin 12 Miles from Yankton, but felt that poor old John, who was suffering should not be driven that distance that day. A Passenger train would passing thro Volin for Yankton during the Eve, so we quickly decided to leave the rig in Volin and complete

our Journey by train, which we did. At the Yankton Station I made some enquiries and found that the Merchants Hotel would be a good Place for us to stay. We took a hack for that place, Clear down the entire length of Main Street. As we passed along, Robert who always had a view for large things said with a sigh "My, That is a Long Main Street", In fact it was. The Hotel was very fine, we enjoyed it very much. The next Morning I started out to find the Church where I was expected to Preach that Morning. My First Con. was held in Yankton so I knew something about the town. On the Street I met a nice man and Inquired of him. I observed he had with a Bible the Blue Quarterly, he was a Methodist on his way to S.S. which all proved to be true. My First meeting with J.W. Shufelt, destined to become one of the most intimate friends I ever had. - We were ~~XXX~~ invited to some one of our homes for dinner after church, I donot recall what home. - A good congregation Morning and Eve. I have forgotten where we stayed Sunday night. Monday Morning I found that our Furniture had arrived and was waiting for us at the Great Northern Station but an unfortunate condition ~~had~~ had arisen. Rev. Lachlan McLain, our Predecessor, refused to move from the Parsonage until after Election some days to come. It was a Presidential Election and he was unwilling to Sacrifice his Vote. They had been appointed to Elk-Point. He insisted his Family should remain in the Yankton Parsonage.

Rev. Lachlan MacLain was a difficult man to get along with. A Scotch Man, Pa. Proud, Selfish and assertive. - The Church to which we came had just passed Thro the throes of an Insurrection against the arrogant Pastor. The more we became acquainted with the Yankton Church, the more convinced were we that the Pastor and not the People were the most to blame for the unfortunate rupture. -

We had Two most beautiful harmonious years, not one ripple of trouble. Three Families had seperated from the church, practically driven out of the church by that old tyrant. Two of these Families came back quickly after we came, and became among our most Intimate Friends. The Stephens and the Coacher Families, among the most highly respected families in the City. - Not long after we came I had the Privelege of conducting the great Wedding Ceremony of Miss. Lou-Stephens, the beautiful daughter. Permit me to say this, We Found the church in an uproar with the Pastor, but it quieted down at once, and we found some of the most delightfull People we have ever worked with. ~~And then~~

Hettie and I have continued to love the Memory of the Yankton People.-

Within a Week before she was Taken away, she said to me "Let's go to Yankton and buy a home and have it ready for our retirement. I had rather live in Yankton than any other Place we have lived in". Had she lived I think we would have done just that, as it appealed to me greatly.-

But, The day the dear Girl said that it didnot occur to her that within Ten days she would pass to her Eternal ~~XXXXXXXX~~ home from the Yankton Hospital and be laid to rest in the Yankton Cemetery. Which all took place.

Well, Our furniture came, we compelled Rev. Mac. to permit us to occupy Two Upstairs rooms, while waiting for them to get out. Some of the Men in the Church were in favour of forcing the Maclains out, but we would not permit that drastic move.-- We had no Outside appointment in Yankton, just the City church.

I didnot need a double team and heavy wagon. I went to a leading dealer in Carriages and Vehicles, found a beautiful Surrey, Headlights and all, and made a trade with him in which he took our horse "JOHN", Our Wagon, and Double harness, for which I got the new Surrey, and Single harness, and kept Fannie

for our Family driving.-- We thought we had about the finest rig on the Yankton Streets. Dr. Dobson's term, Six Years, on the S.F. District, terminated with our First year of Pastorate in Yankton, and Dr. J.P. Jenkins was appointed upon the Dis.-- That began many years of Intimate Friendship with that good man of God. We were on the District with Dr. Jenkins, during Two full terms of the Superintendency, Twelve Years. And he conducted Hettie's Funeral Service in the Yankton church.-- Which was crowded upon the Occasion.-

Just as our Second happy year in Yankton was closing, 1902, Dr. ^(Jenkins) came to conduct our last Quarterly-Con. of the Year, and as always we entertained him. After Supper he said "J.B., he always called me J.B.) Lets go for a walk"-- The Parker church in those days ranked very much higher than the Yankton Church. It was considered one of the finest Second Class churches in the Con.

He said "J.B. How would you like to go to Parker". I said "Oh, That would be fine, but Mrs. Dibble and I have felt happy in the thought of remaining in Yankton". He said "That's fine, You are doing a splendid work here, the People all want you back, but I think you should go to Parker"-- Very well.-- No more ^(said)

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Upon the approach of Con.Hettie with the boys,according to their established custom went to her home,Grandpa Doughtys.-Again I have forgotten the Seat of Con.that year and the Presiding -Bishop,but I was in attendance,and that Bishop read "PARKER-J.B.DIBBLE".We could not help but rejoice over our Appointment,but were saddened over the thought of leaving our Friends in the Yankton Church.It had been among Two of the happiest years of our Ministry. Fannie our beautiful little driving-mare,was proving too light for our Surry and Family.-Father had a beautiful young,supple,horse,"DEWEY",that was more horse than Father needed,so he had come out and we had "Swapped"I took Dewey Father took Fannie,and drove her for several years.-Dewey fitted into our Surrey as if made for it,which all added to the Glamour of the Preacher's rig.-From Con.I returned to Yankton and packed up.Hettie had packed the dishes and fragile things.I had help in that packing.A new man to us,destined to become a leader in the Dakota Con.just now from New York State,had been Appointed our Successor,and had come to Yⁿakton with me.I took him to the Parsonage,where he and I lived together while we packed.The man Rev.George W. Rosenberry,was a finely educated and trained man,and an unusual Pulpit Preacher,but he was laboring under grave Anxiety,his family was still in the old home in the East,and could not come to Yankton as they didnot have Money for the Moving expenses.He took it very seriously.To him it looked like the abandonment of his family,to which he was very closely allied.-I suggested several things to him.He cautioned me not to let the Yankton People know how straitened he was.Then,he would not try to borrow money from strangers. It would be some time before there would be money enough from the Church,to meet the demand.-I saw the poor man Sweat for a Week,as we worked together.

I had to get the consent of my Judgment to do something I wished to do. Bro.Rosenberry was an entire stranger to me.I knew nothing of his Business integrity.Iknew about how much he must have with which to move his Loved ones.We had found in the Yankton Parsonage when we came there One Chamber room,that had been furnished with all needed things,Bed &c.These were still there and of course the Pastor should use them,in fact was using them, The Eve before I was starting for Parker,I asked Bro Rosenberry what was the

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the smallest amount he would risk moving his family on? She had disposed of all their belongings, it would take so much. - I had the money, had taken it out of the bank that day, and counted out to him the amount he had stated. I think he was the most Jubilant person I had ever seen, He actually wept for joy. He said they are ready to start the First train after receiving money for their Fare, "I'm going to the office and telegraphh this money to her" which he did. The next Morning he was jubilant, saying my Loved ^{one} are on the way today. They arrived safely, he had picked up a little furniture making the house Tenable for a while. The fine People in the Yankton church came quickly to their releif, and that Elect Pastor and his Cultured wife put in Seven Years of faithfull and efficient service in that church.

With Bro. Rosenberry and I there was welded a n intimacy that never lessened. Well, - Well, Let's see, Oh, Yes I was moving, Wasn't I? To Parker, up to that ~~time~~ time much the strongest Charge we had ever served.

VIII

With Dewey and the Surrey, and "Shep" the Boy's companion, On the seat at my side we drove to our new home the next day. As we passed thro the towns En-Route, and the resident dogs came out and greeted us as usual, Shep would sit up on the Surrey seat, look First one way, then the other, each time saying in a very Commanding voice "BOO" "BOO", I reached Parker just in time to meet ~~XX~~ our furniture, worked late, and got it all inside, and slept in our new home that night. - I remember how Jubilantly happy I was during those days. I was receiving a most Cordial Wellcome, the church had requested our Appointment.

Right there began Five beautiful years of busy service. Hettie and I have considered the Parker Pastorate as about the most fruitfull of our Ministry In a few days the Family arrived, and ^{how} were very happy in the new home with its apparent prospects. - One thing greatly pleased the boys a Barrell of fine Red Apples in the Cellar, which I had placed there. -

The City Schools were directly across the Street from our Parsonage. Robert had begun his Educational career in the Primary Dprtmnt of the Yankto School.

Was ready to enter the Parker schools. - Paul was Five Years old, One year too young. But he was living in the school, or rather with it. All the Hours that

that Robert was in school Paul stood in the Front Window, with his face pressed upon the glass watching for his Brother. If Robert happened to come within his range of vision he called his Mother, "Oh, Mama, Here he is, here's Bob, see" And she must come and feast her eyes, to. - He refused to be enticed away from that window until Robert appeared when Paul would hasten to meet him. Paul was pleading to go to school. One day his Mother said "I donot know what we can do with that child, its tragical for him to stand before that Window all day." "Yes, He might as well be in School". That led us to the consideration of the wisdom of permitting him to start school. I would see Mr. Watson, the banker, who was Chairman of the School-Board, I found him very kind about it. He said "It will dpend upon Miss. Louie Chase, head of the Primary Dprtmnt. What she says in the matter will pass with the Board. I found Miss. Chase very friendly, but Professionally conservative. "We think Five Years too young to begin regular school work. He would probably stand the First Year or so, but when he reaches the place of real Study, and is One Year Year younger than his entire class, would probably find it hard. But, of course if too hard he can quit. We'll take him" Which they did. I think we unintentionally made a mistake in the matter. It was later after he became ad vanced in the Grades that the difficulty began. We had moved to Plainview Neb. where it became apparent that the Grade work was too advanced for Paul.

Every member of his class was One Year older than he, they had One year more of Mental power, he was in competition with those with a Year advantage; He would struggle over his work every Eve. Go to bed crying nearly every night. To us it became serious, we feared it would effect the boy badly, I consulted his teacher, who was very kind about it, but thought Paul should drop a year and be with Pupils of his own age and Grade. - But Paul rebelled, de-Claired he would not go back, and continued to struggle on. One day his teacher said to me "Mr. Dibble, I Hav'nt the Heart to force that boy back, We will Permit him to continue with his class", Which he did. He always Passed his work satis factorily, but it was hard on him, all thro his Course One Year Younger than his Class-Mates. - I am sure his Mother and I would not make that mistake again, and never have. -

Our Work in the Church in Parker moved right off with a steady Gait. -

Fine congregations filled our Pews Twice each Sunday. Parker was a Musical town, many very fine, outstanding Musicians. -A large Choir of over Thirty trained voices were organized into what was termed "The Parker Concert" Choir. Several of the Members of this Superior Group of Musicians were Methodists, while others were mostly Presbyterians, so on Sunday the large Group divided into Two, making Two very fine Church Choirs. That continued during our Five Year Pastorate. Mr. Charley F. Goff, a faithful, Brother-in-law of our church was our efficient Leader during my Five Years, also. Mr. Goff operated a Boot-Shoe Store, and was a busy man, but was always available if the church needed music for any thing, a funeral or whatever, I had only to notify him and he would have a group of efficient Singers for the Occasion. -Our congregations were unusually cultured. The Younger People had all attended College. During the Period of our Pastorate, Bro. C. P. Jackson, the City Photographer felt his call to the Ministry, which he entered at once, serving several Charges acceptably, until stricken down and taken away.

His Cultured Wife has made her home in Mitchell S. Dak. since his death. Clin, the Son, took his University Course, went to Garrett Institute and completed his Theological Course, came back to Dakota Con. served Two or Three of our strongest churches, and for many years has been Pastor of one of the leading churches in Minneapolis. -Perhaps I should not say this, but Olin has not ceased to say that it was thro the inspiration of our Parker Pastorate that he was led into the Ministry. - One Characteristic thing was the many who came into active work during that Pastorate.

It was an Evangelistic Church and town. They loved the Gospel of Full Salvation, and supported the Pastor while he preached it.

Our entire Family look back upon our years spent in that beautiful County-Seat city with Pleasure. Just now Robert is proud that for those years that Clinton Anderson, now the Sec. of the Agriculture Department of the Nation was, intimate School-mate and Playmate. Clint Andersons People were not Methodists, however, but Baptists. They live just One door removed from us. Other Young People have come from that Period into prominence. -Our work there with the Young People was very happy. We won many of them for Christ and the Church. -The Parker Church has always been High-Grade. --

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I must not close this NUGGET without reporting the Chief event of its entire Five Year Period. This event transpired at just the Mid-part of the period of our Parker Pastorate.

It was August 7:1904, a most beautiful Sunday Eve. The Evening Congregation^o was gathering in the church, when things in the home began to happen. Hettie's Mother was with us waiting for this event. Another Woman was there, I donot remember who, but Dr. Melvin was summoned. and came promptly. I Contacted Mr. Goff, told him all about, "I cannot be there, there will be no Preaching service, You might have a short Song Service so the People will not feel they came ~~in~~ for nothing" Which all that good Friend did. I have told Clifford many times that he was ushered into the World on the Wings of Gospel Song. That a Sacred Concert Celebrated his coming. -Grandma Doughty spoke of the fine ~~work~~ sense of that congregation on that occasion. They sang briefly, were dismissed in orderly form and with real Decorum passed from the church, which was left in perfect Eventide hush. And Mother spoke of the fact that while every one of that number knew what was transpiring, ~~that~~^{there} was no hanging about, Gaping or spying, They seriously respected their Pastor, and Loved his wife. I remeber^m how their attitude that Evening endeared them to "THE DEAR GIRL ACROSS THE AISLE". In that particular case I would not say "Chubby" ^{uld} ~~show~~ have gone to the Hospital. -"Its a Boy", said the Nurse. "Think of it .Another boy." Well, He is our boy the Third, just as Welcome as his Brothers before him had been. -After due consideration his good Mother and I decided he shall be called Clifford Earl Dibble, and from that time to this he has answered to that name. -Clifford grew up as his Brothers have. At prop^{er} time Married a beautiful Southern lady with whom he is living most happily in the home in Dallas-Texas, while he carries on his good position with the Air-Point. Clifford is truely a Parker boy.

THE BIRTH OF THE CANTON ASSEMBLY:-

The real Birth of the Canton-South Dakota Assembly transpired during our Second Year in Yankton. That Heaven sent Institution came in the realization of the Dream that came to Dr. J. O. Dobson, at the time ~~XXX~~ Supt. of the Sioux-Falls District. -Canton is a beautiful little City in Eastern South Dakota Situated on the Western bank of the Sioux River, a few Miles South of Sioux-Falls. -Just at the Extreme South of the City on the West bank of the River was an abrupt drop in the land Producing a Three or Four Acre Flat, around ^{its} Three sides the River winds in Southern Course, Three-Fourths of the Flat was covered with large, beautiful trees, When Dr. Dobson saw all that he had a vision of what might be done with it. Room for a large Auditorium up against the North bank, room for cottages and tents thro-out the wooded section.-

Within Three Blocks of the City R.R. Station. -With lines of R.R. crossing ^{East} and West, and North and South. No institution of the kind any-where about at that time, and People hungry for something of the kind.

In the name of the Methodist Church of the Sioux-Falls, the Track was bought, a Board of Managers appointed, Plans made, and work upon the Institution began at once. -During the Summer of 1902 the First Program was given. The Programs extended over a Ten day period. -I wish I might be able to indicate the Highlights of that First Program, but I am not. -Dr. Dobson believed in strong, Worth-While entertainment, and the effort was made to build up Entertainment that would be Educational. -Then the First the Crowds came. Each Season some outstanding Public man or character was secured, and on the day of his appearance Special trains for from 100 Miles back were run, and those trains were packed with passengers. -The Assembly came into existence at the very beginning of the Public use of the Automobile. During the First Session of the Assembly there were probably not Ten Privately owned Autos in the State of South-Dakota, within Three Years Scores came to the Session in Private Cars. -As the Auto increased in Popular use the crowds multiplied Year by Year. I remember some of the High-lights - Wm. J. Bryan - The Hero - Hobson - The Popular Lecturer Sam. Jones - Sam Small "Bob" LaFollette - Also Fine Music - and We went to the Assembly the First Season by rail from Yankton.

Tents were for rent and we secured one. The Rev. Slocum Family was there also. My folks who lived in the little town of Colman were there. And Father was so pleased, with the Assembly and the town that he bought One-Half Block of land and built a ~~C~~osy home and moved to Canton where they lived for many years. - For Years the Assembly provided our Annual Vacation Resort. It became the habit of Hundreds of Good People. - Many People of National prominence have spoken and sung from that Popular Platform. This continued for many Years; when the Chautauqua as an Institution waned, it had worn out, of course there was a Sameness to it Year after Year, as an Institution of Public Entertainment the Chautauqua lost its Glamor, but fortunately for us as the Assembly lost its grip on the Public the Evangelistic Era came to the church, and our Canton Institution slipped easily from the Entertainment character into the Evangelistic, and with Men of Nation-wide reputation to Preach, Sing and lead the Place enjoyed several years existence as an Annual-Gospel Camp-Meeting. - Again great crowds thronged the services. - There was developed a large Group of People who were happy to help support the Camp-Meeting.

Then the First war with Germany came, the People's interests changed and the Camp-Meeting Spirit gradually died out. - An effort was made to perpetuate the Canton Institution, but it finally died out. Canton is a Norwegian Lutheran City, that class had never enthused over this Methodist Institution, especially as a Camp-Meeting, they sought to gain control of it, and change it into a Public Entertainment Resort, which finally succeeded and the Methodist church sold it to that Worldly Group, and with the exception of the very much good it actually accomplished thro-out the Years, and also its value in providing wholesome and clean entertainment to Thousands of People, Dr. J. O. Dobson's Dream has become a happy Memory. -

ON THE WING AGAIN.

Five happy,successful years have passed,legally the limit for Methodist Pastorates,and we are expecting another Move.-On the Morning of Conference Sunday,I met Dr.Jenkins.also passing his Time limit as Superintendant of the Sioux-Falls Dis.who in conversation said "I know of no reason why you might not remain in Parker for another Year,J.B."I said the law says move,Mrs. Dibble and I have expected to move,I think its best'-

There were Two fine moves open to us,we might make our choice between them. GROTON,on the Aberdeen Dis.Dr.Geo.F.Hopkins,Supt.Bro.Hopkins had been quite urgent in his efforts to get us to Groton.-Groton ,like Parker was one of the strongest Second-grade churches of the Con.--

Then Clark,an the Watertown Dis.with Dr.W.I.Graham,Supt.was also open and quite urgently pressed upon us.This was in the same Grade as Groton

We made our decision that very Morning,we would have been pleased with Groton,but they were still using their Pioneer Property,and was not a County-Seat Town,while all Clark Property was quite new,and Clark was a fine,Thriving County-Seat,so I said "Yes" to Dr.Graham,and the next Morning the good Bishop announced"CLARK-J.B.DIBBLE".We had made no mistake in our decision.-Our Three Year Pastorate in Clark was one of the happiest and most successful of all our Ministry.-We had large Congregations in Clark,Morning and Eve.-Our church was very much in the ascendancy there. It was strengthened and honored by having in its Membership and Congregations,Prominent People.It was the home of the Samuel Elrods,Gov.of the state when we went there,but his term expiring,they moved back to Clark,and the Elrod Family always in church,and also active in the ~~public~~ affairs of the Church.-The Sherwoods were not Members of our church ,but constant Attendants upon its services,and Activities.Judge Sherwood,was very popular as a teacher in the S.S.He loved to teach.There was an effort upon all to be in his Classes.-He not only interested,but Instructed also.-He was acknowledged as one of the strongest Lawyers in the State Later was elected to the Supreme Judgeship of the State ,and spent many

years upon the Supreme Bench of the State, in Pierre, the Capitol. There were other quite prominent People in our Congregations. We found Clark much stronger than Parker. - Among other things it proved to be a very fine Wedding church. We lived right by the Court-house, where every Marriage must be secured. Just Two other Protestant churches in the city, The Congregational, Clear down across the R.R. Tracks, and the Lutheran, several Blocks from the Court-House. About Three-Fifths of the Young People had no personal choice as to whom should marry them, and would drop into the closest and most convenient Place. Every Couple would pass out Front-door in getting their License, and would stop. - I had Three Ten Dollar Weddings upon one Fourth-of July. - Married a Couple at 9 A.M. had breakfast, and received \$10. - At High-noon another Wedding, big dinner and \$10. Fee, at Four P.M. another with big Spread, and a \$10. Fee. - Several days we had Two weddings. -

Some quite important events transpired with us during our life there but I must not Miss the greatest of all. This occurred just a few Weeks after we came there. DEC. 8: 1907 - The Dr. was present, Also Nurse, and an elderly Woman who knew. - At the proper time the Nurse "Announced, IT IS A BOY" - My Patient Girl Across the Aisle said "ANOTHER BOY, OH. DEAR, AND I WANTED A GIRL, BUT IS ALRIGHT, THE LORD DOESN'T WANT US TO HAVE GIRLS" - - I have thought the Lord knew that Hettie had special skill in raising boys to Noble Manhood, therefore Boys. - Now, A Quartette, A Male, But each of those boys has honored his Mother in his Manhood. -

Two or Three NUGGETS during our Pastorate in Clark. I. The "JOHNSON EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNE" We secured Mr. Johnson, at the time a prominent Evangelist with his Group of Several workers. Singers, - Teachers, Young-People, Women, Finance &c. A very close organization. - We secured a Site near the Depot, and built a large Auditorium, and we needed a large one to Accommodate the great crowds who attended the services. All Three of the City's Protestant Churches, Methodist-Congregational-Lutheran, were associated in the effort. We had splendid local help, such Men as Gov. Elrod, Judge Sherwood, and others made it their effort, and gave it their best thought and action. - It proved to be a great effort. Two or Three Hundred People began the Christian life in these services. - Some of the baser element in the community conceived in some way that

this effort was in some way in opposition to them. That we were trying to curtail their Pleasures and Activities. - There was a Race-Horse eliment in town with its Park and Tracks, of which they were Proud. I am sure the Terms Race -Horse was not once mentioned in our meetings. - Well, that Group would show those crazy Church-Peop;e who were on top in the Community, so they chose a date right in the middle of our period, and announced a Three day period of Races and Sports. Filled the Community with Advertizing matter. We called upon the Leaders, asked them to defer their Function a few days until we were thro. - Elrod and Sherwood called upon their leaders, but in vain. Rev. Johnson, the Evangelist, insisted that opposing effort would not succeed, Sinners were being saved every day, God would not permit a bunch of lowdown sinners to defeat the Christian effort. It came the night before the Sport Days. Our meeting was very serious, I remember how The Gov. and the Judge prayed. The service was mostly Prayer. Dr. Johnson spoke a few Moments in an encouraging way. Assuring us again that the Sports would not be realized. The Sports crowd were in high Glee, they had^P the Church People Scared out on the and run, They may as well pay off the Money crowd, and tear down their old Gospel Shanty. -- The Vital Morning came, Dark Clouds over cast the Skies. The Devil's crowd was up early and busy. - About 8 A.M. People began coming into town for the Sports. They went out of their way to produce a racket and confusion. - I must shorten this true Story. -

About 9 O'Clock there began the worst serious of storms that I had ever seen I could not describe that Fore-noon. Lightening Flashed constantly, The thunde roared, shaking the building. - Hail piled down, Wind blew, It really looked as if the end had come. Some thought it had. Rains fell in torrents, the Race tracks were covered with Floods. About 11 A.M. it stopped storming, I went to the Auditorium, so far as I could see, not one bit of damage, and no water in it. - I went upon the Street, and there were men with mud[✓]er in their Hearts, They foolishly blamed us for the storms. That P.M. at the regular time for service the Auditorium was full of Worshipping People. Many who had come in for the Sports, having no other Place to go attended our services. - Without our placing emphasis upon it, The Baser crowd took it~~as~~ as a Divine Rebuke. - There was no more open opposition. The meeting advanced unhindered.

The Meetings ran with rising Interest and Power the Planned Four Weeks. New People appeared in each service, and the interest increased. - The best People of Clark felt honored thro the Effort. In the Meeting itself there was not One disharmony or Untoward incident. Perfect harmony and Good-Will marked the relations between the different Church People. - The Three Pastors came thro with Spirit of Love, Respect and Friendship that continued to bind them in a lasting Fellowship. - Just at the time of the Conclusion of our Meeting, there was beginniig in the city of Minneapolis and surrounding Cities a Great Conference of all the Evangelical churches of the Community. Evangelist Johnson, with his Group of Workers Planned to attend these Conferences, and did. He was one of the Active Leaders. - He showed his Good-Will toward we Three Pastors involved in the Clarkmeeting, by suggesting to the large, last Congregation that they grant us Pastors a Two or Three Weeks vacation, and pay our expenses to the Twin-City Conference. Judge Sherwood and Gov. Elrod both Championed the beautiful project, the Audience voted enthusiastically for it, and voluntarily more money was raised than was needed to send the Three of us to Minneapolis for Two Weeks. - For a Week the Con. was taken out to Excelsior, on the shore of Lake Minnetonka, we put in that much time out there

About an exact 225 People united with our Three churches in Clark from the meetings, beside a few Converts who united with other churches. The work of our churches was greatly quickened. - SouthWest of Clark a few Miles, in Logan Township lay one of the most beautiful, and fertile valleys in the State.

In the Pioneer days that Valley had been Homesteaded, but living conditions had been well-nigh intollerable and the early Settlers had become discouraged, and one after another had sold or abandoned their Claimes and moved to other Sections, and for years that beautiful Table land had been lieing desolate. A few People had remained. The Logan School-House could be seen for Miles. Running East-West across its Northern end, ran one of the most Active R.R. Lines in the state at that time, C.-Nw. East to the Twin-Cities, W. thro Redfield and on West. - That entire Logan Valley was in plain-view of the passing trains. - Well, While we were in Clark a great Real-Estate boom was on in

Logan Township. - People in Iowa would sell their farms for \$4000, or more (Per acre) come to Logan Valley and buy what they insisted was just as good, for \$1000.00

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Wisely or not they were doing. Every Settler who came to Logan had Money, and invested it in that beautiful valley. - There came one of the Highest Grade Communities in the State, and it happened that the Majority of them were Methodists. Too far for church in Clark, scarcely an Automobile in the country. One day a group of Half-a Dozen fine looking men, came to our Parsonage in Clark, and asked me if I would come out and preach to them in the Logan S.H. "Yes, I would be glad to" Right there arrangements were made, and at once at every Sunday P.M. I preached in the Logan S.H. to one of the finest Rural congregations I ever had. During our First Summer we organized a Rural church that became one of the strongest Rural Appointments in the Conference. When we left Clark at the close of our Third Year a fine Country church was under construction in the heart of that beautiful Valley. That Church ranks now as one of most prominent Rural Churches in the Conference. Just a few years ago I was urgently invited to go back to Logan for an Anniversary Day they were observing. Think I must tell a simple, true Nugget Story about one of our Logan experiences. -- The Logan S.H. was Nine Miles from our Clark Parsonage, mostly fine roads. - I drove a great big Grey horse. There were practically no Autoes in that Community. But, a venturesome Young man living in town, with Relatives in Logan, bought one of those great big Lumbering, First Overlands that came, The open type, You did not enter that car from the side as now, but like a Street-car from the Rear end, the car was new and the fine Young owner was duly proud of it. - It was a beautiful Sunday Morning in Summer, when the Young man came to me as we were leaving the Home church after service, and said "I am taking a group of Friends out to the Logan Service this Afternoon and would be glad to have you go. I had never ridden in an Auto at that time, and did I accept that invitation? - Yes, I did. To the S.H. one of the most delightfull Drives of my life. He had Five or Six nice girls from our church, among them his regular Young Lady.

After the Logan service as we ^{were} starting for home, he said "My Sister lives just down here, We will call there a Moment. When there, we must have a Snack which all was fine, but while there one of those Sudden Down-Pour of rain came, did not last long but transformed those smooth Black-Soil roads into grease. - Auto chains were unheard of at that time, and we drove right out upon

that Greasy Highway.-Road as smooth as a Parlour floor,Smooth rubber Tires.
I shall not be able to describe the antics of that infernal Machine.-The instant it struck the Highway it began to Skid and Act-Up.The Front would skid west,while the rear would slide East,and Vice-Versa.As many as Three distinct times on that trip that car turned completely around.Going East ,in an ~~XXXX~~ instant it would be heading straight West.Involving all the skill and nerve of the Driver to reverse it and head again toward home.Every time the car made a quick Squirm every one of those Girls with the exception of the Driver's Best Friend,Let out a scream that could be heard a Mile that Quiet Sabbath Eve.-Remember that was in the very beginning of the Auto ,there,for that Group.As it was my First experience,so I remember it was,also,of all those Girls except the one who sat by the Driver.When we finally arrived safely home and I had commended the wonderful skill of our Young Driver.He said"Mr. Dibble,I just had to get that Car safely home.Every Person in the Group was my invited Guest,I am responsible for them".The boy was a Beginner,did not Profess skill,was desperate with Personal responsibility.-I said"That trip was the Screamiest ,and most Nerve-Racking,of any I ever made"-I have not begun to amply describe the Slides,Skids,Twists,jumps,of that infernal ~~Machine~~ chine on that Ten Mile trip.Our Memories of Clark are very Comforting.-We now closed one of our most Fruitfulland Happy Patorates..

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-----THE ACID YEARS:-----

In every move we had made in our Ministry we had felt some degree of advancement.-Were closing in some respects the finest Pastorate todate.-In those days Methodist Ministers were ^{not} supposed to dominate the making of their Appointments,but subjected themselves to the judgment and Authority of the Appointing Powers,The Presiding Bishop,and Cabinet.The only protection our Men had,for themselves and their Dependant Families,was the honesty and Fairness of the appointing Powers.- That year I went to Con.as usual.Had a good report,but it proved to be one of those unfortunate years,that sometimes come,when Appointments of a certain Grade donot open.Thousands of Methodist Ministers have suffered from that.If up for a move,no Place of his Grade open.

open. That was the situation at that Con. for me. There was no criticism of our work. ~~Could not~~ Each year at Clark had been good, but Men of our Grade were ~~not~~ not moving that year. -And we were the Goat. -Then to Complicate the matter on Friday, as I remember there came a telegram from Clark calling me home for a funeral on Sunday. I tried to turn it down, but they kept after me. The Subject a Leading man of the community as well as the church. The Wife and Family refused to have any one else. I was their Pastor, they wanted Dibble. Finally Two or Three Men from the Clark church appeared at Con. and were very authoritative For reasons which they gave, that Family must not be offended, I must go, and finally consented and did so. Was not in Con. to look after my interests.

Dr. Dobson, Supt. of Huron Dis. took advantage of my unprotected absence to ~~work~~ work off a Problem that had developed on his Dis. and that he had helped to produce. -Howard, with another Town church of equal strength with a fair Parsonage, had constituted a Fair County-Seat Charge. Not as good as Parker or Clark, but tollerable. Dr. Dobson had succeeded in dividing that good charge in to Two charges, each of the towns heading a charge, and had succeeded in getting us appointed to Howard. -Monday A.M. we had not heard our Appointment yet, I was helping my Wife with her washing, I remember was on the Lawn when a Brother Pastor in passing our Home to his own Charge had been asked to ~~stop~~ stop and inform us. It came out later that Dr. Dobson had given the Cabinet to understand that it would be agreeable to us to take the Mutilated Charge of Howard. and had gotten us appointed to that Place. -Mrs. Dibble and I were Disappointed but felt that no one was to, any way Howard- would make a fair Charge. So we packed up and moved to Howard where we were doomed to the worst condition we had ever known. We found the Charge in the Throes of a Revolution. The division of the Charge was not the only bad thing that had happened.

On the Howard Official Board were Three Cronie Men who dominated the church. I said there was a quite tolerable Parsonage near the church, but one of these Three Men with his ~~had~~ had decided they wanted the Parsonage for their Family Home, and these Three Men had Bull-dozed the sale of the Church home to that Traitorious group, who had gone down on the Alley just back of the Hotel, and bought for less an abandoned house, that was not in use, Just Ten ~~Feet~~ Feet from a stinking Hog pen with a drove of big hogs in it.

Just Ten feet from our door, we measured it. - There was not a Storm door, nor Window. - The house was loose and open, We placed stoves in every-room, used. Suffered intensely from Cold all Winter. The Floors had big cracks in them, and were so warped we stumbled over them when walking upon them. - Those Three Men had ravished the Parsonage and Dr. Dobson had destroyed the church. I never knew another case to compare with the utter destruction of a good Charge as this. - There was a School-House Eight Miles North of Howard, that Dr. Dobson without any consultation with the Neighborhood People, had selected as the Out Appointment for the Howard Circuit. There a Couple Families of indifferent Methodists who had had no part in the church for years, living in this Community, These would be our Sole support. I was willing to go there each P.M. according to the Good Drs.' Plans. Remembering our fine victory in the Logan Valley, I dreamed that might be Duplicated here. My First Sunday, there were a mere Handfull, of People who acted strangely and out of Place. - I left and Appointment for next Sunday P.M. and urged the People to Spread the Announcement and see that the room was warmed. Next Sunday there were a few more People. There was a little Paper fire in the stove. People were sitting in their wraps, But I had the feeling that something was brewing. And conducted the best possible service, under the prevailing conditions, as quickly as I was Thro a Bombastic type of man came forward and Addressed himself coldly to me. He said much I would not care to repeat, even though I have forgotten it. But he told me plainly that the Community did not want services, would not support Services, had not been consulted regarding services, and Furthermore the Chairman of the School-Board had informed them that the S.H. was not to be used as a Church, after to-day. "If you come next Sunday, Mr. Preacher, You will find the building locked and the key in this Man's Pocket"

By this time we had been hearing direfull things from good Members of the Howard Church, in relation to Dr. Dobson's splitting of the Charge, and the Rape of the Parsonage by the Three Bosses. - But we were there, there offered no relief, we must Brave it out and make the best of it. The church was in a Furore. - One day, a little later Two Men, Intimate Conference Friends of mine, Each of whom had served a term as Dis. Supt, came clear to Howard to see us. They had heard of the terrible condition there, and out of their Friendship for us, and wishing to see for themselves the destruction of a good Charge made the trip. It proved a Life Saver to us. - These Men both knew of the past tollerable condition of the Circuit. - They were Con. Leaders, Well and Favorably known there, made a Thorough investigation. I took them out to the People that Dr. Dobson had made responsible for services in the S.H. Those People had not changed their attitude of opposition, When Notson and Harkness left they Assured My Wife and Myself that this condition would not last long.

They at once laid siege to the Bishop ,who lived in Omaha,and had Episcopal Controll of the "North-Nebraska " Con.BISHOP NEULSEN-

We Calked up cracks,we Set-up more stoves,we shovelled more coal,we piled on more blankets,We dug deeper into the savings from our recent Pastorates.I tried to comfort the family with the assurance that Winter would soon pass, and it would at least be warm.-I well remember the Spirit and Attitude Of My Sweet Girl Across the Aisle".She didnt complain,nor borrow Trouble once. As the Pastor's Wife it was her place to Sweetly make the best possible out of the conditions.She did say that she feared when the Pig-pen thawed out in the Spring that the Awful Stink would be greater.And another Winter would be coming.I Assured her that I would see to it that she should not be asked to spend another Winter in that house.I was considering in my mind the renting of a Decent Home in the Spring,but for the life of me I could not figure out where Money for Rent would come from.We were being paid a very scant Living.-But managed by using our Savings to get thro without Debts.I doubt if there was another Pastor's Wife,with Four Huskie boys,who could,or would have done so.-Spring was approaching in its slow South-Dakota way,but hope rising,somewhat,when one After-noon,while the older boys were in school,and Hettie at the L.A.S.meeting,and I alone with the Smaller boys,there came a long,determined ring of the Phone.Long Distance,from Bishop Neulsen from Omaha-Would we Transfer to the "North Nebraska Con.and accept the Appointment"to Plainview"-Bran new Church will be dedicated next Sunday,You should be on the Field for the Sunday following.Fine Parsonage &c.&c.-Letter Follow Yes,We will go.- Letter stated how the Methodist Church,because of its Ardent Temperance Activities had been burned and completely destroyed by the Saloon crowd.A fine Residence had been bought for a Parsonage,a new church built,to be dedicated next Sunday,but the Minister in Charge was just there for the rebuilding task,with the definite promise of relief when church completed.That time had arrived.We would have the First use,of what proved to be the finest Church building we had ever served,with one of largest and Choicest Congregations.Plainview was Heaven compared with Howard.-The fact of this new Property testified to the loyalty and congregation of that fine Group of Consecrated Christian People.Hettie had gone to her home for a

a short visit, taking Clifford and Rolland with her, While Robert, Paul and I rushed the packing. We found the fine House in Plainview empty and waiting. The Baptist Church property was directly across the St. from our Parsonage. ~~H~~ was a a Bach, the Pastor Patterson, I mean, living alone in a many Roomed house. -When Hettie and the boys came there was anxiety, Clifford had been sick upon the trip. We got ^{him} to bed. He had a high fever, and showed serious sickness. We called the Dr. who was very kind and thoughtfull. He finally said "I think the boy has Scarlett-Fever, which calls for a quarantine of 35 days for each case. I will decide in the Morning, in the meantime you had better get ready to move, unless you prefer to be Quarentined in with the Family. He suggested a room at the Baptist Home in Case. I had better see Mr. Patterson, which I did, We might have a room for as long as needed. Hettie and I didnot sleep much that night. We were happy that we were out of the old Howard Parsonage. -Well, I will be brief with this, Clifford had Scarlett-Fever, -We moved what we would need for living into the Baptist house, where Robert, Paul and I transfered ourselves for 35 days. -It was just a Normal ~~xxx~~ Case. -Hettie was abundantly able to care for him. -We were in plain sight of the home. We had no Phone so could not communicate that way. If during the night I saw the lights in our house Flick on and off, that would be an emergency. -She would stand in the door and converse with me out side. I went there several times a day. She Placed her order for needed things where I knew it was, and I would secure her needed things and place them on the Back Porch. Rolland was in the house with Hettie, who kept him from Cliffords room. We expected him to come down with the Fever, but good fortune was on our side in that particular. He didnot take the disease. Hettie was happy in spite of the untoward conditions. Clifford came thro in Normal time and Condition, Robert, Paul and I were comfortable in the Baptist home. A warm Intimacy develloped between Bro. Patterson and myself. Ours was the leading church in the little city, much stronger than the Baptist. -

Well, 35 days finally passed. The Authorities said we might return to our home, which we gladly did. Of Course Hettie had kept busy during those days, and had our home about settled. -The work in the church was starting in fine shape. I donot plan to say much about it. Just this Decidedly the best Charge

we had ever had. We received a most gracious Reception. Found one of the Highest Grade Congregations of our Ministry.--What about Howard? A good man just graduating from the Garrett Theological School, was secured as Pastor.

Bro. and Sister Minkler proved just the People for the Howard church. They have always said that the thing that woke up the Howard church and saved it was our leaving. There came a revolt against the domination by the Three Bosses. Others took hold. At once upon the coming of this fine, cultured Couple a new Parsonage was erected in which the Minklers lived for Seven or more Years.-- Other Appointments were added to the strength of the Charge until Howard is again, today one of the Strongest and most desirable Appointments in the Con.

We had a beautiful Pastorate in Plainview, one of the very best of our Ministry.--But I was Homesick for my good old, Dakota Con. I have never been contented elsewhere. People actually wept when we left Plainview.--^{with} The opened for our return and to a fine job. The People in Tyndall S. Dak. were left without a Pastor, while The Dis. Supt. found a man whom he believed might lead the church in the building of a parsonage that it was ready and wishing to build. They already had a very fine church, not very old.--We remained in Plainview the rest of the year in which we went there, was returned at Con. time and continued until February of the next Winter, when, one day, Dr. W. S. Shepherd, Supt. of the S. F. Dis. upon which Tyndall was located, came clear to Plainview to see us. He was imbued with the thought that we were the Folks to put the Tyndall Parsonage Project over. As it proved we were. He urged us to the best to return to our Con. and come to Tyndall, and that being quite in line with my inclinations we decided to do so, if he would get us Transferred back. Property Improvement was always my key task, I could build, and Improve, and loved the work. Bishop Neulson said "If Bro. Dibble wishes to return to ~~his~~ his Con. he shall do so, so as Spring was approaching we found ourselves moving back to our good South-Dakota.--The church received us cordially, we moved into the old Parsonage, but I have never known a church to be more unitedly ^{that} set upon a new Project than church on a Parsonage. I was at once given to know that was my task, and they were ready to help, and did royally with

Money, time and interest.--Within a Week from our arrival we had an Official Board Meeting at the parsonage where the Initial plans were made. The People

took the attitude that as this new building was to be the home of the Pastor, the Pastor's Folks should plan it.-For sometime Hettie and I worked Night ~~and~~ and day upon plans.-We secured Three distinct Books of House Plans, and from these framed up what has been recognized as one of the finest Precher's homes in the Dakota Con. A beautiful structure.-It happened that the Church property in Tyndall is located at just the head of Main St. and within the Fire Limit. There could be no structure erected there with wood exposure. I was acquainted with a Concrete Block maker in Hawarden Iowa, who specialized in Concrete houses. He would take your Plans and make you Blocks for that building. Each Block had its place in the Wall. I went to Hawarden, met this Man, we worked the matter out, he assured me our Blocks would be on our ground within a short time.-We at once began getting ready for our Project. The old house stood upon the site chosen for the new house. A farmer was ready to buy it and move it right away.-There was in the church a large not much used Gymnasium room, the Pastor's People would move in there for the Summer. While down by the Parsonage was erected a good, out side shed building in which we would cook and eat, and do the coarser work of the home, so that type of work was not taken into the church. We lived and slept in the church all Summer, and were perfectly comfortable and I think never more happy. Something tangible was being achieved.-We found our good Builders and before long those Blocks began to take on the form of a residence. The Gables were erected of Pressed brick, and with the Green Slate Roof blended and made a most attractive building.-The lower Woodwork was all done with Oak and Hard-wood-The house when completed was absolutely Modern, Bath, Hotwater &c.

As I have said it was an exceedingly busy, but happy Summer. We had done something that has for years blessed the Con. and is still blessing.

I felt that my work in Tyndall was done. Our relations with the church were fine and agreeable. The People were ^ataking our return, and expected we would desire to live in the new Parsonage, but I felt there was nothing for me to do there.-Dr. Rosenberry, the Man of whom I have spoken as following us to Yankton, had become Supt. of the S.F. Dis. He was an aggressive man, with his eyes open for opportunities to build or do something for the Kingdom. There were Two Methodist churches in S.F. First Church, on the West Side, and what is now

"WESLEY" on the East side ,but then known as the "EAST-SIDE"-If Churches do not advance they Retrograde,go backward.They cannot long Stand still."East-Side" was standing stil.-It lacked builders.The People were of a type. They needed Aggressive Leadership.Possible he was mistaken ,but Dr.Rosenberry gave us credit for being that type,he beleved we might start "East-Side" Urged us to go there,and I was ready,glad to try my hand at that new church And encouraged by the Abnormal Ease and success of the Tyndall Parsonage I was ready to tackle any thing.-So accepted Dr.Rosenberry's urgent invitation

-WE MOVE TO THE EAST SIDE.-

May I say right here we had a happy,good year on the East-side.-No untoward thing happened.Fine,appreciative congregations.-A very conservative Group.But,I got along with ^{them} nicely.The East Side was somewhat under the ^{OW} Shadow of First Church,but I found no trouble in holding our People,which we did thro-out the year.-The Methodist Pocket and Money in S.F.was largely in the Pockets of First church.The larger Business Men were on the West side,and for Years there had been an ambition to get on the West side.That was where Society led.-We had a very fine Modern Parsonage,but the church was old.

As soon as I could hold the ear of the church People I began to talk new building,Largely that brought a coldness into the meeting.-I found a rear. They were afraid they might be trapped into a great debt,and had no appetite to risk it.-Finally they put it up to me.They came to this Official decision If I would secure \$7000.-of what they believed were reliable Subscriptions they would consider the new building.That challenge plunged me into the hardest Summers work of my life.-I tramped and begged,day after day,some days I would dig out a good Sub.or more,other days not enough to pay for the ~~XXXX~~ I wore out.But I saw it thro to Con.But I had gone beyond my Goal \$7000. But I was an exhausted man.I have always believed,and my good Wife felt sure it was true,I came very near to completely knocking myself out that year. Dr.Rosenberry felt it and said I must not remain on the East side,altho the demand for our return was urgent.-I worked on that enterprize so tremendously that there came with the victory a complete revulsion of the whole thing.I remember saying to Dr.Rosenberry"Any where but here"-

He was sympathetic.Said we had done a great work there-that he had a Place for us that we would love.We left the East-Side in the heat^riest Spirit of Good-Will and harmony.-Dr.Rosenberry said he had a man for the East side whom he believed would carry the Church Enterprise thro to completion. Brother W.H.Deller,who came and carried thro to completion one of the most beautiful churches in the Dakota Con.-

II2

"Onward Christian Soldiers
Marching as to War,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on Before."

WE MOVE TO BERESFORD.

This was one of the happiest moves we ever made,and proved to be one of the Busiest and most Fruitfull of of all our Ministry.A great task and Victory awaited us.-We found in Beresford one of the Raggedest,Dishevelled,Smashed up Property we had ever come to.An Acre of old Pioneer buildings,in the most Disreptible condition.-To Add to the Disorder not long before a Cyclone had destroyed the old church,which had been patched up and was still being used. Bro.W.O.Redfield our Predecessor,had been there several years,Was a sort of Farmer Preacher,Had kept Stock,Horses and Cows,had fenced in the Parsonage lawn for a Cowyard.-Oh,That Ramshackle condition of that Lord's Home.

But Miracles are ready for realization.A new Class was forming.A Group of Young Business Men were waking up,All good,ardent Methodists,taking hold of things in the church.Hal Sturgis-The Town Paper Owner-Editor,Harry Lemon, Prop^ritor of the Cities fine large General Dp^rtmnt Store.-Marvid and John Carlson,Implement and Auto Dealers,and veritable Hustlers,Johnie Ontjes, the Rustling Banker,-Gerry Muilenburg,The Wide awake Creamery Man,-Will and Fred Thompson,Active Builders and Contractors,-Dr.Hanson,Leading Physician, Werter Smith,Leading Groceryman,and some others,less prominent but as efficient.I found that the Business,the Hustle and most of the Money of the town were Methodists,and in our church.But,the church so run down that it was ~~xxx~~ We set ourselves to reorganization.Began with our Official Board,and in a short time had succeeded in building up an Wide awake,active Board of 16 Prominent men of leading affairs in the town.They came to be dubbed the Great Six-teen" They went thro with us in Four Years of active Construction.

That Group of 16 Men became the most efficient, active, interested Church Board, we ever had. They made that church their united Job.

Of course I had a new church in mind, and was shaping up for it. The L.A.S. had been permitted to lapse, and I would not start a Church enterprise with the Women unorganized. I called the Women together, and found them as Wide-awake and interested in the church Activities as the men, Their Husbands. We quickly organized, what became one of the Leading L.A.S. of the Dakota Con. What that little group of consecrated Women accomplished during the next few years would rank with Miracles. - When we came to it the Church was small in Membership, I remember just 80 Members, Men, Women and children, but by all odds the most Peppy, efficient group I ever worked with. - There was not a "Cheap-John" Among them. They agreed they must have the best. -

I shall not forget the meeting in which we definitely decided to erect the church. Our "16" with the Ladies Aid leaders were present. They put this Proposition before me, "We intend to Build an entire new Church equipment. this old stuff must come off this corner. - It probably would not be wise to under take at the same time, Two buildings, but we agreed later that that was the one mistake we made, that we did not. In that meeting they told me "We will leave the matter as to which shall be built First, Church or Parsonage"

I said I am ready to answer that Question, Lets have the Church First. That pleased the "16" - What shall we do? We want the new church right here where the old one stands. That was discussed, sell the old, have it moved off, go to some hall as a place of Worship. That did not quite suit that Group of Business It would take all Summer to build the Church. When Werter Smith said almost on the Side, "So-So spoke me other day, He owns that Fifty Foot Lot ^{to} lieing along our North line, between us and the Water Tower, He is anxious to sell, tired of the City Taxes, will sell for a Song, Let's buy it, we lack room move old church upon it, where we can worship while building, then sell it, That almost Playfull suggestion took fire at once. A Com. to see Lot owner at once was raised. All that took Place, and Site for new church Ample and clean soon prepared. Before we closed that meeting, Harry Lemon with the Unanimous "AMEN" of the entire Group said, "Now, Bro. Dibble. we want a Church on"

this Corner and not a Shanty.-It happened that First Church S.F.was then building,as the East side soon was also,Over a little way from Beresford in the town of Irene a beautiful new church was under construction.Some of our Men and myself drove to Irene and investigated the new structure there. Our Men were greatly pleased and said we want that type of Structure,Let's secure their Architect John Chapman of S.F.which we did.He came to Beresford and planned with us our new building.I remember he said when leaving "I will plan Beresford a Baby First Church"which he did,Our church was an almost complete image of the New First Church.-Our newly organized L.A.S.had already Pledged \$1000.toward the new church.That sounded good for a new Society,but I saw it was not heroic enough ,they must come down deeper,in my mind I fixed them for another \$1000.-.These were thorough Business Men I was working with and they insisted that our Business be done according to Business Principles.We started our Project,had that beautiful basement ready when we decided to have a day for planning and Inspiration We will get Bishop Luccock to come and plan with us.That we did,Our Ladies in about their First Function put on a great Banquet in the spacious room of the Carson Impliment House,Crowds thronged us.-One main thing for that meeting was the lining up of our Financial Management of the enterprise.I had asked all Members of the Aid Society to be present as I wished to meet them.As I was moving about I heard one leading Woman say to another"I wonder what the Preacher wants of us Women.If more Money,we will give him to see that no more until this Pledge is paid".That did not sound good for my added \$1000. But the Women assembled in fine form.But I saw their bristles were up.I had taken Bishop Luccock in with me.He understood perfectly the situation and the purpose of the meeting.The Bishop made a fine speech on the Subject of the Heroism of ordinary achievement.He showed those good Women that all success calls for the heroic action.He captured the Women and within Thirty Minutes we had them signed up for their Second \$1000.-Before that entire building Project,Church and Parsonage had ended,that band of heroic Women had actually raised and paid into the church \$5000.- In the meantime that day the Men were being just as heroic.In consultation with the banker this plan was formulated and worked thro to the completion-Those Sixteen men each assumed

a pledge of \$500.-to be to the bank regularly as the work continued. Not one man fell down upon the plan. That secured our Building Money. Every Sat. night every Workman, and all dealers met Johnie Ontjes, our Banker Paying Teller, and recieved their Weekly due.-That was one of the finest systems I have ever known.-Of course those men all paid more than the \$500.-No man of the "I6" paid less than \$1000. several paid \$1200.-On the day of dedication more than enough was provided for to meet all our obligations.-We had a sale and a farmer bought the old church for \$300.--during the Winter he and his hired man tore it down, sorted the lumber, which when neatly piled made a veritable Lumber Yard. One day as Harry Lemon was passing our Place he said to me Bro. Dibble right there we made our tragic mistake of the entire Project for \$300. we let that farmer have over \$2000. worth of good lumber. Now we are racing a new parsonage, which they built, a fine home, within the next Five Years, that lumber would go a long way toward building the new structure.

This was the year of 1914, just on the Eve of the First World War. But we got our enterprize safely over before the Financial crash came. Our pledges were payable in Three distinct Annual Payments. I remained with the new church Three years, making my pastorate with the church Four Years. Beautiful Years. Brother One Armed Frank Thompson and I were made Collecting Stewards of the Building Pledges. Each year every one owing was seen, and practically all paid when we left there in 1917 the Pledges were practically all collected and the building loans at the bank all paid.-It was one of the finest and cleanest Projects I had ever been associated with.-Between the church and ourselves were the warmest and most intimate relations. I judge that so far as the church was concerned we might have continued there indefinitely, but again my job is done, Church perfectly organized, rebuilt and paid for, and my good Bro. Jimmie Harkness, Supt. of the Huron Dis. has a job waiting for us so at the Con

WE MOVE TO ALPENA.-

A new Charge, to us now upon the great Prairie of the "JIM RIVER VALLEY". One of the best organized and active Churches we had ever moved to. I will not prolong this Story with mere details, but just relate activities.

Alpena at that time had strong, active Methodist church.-They had a good, ~~new~~ quite new Church building, which recently burned, with a new one now in use, The Parsonage was a good building, but not Modern. There lay our task, and we applied ourselves to it and won.-The First great World war was on, and of course we felt its power and demands.-Alpena was a German Community which multiplied our relations somewhat, but we had a beautiful, harmonious Pastor ~~in Alpena~~ ^{here}.-Robert had been in the War from the beginning, had been across, ~~and~~ while we were there Paul graduated from the Mitchell College. Clifford and Rolland were at home.-The good farmers out here found it difficult to find men to do their harvests and threshing. We all helped. I shocked oats all thro.- One day Two big Farmer Bros. Members of our church, came to the Parsonage and said "Do you know any thing about a J.I. Case Separator, Bro. Dibble"? I assured them at one time I could have built an J.I. Case S~~ep~~erator. Twenty Miles to Huron where they had bought a new Case Threshing out fit. They are trying to start it, but the grain persisted in running over the Sieves into the Straw Stack, Could I do any thing with it? Strange proposition to put up to a Preacher. However, I might remedy the trouble and save them a trip to Huron. I went with them. After a little while of investigation we made the proper adjustments and the machine was running perfectly. That little touch of Mechanical skill did not hurt me a bit with that Farmer Community. I pitched bundles to that machine for days. Well, a Short Cut, We remained with that good church Two years and left our mark upon it in the Internal improvements of the Parsonage. We raised the building from the ground, Put in a fine modern Basement, New Furnace, Water, a Cess Pool, outside, a complete Bath equipment. All this called for some changes in Stairs, Closets &c. Up stairs.-

But we left the Alpena Parsonage completely Modernized. During our last Weeks in Alpena Robert returned from the war where he had been Two and One-Half years. His mother and I took him to Huron, Twenty Miles, where he stocked himself with a new equipment of Civilian clothes.-After his Graduation Paul came home and was working with a Carpenter Crew. Wages were good. Paul was ~~was~~ Planning to go to Garrett that Fall for his Theological Course, which he did.

Robert got work on the same crew with Paul until The Year should open at State College Brooking, to which he would return and complete his Course ~~xxxx~~ broken by the War.-Which all took Place

Not on the Cut and form of his Clothes,altho ,These are important.Much depends upon what a Minister wears,and now he wears it,But this has more to do with his Activities.How he preaches.-From the First Hour of my ministry the making and preaching of sermons were my major tasks.-I began my Ministry in Dakota Ter.in the Autumn of 1888.-There existed a very definite taste for a certain type of preaching,Then there was also the more general Methodist Type.Methodist Preachers didnt Preach Like Baptists,Pres.or Congoes.-

My First Years Ministry was to Three different Agricultural Congregations, who had been deprived of any preaching for some years.But,While that was ~~true~~ true I found those Farmers had quite decided preferences as to their preaching.The Sermon must be alive and earnest,and delivered without Manuscript.

I prepared my sermons with care.Wrote carefully,and fully my Outlines.I was blessed with a good memory and could retain much matter without Paper.During the First Twenty Years of my Ministry I took practically no Paper in the Pulpit.Every sermon carefully written,but its contents Committed,until I could stand and unhampered deliver it,in my mind,as I advanced,turning the pages.-People said they liked my preaching.Until the very last years of my Ministry I had Three regular Public Services each Week,The Sunday Morning Service,The Evening Service,and the Wednesday night Prayer-Meeting.I will say,right here,that my Prayer-Meeting Talk received very carefull preperation.I gave the entire Day ,each Week,to my Prayer-Meeting service.I always maintained a good P.M.Audience,many of the most thoughtfull People of our Congregations attending.Brother Cotes,a Sholarly,thotfull,County SUPT.of Schools,who never missed our Weekly P.M.services,said once,so I heard him,"We get more Soul-Food from Bro.Dibble's P.M.Talks than from the Sermons we hear".-Every P.M.Service was Clear-Cut.

I Disliked to go asleep On Sunday Night until I had decided what I was to Preach about the next Lord's Day.And I usually knew.-One-Half of Sermon making is the Text and the Theme.-Monday I raked leaves,hoed garden,or whatever Home duties that presented,On Tuesday Morning,seldom ever as late as Eight O'Clock,I was in my Study for the entire A.M.-That was true for each

Succeeding day of the Week,including Saturday.-I seldom,except to my Sunday P.M.Service repeated a Sermon without rewriting it.-For my Sunday Afternoon service I would select from the Two the one I felt to be the most appropriate out mostly the A.M.Message.-I have been told many times that I was a Slave to my Sermonic System.I probably was,but I never felt Subjected.I loved it I loved to make sermons and preach them.-And would now.

One Sad Afternoon,in the Hush of my Home after my Beautiful Companion had been taken from me,and I must surrender our home to Strangers,and I must rid it of my Refuse,I stood before the Kitchen Range and passed into its glowing flames,over Eight-Hundred Sermons,and other Preparations,upon which had gone 48 Prayer saturated Years of my life.-When Men are Cremated their Ashes are Preserved,I wished I might have preserved the ashes of that Bushell of my Perspiring Brain effort over the period of a normal Life-time.

I came into my Ministry Illy Prepared for that Sacred Task,I must make up the Sad lack with the hot-blood of Consecrated effort.-If I could relive my life,I would Dedicate it to this Sacred Work,but I would prepare myself for it.

YES WE ARE MOVING AGAIN.

This time back on the old Home Prairie,EGAN,-Our Family were Pioneers of the Moody- County-Father was Egans Pioneer Preacher.-Charley and I had both worked at Egan.-A quiet nice little town,with a good Methodist church.A practically new Church building and a quite new Modern Parsonage,Perhaps the finest we ever had.-I was glad to get back on the old Prairie,and was glad to go to Egan.-I was uneasy,the little Dakota towns were wearing me down.A constant ~~XXXXX~~ Sameness,Sterotyped tasks,no real change,I was wearing out from it. Altogether my fault,not that of the church that we only remained 1½ Years in Egan.Had a flattering opportunity to go to the Beauty-Spot of Winter-Park Florida,accepted and went,at the close of our Second Winter in Egan.We had had no Trouble here,but I must go.-So the 5th.of Feb.1921 I preached for the First time in our beautiful Winter-Park-Florida church.-I was a Member of the St.Johns-River Con.-Everything about Winter-Park has beauty inscribed upon it.The People were Par-excellent,the Finest ever,but with Spring every thing shut up,and the people mostly TouristsHied back North,I disliked the

South, was Homesick for my old Con. Dr. Mattison, Dis. Supt. of the S.F. Dis. said Garretson has no Pastor, would be happy if you care to take it". We did, leaving Winter-Park on Decoration Day, May 30.-

We received a most cordial Welcome in Garretson, and had a beautiful, Pastorate there. One day, as we closing our Second year in that Place Hettie's Cousin John Doughty came from White with the express Purpose of securing our consent to go there for the next year. We had put in a good, but they thought unfinished Pastorate, when we listened to Dr. Dobson and went to Yankton, "Come back now and complete that Pastorate" I said "Oh, John I Don't want to go back to that old Pioneer Property". He "Said we plan to build. If you will come, we will build a new church", I believed the rascal, we left a happy place and was appointed to White. When it all came out, John Doughty had been rankly dishonest in his representations, The church resented any thought of building, had never authorized Cousin John to make such inducements.- But the whole thing produced an unfortunate atmosphere. The People did not blame us, they insisted that we had been taken in.- We had good appreciative congregations. During the Second year we were able to Modernize the Parsonage. Raised the quite large house from the ground, dug and built under it a modern Basement. Put the city water in the house, both on First Floor and in basement. Built an expensive and modern Cess-Pool, just outside. Arranged for Bath-room, with Water Mains just below floor. It all constituted a very fine, and clean job, which cost the church just \$1000. So we felt we had accomplished something. Had a good Two Years pastorate.- Our good old Friend Dr. C. E. Mattison was urging us back on his District "If you will take Harrisburg this year, something better next year" We accepted nice little Harrisburg that year, when offered the really good Appointment of Hurley, with its fine new Parsonage, and Davis, Our last Appointment and last Ministerial Move., The Autumn of 1925.- We were approaching our expected Retirement because of age.- Served the Year 1926 there, returned at that Con. for another year served together until April of 1927, when I was called to Florida on Business. Hettie had gone to spend the time of my absence with the Slocums, in the Parsonage there, when on day a telegram came to me "Hurry Home Hettie very sick" I came at once. Bro. Will met me at the Station. "How is Hettie?" "Hettie is among the Angels, She passed away

this Morning"-My sweet little Girl across the aisle who had walked by my side,helping to bear the burdens of a Dakota Pastorate,for Thirty-Six Years, has gone to her eternal rest.And,OhThe Aisle separating seems so wide.

We had a beautiful service for her in the Yankton Church,which she had loved deeply.Dr.Jenkins,old Friend whom she and I had entertained in our home,Many many times,conducted the service,and brought a comforting message.-The fine Choire of ~~the~~ our church,under the direction of its efficient leader,Prof. E.E.Collins provided the music.-Friends from the Yankton church acted as ~~the~~ Pall-Bearers,Everybody was sympathetic,and did all they could for us.After the Service ,which was attended by several Car-loads from our Hurley church, Dr.Jenkins and I standing before her Casket,when he said"She was the best Mother in the Conference,J.B."-We laid her to rest in the Yankton Cemetery. It was a cold Spring day.Some slight Snow Flurries,as we Bade Good-By to our "Chubbie"-Our "Sweet-heart"-For Thirty-six beautiful years my faithful companion.It was an empty House I went back to in Hurley that April Eve.The ~~boys~~ Boys,with the exception of Paul in India,and Rolland,sick at Slocums,unable to come home,and as I remember,Clifford who staid over the next day,when we drove to Yankton and brought Rolland home.Clifford,then left for his work, and Rolland and I were alone.-I shiver when I think of those long,sad and lonely days.-But all that could be done for our Loved one had been done. I must face the future.Perhaps I made a mistake ,to have our regular service on Sunday,just Three days away.Dr.Collins thought we did.Hettie was a Member of the Choire,and her absence made it hard for them to function.-They were afraid I would break in the service,but I had a Prayerfull Controll of myself and passed thro the service without Incident.-

Hettie and I had decided to make our Retired home in Florida,I had gone down and secure a beautiful site,and Rolland had gone down to work,and help get things ready for our coming,but he had been taken sick and Placed under Quarentine,that was the reason of me down there when his Mother was taken.I had planned to bring Rolland home with me,but the Drs.objected,that he was not well enough yet.My urgent call hurried me away.I left money for his Fare home.When he recieved word of his Mother's death,he prevailed on the Health Folks to raise the Quarentine and let him out,which they unwise, did.

He got to the Slocum Home in Yankton just as we were leaving for the Services at the church. Rolland was not able to go. A Nurse volunteered to remain with him, until, As I said, Clifford and I went for him the next day.-

He and I put in the most of that Summer, when he secured a Position in the Asylum for the Insane in Yankton, as Guard of a Ward. He worked there as I remember, about, or more than a year.- I continued my work, living alone in the Parsonage.- I was kept so constantly busy with my work that I had no time to think, or brood upon my Lonely condition.- It had not occurred to me that the Church People would want the old, alone. Man as their Pastor, and I was greatly surprised when at the last Quarterly Con. of the Year, Mrs. Schroedermeier, made the Motion that Bro. Dibble be returned as their Pastor for the coming year. That Motion carried with almost tremendous favorable vote. It seemed to me the best thing I could do, stay right there, and keep busy. After Con. and I was returned and graciously relieved, My Sister Mrs. Andrew Whealey proposed that we relieve the Slocums for the Winter of the care of our old Mother, who ~~might~~ might come to my fine Modern home, when Andrew and Sarah would come, keep my home, which all beautiful Plan not only worked that Winter of 1927-1928, but the next ~~also~~ also 1928-1929, During the Spring of 1929 Mother was taken from us and we laid her to rest by the side of her Life companion in the beautiful Iuka Cemetery in Lincoln Nebraska.- Just the day that Mother died in the Hospital in Yankton, Paul with his family arrived from Madras India where they had been in Missionary work for Five Years. The next day they went with us to Lincoln for Mother's burial. Came back and lived with me for some Weeks, when they left for Chicago where Paul entered the Chicago University. I was left alone, but not for long. Some gracious Plans were shaping which would relieve me of my lonely condition, I hoped forever.- One of the leading and most active Members of our Hurley Church was Miss. Zora Inez Polley, a beautiful Maiden Lady, living as companion to her aged Mother, Mrs. Daniel Polley. They lived in their own home one Block of my Parsonage. During the short ~~while~~ while that Hettie had lived there an Unusual intimate friendship had grown up between these Elect Women, in some way so much alike. They were both very expert Seamstresses, and loved their needles. During Hettie's last Winter, Zora had spent several Afternoons in our home sewing with Hettie.

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~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~-- Zora Polley was of a Quiet, Reserved and Modest Type, Who got much Joy out of life, but took her Responsibilities seriously. I was always impressed with Zora's Conscientiousness, and Spirit of Justice. She would at once respond to the defense of what she Believed the Right, and Just.

To Me she very much resembled Hettie, in appearance and Personality.- Perhaps that was the reason why during the few Months that Hettie lived in Hurley, a close Intimacy Sprang up between those Elect Women.

Grandma Polley was a very Superior Woman in her intelligence, and Character, She so much depended upon Zora, who had been her constant attendant and companion since Daniel Polley her husband was taken, that she came to accept Zora's attentions and Care as Matters of Course, as belonging to her, and she assumed a Proprietorship over Zora, who belonged to her. She did not object to me, Personally, only as I was taking Zora from her. She told me "Any one who has raised as many Daughters as I have should have one for herself, and the One she Prefers"-Which in this case was Zora as the others were Married, with Families. She said "You are a Chicken-thief stealing my Girl", who was at that time approaching Forty-Five Years old.-

With Zora and me there was no Formal Courtship, we were drawn together by a Mutual Impulse. I was alone and needed her greatly, She had the natural impulse of Womanhood, and Longed for the home where she would be the respected Mistress.-Because of Grandma's attitude we must not try to be Married in Zora's home. We agreed that Bro. W.P. Slocum, then Pastor of our church in Yankton should conduct the Sacred Ceremony.-On October 29-She and I would drive to the Slocum home.-One day Mrs. Schroedermeier, Zora's Sister asked me why we did not come to the Schroedermeier Home for the ceremony. To us that was a Heavenly Suggestion, We accepted, and Zora's Sisters gave her a real Wedding, to which all their Relatives were invited, and to which the most of them accepted. A Beautiful Wedding dinner, not a mere lunch, was provided and served by those Same good Sisters, and Ethel, their Sisterinlaw.-

Rev. and Mrs. Slocum came from Yankton for the Ceremony, and stayed at the Parsonage over night with Zora and Me. Leta, Mrs. Hall, Zora's Widowed Sister would stay with Grandma until better arrangements could be made. At the time Grandma

was outside the Pale of our immediate Influence. Our task was to thaw her out, when we were ready to care for her. That time before long. Grandma was hungry for Zora, when she found that her petulant obstinacy would get her nowhere, she surrendered her Pride and Yielded to our desire to assist her. Grand Ma's Home was just One short Block South of the Parsonage. Grandma insisted in maintaining her home, so the Mother and Daughter Decided this Plan, Grandma would stay with us nights, eat Supper and Breakfast with us. Each Morning Zora would conduct her to her home and get her Fixed for the day, in the late P.M. Zora would go for her and conduct her to our home for the night

That plan worked beautifully until May 8: 1935, In her own home, Where Zora and I had lived One Year, Grand Ma Passed away. - She had Bequeathed the Town Home to Zora, as well as Zora's share of the Farm, which was divided Equally among the Five Children. - After Grandma's death Zora and I lived by ourselves in the old Family home. - The Church kindly perpetuated our Pastorate for Ten Years. During the year of 1934 my health broke and I was compelled to quit the Work, and in April we resigned the Pastorate, and Retired from the Active Ministry, and Moved into Grandma's home, now Zora's. - Upon our Marriage I had presented Zora with a new 19³⁰ Model Chevrolet Automobile, as a Wedding Gift. This continued to be our Family Car. Zora had never cared to learn to Drive, but she Loved the Car and Develloped into a real Chevvie Fan. -

During the period of our Married State, Twelve Years, we made several quite extended Vacattion and Tourest Trips. - We Toured the Blak-Hills Twice. We Spent one Vacation at Long Lake Wis. - Also one at Thayer Lake, on that trip we with Pauls Circumnavigated Lake Mich. Around the South side, Gary &c. Up the entire East side to the Straits which we crossed with our car in the Steam Ferry, then a Side trip to Sault-Ste-Marie-to View the Great Lockes where the Lake Shipping is raised and lowered to a common levil. Then down the West shore of Lake Mich. to our starting Point, Rochelle-Ill. a complete Circumnavigation of the Lake, Only by Chevvie. - Then Zora and I gave the World's Fair in Chicage, in 1933, anX extended Visitation. - Zora loved these Auto trips. Her last was made during the Summer of 1940, Pauls had come to Hurley for us, Roberts were to take us back to Hurley. - We visite at Pauls, in Rchelle, and had been at Roberts, in Arlington-Heights, on Sunday, Oct. 6, Rocerts took us to

Rollands home in Galena, where we also met Pauls, the Three Families were observing my 80th. Birth-day, which was due Tuesday Oct. 8th. - Paul's Con. was in Session in Freeport, not far from Galena, at the¹⁸ Con. Pauls received their Appointment to FOURTH ST. AURORA, where they still are. However, we found Pauls at Rollands. - They did justice to Grandpa's 80th. - On Monday, Roberts, Zora and myself left for our own good home in Hurley. Roberts remained over Tuesday, helping me with some work, when they returned to their home. - That proved to be Zora's last Vacation trip. - We were settled in our own home, where we were always happy. A Black Cloud was hanging over us, but we did not discern it. In December it became necessary for Zora to go to the Hospital in Sioux Falls, where it was discovered she^{was} deeply afflicted with a deadly Cancer. Within the Ten days She took Two Major operations, and returned home, but in July was returned to the hospital for another Major Operation. After this Third operation she declined quite rapidly until Sunday High-Noon, Sept. 21, in the home she Loved, and in the presence of Bros. and Sisters, and Families, and a few Friends, Her Pastor and his wife, and her Husband, closed her Eyes, and Precious one passed from us. - The World has been dark ever since that Sabbath noon. - Every one in that Community knew and Loved Zora.

On Wednesday 11.30 A.M. Her Four Step-Sons, Robert, from Arlington-Heights, Paul, from Aurora-Ill. - Clifford, from Dallas - Texas, - and Rolland from Robbinsdale-Minnesota, Tenderly lifted the Casket containing her Precious remains, and conveyed it to the Church, of which she had been a devoted Member all her ~~Nature~~ life, of which for Five beautiful Years she had been the efficient Wife of the Pastor, and Placed it by the Alter, at which she had knelt in Holy Communion many, many times, and where for Two and One Half Hour she Lay in Silent and reverent "WAIT", Gently guarded by holy Women with whom she had labored for the church in Holy devotion for years. - At 2.30 the church was filled to capacity with People there to honor her Sweet Memory. There were People there from nearly 100 Miles distant.

Zora had arranged for her last Services, Six Women of the Church, Sang, Five of her Nephews, with Jimmie Slocum were selected as Pall Bearer, Her Pastor, The Rev. Albert E. Hocking brought a beautiful Memorial based

on the appropriate Scripture Words "She Hath Done What She Could".
We lad her to rest in the beautiful City of God where so many of her Loved
ones Lie, and with he await the Masters final coming.--

It has been a lonely World since Zora went.-If conditions Favored I would
spend my last Days, amid the Scenes of our Hallowed Fellowship.

She, "Duckie"-lies by the side of "Chubbie", and some day not so Distant I
shall rest with them.

I feel that here is the Place to Close "PRAIRIE NUGGETS-IF any of my Friends
have the disposition to read these simple Pages I hope you may derive as much
pleasure from their Perusal as I have in the Writing.

THE END.

(Duck - This must have been written
about 1950 or a little earlier. ~~1950~~)