

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 to do, 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 People, 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 ⁿYakton 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 ⁿYakton, 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 ~~the~~ 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. Olin, 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. --

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 Plat form. 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. -

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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-Congo-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 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. ~~It~~ 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.--The ^{way} 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 Kettie 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, Proprietor of the Cities fine large General Dpirtmnt 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 ~~was~~ 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~~x~~ 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 how 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 Choir of ~~our~~ 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 Choir,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 Sister in law.-

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, an 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~~)