

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

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

--:NUGGET FIVE:--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the quiet of our room Grant and I agreed that our "Goose WAS COOKED".-
We felt doomed to Everlasting hatred and contempt. TOO-BAD-

The worst feature of all was the serious fact that "OUR BEST GIRLS had gone down in the terrible crash.-They would probably never go with us again.
On the next Sunday P.M. with My Heart I went to No. 13, and Gingerly asked my Young-Lady to go to church with me, She voluntarily shived, rubbed her shin and said, "I DONOT KNOW THAT I CAN WALK TO THE CHURCH. I HAVE BEEN CRIPPLED EVER SINCE THE CRASH".-But she decided that after the hard things she had said, she should go to church.-Which she did and with me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WAY INTO MEMBERSHIP INTO A MINISTERIAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEACONS and ELDERS.-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning in our State.-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUTPOURING OF BLESSING UPON THE WINNEGER COMMUNITY-

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

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

This Meeting was Characterized by the remarkable conversions that occurred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I

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

In those Pioneer Days Methodist Ministers didnt consider Conditions Much.

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

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

I found no Methodist church building in W.L.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

was an Infidel, they were somewhat afraid of him. -He came to the Rock-bed where we were loading, greeted the men cordially. -Said help Yourselves. He cautioned them to be Choosie of the rocks selected, not all rocks could² be used. It took us some Hours to load. It was a Mile into town, We drove in a rocky Procession, I marshalled them about a Center, I remember saying "Brethren ~~Those~~ Those are good, solid rocks. no danger of breaking them if they do strike hard. Those good Farmers caught the hint, and baggedⁿ those Five loads of rock upon that pile, that was about as large as the City Hotel, when the loads were grouped. -I had taken these men to the hotel for dinner. -I verily believe that while those rocks were being pounded on the pile that One Half or more of all the Men in town came out there. "What's going on" "Whatⁿ are you doing" - Why, Havn't you heard? Wer'e building a new Methodist Church" -

Directly after the loads were off and the good Farmers had gone to their ~~homes~~ homes, I went to my home, Cleaned up, changed, took the Subscription Paper I had formulated the night before. and started out. Before I retired that night I had practically called upon every Business man in town. and had received a Subscription of something from every one. Later when Dr. Traveller reported the enterprize to the Church Papers he said practically every man had made a Subscription. -The Hardware man would furnish the Hardware, Nails and Fixtures. The Druggist would furnish the Paint and Oil, and they did. Many Men Subscribed Day Labor. Mr. Chase said^{we} were to get our Lumber Supplies from his Yard, and he would^d wait until after the Dedication for his pay. -

There were all the Lumber Supplies Provided for. The Hardware, and Paint supplies provided for, Much construction Labor, and I Assumed all Painting. There was the building ready to be nailed together. -We found a Mature Trained Carpenter who would assume the leadership of the workmen. He should be paid. One of the strangest things happened. That new building became the Center of activity. Men in no ways connected with the church would come with hammer and drive nails for an Hour or so. Much of that church was built after Supper in the long Dakota Twilight. There were not^{many} persons in Town who did not drive nails in that structure. -Some of our Women tried their hands at Lathing. I worked every day in whatever was doing. The Watertown District Camp-Meeting was to be held at Gary in early July, and

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

II

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---:I REVERT BRIEFLY:---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---:1892:---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

III

It was the Autumn of 1883. - I have forgotten where our Conference was held, what Bishop Presided, all of which does not matter. I do remember that just before leaving Bowdle I had traded the Pokey Pony that we had for^a Semi-Broken

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

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