

June 15, 1850

5-45

Hillsdale, Hillsdale Co., Mich., April 23d, 1850.

BR. HAZEN:—In a former letter I gave a short notice of a series of meetings which I held in Gorham, Fulton Co., Ohio; and in this I will give a few sketches respecting the prosperity of the church in that place.

In 1846, I preached in that place for the first time. The country was then new; yet some of the inhabitants were of the right stamp to settle a new country. They were of good abilities; and were sound in the Christian faith and doctrine. They had been, for some years, members of the old Plainville church; hence they were anxious to have the standard of Christian liberty planted in an early day; and, after holding some meetings, the brethren thought best to organize a church. Accordingly, an organization was effected; and I took the acknowledgment of a church of ten members. Soon after, I was taken sick; and since that, until last fall, they have had but very little regular preaching. Yet they have stood firm, although environed by sectarianism. Their influence has been good; and God has blessed them from time to time with an increase of numbers, so that in November, 1849, they numbered twenty-one.

They then engaged me to preach with them steadily. There was an increasing interest manifested by the church and people; and, in February, I commenced a series of meetings, in which was a deep and solemn interest felt. A number of backsliders were reclaimed, and also a number converted, fourteen of which, with three others, have joined the church, which give us at present a number of thirty-eight—all heads of families. There are a number more that calculate to unite soon; and there are some that are anxious to know what they shall do to be saved. There seems to be an increasing interest; and the influence of the Gospel is spreading. Our meeting calls out people from the distance of five or six miles and some farther; and the congregation is so large that the church and society think we must have a meeting-house; and they have bargained for three acres of land, on which to erect a church, and a society house for the minister, which is to be the property of the church.

The Christian influence in that section for a number of miles in extent seems to be ahead of all others; and, from the adjoining towns and others, the Macedonian cry comes frequently. I would to God that I were able to devote my whole time to the work; for the prospect is that a good congregation might be had every day in the week. Here I shall be asked, "If they feel so much interest, why do they not furnish the means by which the minister would be able to devote his time?" I answer, They have not got them. They came in here but a few years

since. The country was new; and many of them have but just got their farms cleared up so that they can begin to live. Should they prosper, in a short time they will be able to support a minister and do something for the missionary cause; but the available means, at present, they have not got. Yet, as it respects liberality and spirituality, stability and firmness, they will compare with any other people with whom I am acquainted. They have purchased me a horse the price of which was eighty dollars, and are doing all they can to help me otherwise.

On May 12th, I expect to attend to the ordinance of baptism with them; and that will be my last with them for the present, as I expect to visit my friends and brethren in the state of New-York. I hope to meet my brethren of the New-York Western Christian Conference, once more, at their annual session. It will give me great pleasure, after an absence of six years, to have the privilege of seeing and talking with them face to face. After this, I expect to return and settle in Gorham, to resume my labors with the church.

Will our brethren abroad remember us in their prayers?
S. C. POST.

NEW-ENGLAND CONVENTION.

BRO. HAZEN:—Permit me to observe, through the columns of the Herald and Messenger, that we have just closed a very harmonious session, one of our best New-England Christian conventions.

This session commenced the twenty-first, and closed on the twenty-third—leaving a profitable influence upon our church and society. Reports of our missionary and sabbath-school operations were of a very encouraging character. Each of our missionaries had been blessed and prospered in their operations. They were again re-appointed, and over two hundred dollars pledged for another year, with a spirit worth more than thousands of dollars. Our New-England Sabbath Schools are quite flourishing. Many of the pupils, the past year, have been hopefully converted.

Elders Kimball, Fernald, Morton, and Wait preached able, instructive, and spiritual discourses. Elders Humphreys and Wells, from Ohio, cheered us with reports of the prosperity and wants of the west. Elder F. Plummer, of Philadelphia, spent one day and evening with the convention. He gave a cheering account of the recent reformation at Fall-River, and the out-pouring of God's spirit in some other places which he had recently visited.

Twenty of our ministers were present, with respectable delegations from several churches, especially from our church in the city of Boston. These elders and brethren expressed strong denominational encouragement. More brotherly love and attachment to our principles could not well be expressed. Most

Le Roy, — 15, 1850.

MR. EDITOR:—I would say, for the accommodation of the inquirer, that I am preaching yet in Pembroke, Genesee Co., N. Y., where I have been laboring for more than a year. About one year ago, the Lord revived his work in that place; and we organized a church consisting of about twelve or fourteen members. Since then, they have been increasing gradually in number and in strength—so much so that they have commenced operations for a meeting-house, and have raised, among themselves and friends, the means for building it. Here let me say that our friends in Pembroke are liberal, and have acted a conspicuous part in procuring means for building. One brother, who now resides in Rhode Island, has donated to the brethren and friends \$100 to aid them in building, without which they could not build. This man, with all his abundance, esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he has respect unto the recompense of the reward. I would that all such men were rich, or that all rich men would go and do likewise. Said house is to be completed in September next, when we hope to have a place to convene the people, for all the region around about come out to hear Christ preached, and my prayer is that God would send them a more efficient minister than myself that they might all be converted and saved in the Kingdom of God.

JOSEPH WEEKS.

STARKEY POST OFFICE NOT EDDYTOWN.

BRO. HAZEN:—Will you please state that there is no such post office as Eddytown? Letters so directed are generally delayed and miscarried—perhaps sometimes lost. The Seminary is "Starkey Seminary"—so incorporated; and the post office within one hundred rods of the Seminary, "STARKEY" Post Office. Letters intended for the Seminary should be directed accordingly. And the landing most convenient for those coming to the Seminary, is "Starkey Landing."

The prayer-meetings in the Seminary continue pleasant and refreshing. The school is prosperous. Permit me, to ask our distant friends why other States are not represented as well as Massachusetts, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan? Why not other counties as well as Columbia, Greene, Oswego, and Monroe? Yours truly,

ISAAC LANNING, *Post Master.*

Starkey P. O., May 16th, 1850.

BROTHER HAZEN—Dear Sir: I wish to say through your valuable paper to my old friends that I have commenced my labors with the brethren and friends in Fisherville, where they had enjoyed a good revival, last winter, which continued until since I began

to labor with them; and we still feel that the revival spirit has not entirely left us yet. Our meetings are generally well attended, and are characterized with solemnity. To the Lord be all the glory.

JEREMIAH M. SMITH.

BR. HAZEN:—I am yet in Brandon, laboring through the week with my hands, and trying to preach what I can on the Sabbath. I am well aware that I am not doing much for the cause, and I do not expect to, while situated as I now am. But I would say, with Br. E. Smith, I will not complain, but do the best I can. He says he hopes to be able to give something to such as complain; but I would not do it, because of their complaints. True, it is trying to any man who feels disposed to preach, to have his hands tied while they might be loosed; but I will leave those who are not willing to do anything for me to settle with their Maker.

There seems to be but little religious interest within the bounds of this Conference. Yesterday, I met with Sisters Richards and Stiles, and preached to a large assembly, after which we repaired to the margin of a beautiful lake, where I baptized three obedient disciples—one man and his wife who are past the meridian of life, and one young man, a youth of the most amiable character, the son of Elder Wm. Scranton, who has left his labor for reward. I anticipate that he will exert a great influence in the cause of his Master. My prayer is that he may be guarded from the snares of vice, filled with heavenly wisdom, mighty in the Scriptures, and become a sharp threshing instrument in the hand of the Lord.

HORATIO N. RICHARDS.

Brandon, Oakland Co., Mich., May 21st, 1850.

BR. HAZEN:—Some time in December last, I commenced a protracted meeting in Portlandville, which resulted in the return to God of about sixty souls. The cause was rather low in that place. Brs. Cook & Butler assisted in the work. There are but a few houses in that place but what some of the inmates pray to God. I had from one to five ministers for hearers. Thirty-two had been added to the church, and about the same number baptized when I left. The church and its friends paid me, in cash and good things, sixty dollars. Many of the dear brethren and sisters will never be forgotten by me while memory endures.

SAMUEL F. DEXTER.

Palladium Office, May 28th.

P. S. Br. Lewis sent an account of the revival some time ago.

I attended a protracted meeting in Hartwick. About twenty-six returned to God, and eighteen had joined the church and been baptized when I left. The cause was in a rather low condition. Bro. Butler