

Leech Lake, Upper Mississippi.
April 11. 1834.

Beloved Brother Waite

Taking it for granted that you are more
local than myself, I direct to Horseheads. When we last met
at Albany, I ~~did~~ not think of being here, at this time - but, I have, by
the blessing of God, penetrated into the heart of the Indian Country -
Leech Lake is about Lat. N. 47.° Long. W. from Washington ~~about~~ 19.° - In whole
numbers, about 1300 Miles west by road of Utica. - I suppose I must travel
2000 Miles or more to get a sight of your friendly ~~Phiz~~ again - Distance, in the
States is nothing, comparatively - but we have no Rail Roads or Steamers in
this wilderness - & must be content to glide along silently in a frail Bark
(or measure the miles by ~~hacks~~ / ^{Canoe} - If friends were always to sit down within Gun shot of each other,
how would the Gospel reach the Heathen? - In view of this, I have been
constrained to leave home ~~often~~ - & instead of mourning over the inter-
vening extent of Country, rather rejoice that I am counted worthy to
go forth. You will see by the Missy Herald, for Jan'y. 1834, that I was
designated for Sandy Lake - on the Mississippi - I arrived at that Post
about the 20th of Sept. last - & was engaged during the fall & winter in teach-
ing a small School - Being directed by Rev. Mr. Brewster to join him
at this post - I left Sandy Lake March 1st accompanied by one man
& a dog team to draw my Baggage & provisions - & after 2 1/2 day marching
across Marshes, Lakes & on Rivers, a route impossible except in winter &
on foot - arrived here, with no other injury than a little lameness of leg from
walking ~~on~~ on the ice. It was truly cheering to me to greet this dear
Companion in this labour - since except him, I had not seen a Christ-
ian brother's face since leaving LePoult - Aug^r 20th - This first trial of
Exile from Chr. Society, I was enabled to endure with cheerfulness - although
at particular Seasons, could I have met some of the dear Circle ^{among} ~~with~~
whose midst of my religious days have been spent, it would have eased my
heart of a load of Pensiveness, excited by a review of the days spent with
them - But dear Br. Wait, I bless the Lord that He has brought me

into this field. Through this I ^{have} ~~can~~ most cheerfully endured any priva-
-tions which I have yet experienced. But you will I conclude, be anxious to ^{know} ~~know~~
-thing of these Indians. This is the largest of the Ojibway Bands - numbering ^{from 150 to} ~~about~~
^{for 1833} upwards of 200 families. - The Report of the Am. Board, puts them down at 700-7

They possess more of Savage independence than any other band that I have
seen. You can form but little idea of their personal appearance, from any
of the Oneidas that I have seen. These are fine built, active men, accustomed
to the Chase - & war - in which they are more or less engaged almost every
year, with their old & neighbouring Enemies, the Sioux. To enter into a
detail of their manners & customs, I have neither room nor time. The strongest
marks of paganism are stamped on all their conduct. "Kishama-
ito" is the good spirit - "Mudje manito" the Bad Spirit - a Devil - almost
every thing which is singular in its form whether Beast, fish, reptile, &
inanimate, is an object of worship. They sometimes say of a Snake, "it is a
Spirit" - The large Black water Turtle is said to possess the attribute
of Foreknowledge. In walking along the Beach yesterday I observed
a stone of about one foot in diameter - of peculiar shape, set up
on the shore, at the entrance of a Portage. To such, the Indians fre-
quently make an offering of tobacco - A large Rock ~~stone~~ in a River,
they hardly ever pass without depositing a piece of Tobacco upon it.
The Canadians & Voyageurs when out of tobacco - frequently find a
prospect supply by stopping at these places. Tobacco is necessary
in all their intercourse & worship - never chewed - (I have never seen
an Indian who chewed - & scarce ever used pure - but a pulverized with
a weed - & sometimes Bark dried & pulverized) - They seem to think it
best to ^{secure} ~~keep~~ the good will of all kinds of Spirits - Hence they as often pray
to the Devils, as God - they invoke the Spirits of the water & Woods. I have
frequently seen circles of relatives engaged, in their Solemn feasts - around the
grave of a deceased ~~member~~ of their family, preparatory to making a
hunt. From the same religious reverence to the ~~dead~~ the trophies of
War Excursions, such as - Scalps - the stuffed skins of hands & feet - are
Ornamented & suspended at the head of the grave ^(of some warrior) from a pole striped
with Vermillion - This I have frequently observed at Sandy Lake and
Soudulac. Also - Bodies deposited in Coffins upon a scaffold 8 or 10

feet high - this is not very common I believe - There are several at
Sandy Lake - I have not visited the burying places of this Band
(or Bands) - for every family's burial place is their Garden, in the most conspic-
uous place - a rise of ground, if there is any - The gardens are ^(mostly across the Bay) from 4
to 10 miles distant, ^{from} my Residence -

Sat. Eve. Aft. 20. - Dr. Brother - a Canoe arrived about 4 P.M. today
from Sandy Lake - it returns in the morning. & I expect my dear
Br. Boutwell will go down in it - on his way to St. Peter - & this will
be my last opportunity, probably, to send out letters until the traders
go to Mackinaw - I must therefore in few words - conclude -
in 3 or 4 weeks I shall also leave, with the Clerks, who then take
out their Furs to the Grand Depot - Sandy Lake - from thence to
Fondulac - via Sandy Lake, Savannah, & St. Louis River - & unless I am
directed to remain there the summer, (as will probably not be) pro-
ceed to La Pointe Lake Superior - where I expect to meet Br. B.
who will proceed thither from St. Peter via Yellow Lake, the Station
our Dr. Brother, ^(Fred K) stays - It is ^{my} present intention to proceed from
to Yellow Lake & remain until the traders return from Mackinaw
unless directed to Fondulac - whether I return to this place in
the fall with Br. Boutwell, will depend on circumstances -
probably, Shall - if not - will be sent to some new ground -

Thus you see, Dr. Brother - that I am indeed a wanderer - on the
face of the earth - but I am willing to be, for the good of the cause
in which I am engaged - Surely you will afford time to fill a sheet
to me, that I may know of God's dealings with you - direct to
this place - "Via Fort Snelling, River St. Peter" Care of Wm. A. Atkinson
Esq. Sandy Lake - Remembrance to Mrs. & Sisters - your father's
family - & William & when you shall write them - & now may
the God of Peace be with & prosper you - Amen -
*also Rev. Mr. Pratt if at your Place - Your affectionate Brother
Edmund F. Cady -
Mr. Waite Talcott -

Wm. W. C. C. C.
Larch Lake

April 11. 34

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Mr. Wm. W. C. C.

Merchant

Horse heady -
Larch Co. N.Y.





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