

St: Paul, February 23. 1850.

Rev Milton Badger D. D.

Dear Sir.

In order that you may be enabled to make out a full exhibition of the doings of the Society, for the year, I forward the required Statistical report -
Statistical Report.

First Presbyterian Church. St: Paul. Ramsey Co. Minnesota Territory
 Church formed Dec 1. 1849.

Added by letter &
 contributions to the A. H. M. S. \$45.00

Facts. Preached at Falls of St: Anthony every other Sunday afternoon.
Small house of worship built by members of 1st Presbyterian Congregation - Philadelphia - Pa

Though not a year has elapsed since I first trod the soil of Minnesota yet I see great changes & those in the right direction. In company with Rev A. Rents, who^{was} your first missionary that preached the Gospel in Northern Illinois, Wisconsin & Iowa I landed here in April - 1849. It was then a village of 300 inhabitants, mostly illiterate French Canadian attached to the church of Rome. The largest building was a rude log chapel in which French services were performed by the priest. At present there is a population of 900, which will probably be increased a third shortly after the opening of navigation, and worship in accordance with the usage of the Methodist, Baptist & Presbyterian denominations. Two Protestant houses of worship, ^{are under} erected and there are three common schools in operation. There are also two newspapers issued regularly. The village of St: Anthony eight miles beyond St Paul has Spring

up within the last six months and already we find a population of 300, a congregation on Sunday of about 70, a good Union Sabbath School, two day-schools, and a school building 24 x 36 ft, which makes a very convenient house of worship. On the stocks here there is a Steamboat which will be launched in the Spring & will - gate that portion of the Mississippi which is above the Falls. Who would have dreamed of such a thing ten years ago?

Here also is a Library Association incorporated by the Territorial Legislature, in whose library there are already the works of Burke, Channing, Carlyle, Wendley, Stephens and Talbot.

During the Winter there has been a course of lectures, ^{weekly} delivered by various persons in the Territory upon popular & practical themes. These changes are gratifying to every Christian & Patriot, ~~yet~~ ^{but} it is at yet "a day of small things" with Minnesota.

Four-fifths of the Territory is an Indian country, the abode of the warlike Ojibwa, the wild ~~Sak~~ ^{Sakot} and the discontented Winnebago. - go. Negotiations however are going on, which will shortly induce the Dakota to dispose of the lands of his ancient ancestors, & to commence his painful Exodus towards the setting sun.

As soon as this lands come into the market, villages filled with inhabitants as industrious as those around Lake Superior will spring up near Lake Pepin, and the valley of the winding Minnesota will wave with fields of corn & be settled not only into a native American population, but with the civil Frenchman and the hardy Norwegian, the latter of whom has already begun to direct letters of inquiry to this region.

In five years then the contributors to your noble Society there will be direct & speedy communication, between St. Anthony's Falls & New York City via Lake Superior, and there will be a call for it.

least five times as many labour in this field - In the place of the Indian mission stations at Remnic, Raposia, Traverso de Sina and Sao-qui-Barla, there will be home-mission stations. In the place of the scalp-dance, the skin-lodge, the painted and bedecked faces of the savage, we will witness the white cottage, the bright and laughing children, the neat school-house and plain but beautiful church of a Christian people.

A dweller in St Paul can with some reality say with the "Seer" of Whittier

"I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves, where soon
Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here
Are plastic yet, and warm;
The chaos of a mighty world,
Is pounding into form!

Each rude and jostling fragment soon
Its fitting place, shall find -
The raw materials of a state
Its muscle and its mind.

Behind the bearded squaw's bird-canoe
The steamers smoke and ravel,
And city lots are staked for sale,
Above old Indian graves.

This last stanza is quite applicable, as the town is built just above

an ancient cemetery of the Dakota.

Let it be borne in mind at the East, that this Territory is more than twenty one times as large as Massachusetts - The population is destined to be more heterogeneous than that of Wisconsin. The Governor in his message to the first Legislative Assembly remarked that the unrevise code of that State would not be adapted to the wants of the Territory. He says "the chief portion of the inhabitants of this Territory will be drawn from another direction. Our principal dependence to convey immigrants to us is plainly the Mississippi river, in whose great valley & that of the Missouri, our Territory is nearly wholly situated; and while it is not unlikely that all the States of the Union, to the extreme North Eastern one of the Confederacy, will have more or less representatives amongst us in pursuit of wealth or health; yet it is palpable, that only upon the lower Middle & the Western States, and such foreign immigration as can avail itself of the Ohio & Mississippi rivers to transport itself hither, should we, or can we, to any material extent, rely to furnish the great portion of our population; together with some Anglo-French immigration from the British provinces, drawn here partly by their religious sympathy, and common language, with most of the first white residents of the Country".

Who are to mould the religious character of this Northern region? Mainly the teachers commissioned by your Society. Like those in the countries of Northern Europe, in northern Ireland Scotland, Denmark, and Sweden, our inhabitants will be laudably industrious,

trious and intelligent. They will crave a learned and pious ministry, the teachings of a theological system which "as it has been finely said is symbolized by the two great natural objects, on which the frames looked; a system which has the steadfastness and rugged form of the Alps, and the transparency of the Lake of Geneva."

A century ago Stockbridge, Mass resembled our towns in Minnesota containing Indians & land speculators, yet on Dec 12. 1750 a little church in that frontier town ventured to make proposals to him whom Robert Hall called "the greatest man of the World" to become their minister. We approve of their spirit & in imitation would venture to ask for Minnesota, missionaries & missionaries' wives like Jonathan Edwards and his spouse Sarah Pierpont, a wife so truly beautiful & valuable as a helpmeet in spiritual as well as temporal affairs that she induced George Whitefield to offer up a prayer that God "would send him, such a daughter of Abraham, to be his wife".

We do not desire Ministers that leave the East because of the Narcotic influences they exert, for the people in this valley prefer a small dose of opium, when they wish to sleep. We do not want men who will love New England or any other section of the Union so much, that they cannot construct society in the West out of the "rude & jostling fragments" which here abound. We do not want men to sow wheat, but to sow the seed of God beside all waters. We do not want fierce partisans of any school or "ism" but men who will advocate a broad and scriptural Christianity, "a Christianity in sympathy with the broadness of our lakes, the expanse of our prairies, the length of our rivers, the powers of our governments, the very genius of our whole social organization".

We do not want young men who will come here because it is a romantic region, or because they think that to their friends they will seem more comely & brilliant vicariously as the Poets told them.

"'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view."

But we do want ^{Christian} scholars, men that have bathed themselves in the learning of the inspired writings; Christians gentlemen like the Apostle Paul, who will be ready to work with their own hands rather than cringe, or dare not speak the truth; men who will love to be a find to all poor way-faring men and yet think themselves happy when they can by their contributions bearing, gain the ear of a King Agrippa, a Felix, a Festus or a Bernice.

Yesterday a bachelier who gave much "aid" to the support of the synagogue in this place ~~took~~ his departure for a distant military post. As he has attained to three score years we shall scarcely see his face again in the church below.

For the 10th inst I received a letter from Rev A. J. Copebant, dated Geneva, Ill, Jan 28th in which he says "I still feel that my Master may have a work for me to do there (St Anthony). But I may be mistaken in this. I highly wish to learn my path of duty, if possible!"

So which I replied "the chief reasons why I oppose your taking that portion of my field are these

(1) The people do not wish you.

(2) The Brethren here ^{without exception} believe that you can labor to better advantage elsewhere

(3) The Ex: Committee will not insure you a support

If after this reply Brother Copebant should visit us again, I shall

be inclined to take him by the hand & help him all I can -

Before this you have perceived that I am afflicted with
"coxaltes scribendi".

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel
E. Neill.

P.S. Will you please procure at the Massachusetts Sabbath School
Society's Depository the following little books in paper covers & send
them to me by mail -

Mackinac Mission

Scio Mission

Ojibwa or Chippewa Mission

Deduct the cost from my salary -

E. N.

Dec. 11, 1879 -
Chas. C. Smith

Rev. J. B. Smith
The following is the
list of names of the
members of the
Church of Christ
in the city of
New York.

Rev. Milton Badger D.D.
No 150 Nassau Street.
New York City.

City

John A. Smith
1850

25-599

Rev. E. D. Smith
Pastor, Christian Church
23. 1050 - Ave. C
Brooklyn - New York
City



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org