

The day will be continued to you
the grace of the work

White Earth Reservation Dec 5th 1877

Rev Saml Hollingsworth D.D.

Dear Christian Brothers.

In behalf of my brethren we returned
our most sincere thanks & gratitude
for your & noble hearted ladies aid.

You have done much good in
relieving of our present wants
and besides you have greatly
cheered my poor heart - The quilt
was most acceptable and kept us
warm during the cold nights.

On last Sabbath I saw some of
the coats - shirts and dresses on with the
persons we have given and this
is indeed gratifying to them.

This is our tenth day^{yr} since
we landed to this beautiful country.

The country was unknown to all
most to my people - When the storm
was given that we must leave

our native land I never shall forget
what I saw among my people. ^{on that}
^{as if it were} They all felt like sending & compelling
them to the deep waters & the drown.

and ^{at} that time all my people were
pagans excepting very few persons
that were Christians. When I saw
the commotion and saw the brave
hearted men tremble like the leaves
my poor heart moved within me
for love & compassion upon them.

But I thought at the same time
that it was best thing that could be
done for them - to take them far
away from this Devil Spit & from
the bad pale faces - that was des-
troying them without number.

Chiefs & Braves men coming
to me and ask me what they
had better do - I advised them
by all means to go & save themselves
from the Devil Spit - and always
ask me before leaving - if they
did ^{so} - whether I would follow them
but never give them no definite
answer

previous to their removal I had made
up my own mind = that I would
not move a step towards this new
country - because many faithful
pale faced Missionaries had been
in the country Sandy Lake Leech
Lake Red Lake & Lake Winnipeg
had Missions ^{Chippewagon} among the ^{not} Romanists
& Congregationists - only during ten
years but twenty or thirty years
time - all have failed & left the country
but when I was asked to go & follow my
people = The thought came to my mind
I said what am I - what can I do
A Lord I am not eloquent but I am
slow of speech & of a slow tongue.

To go & follow my people & to try to lead
them to this promised land & teach
them to worship Him with the true
worship which the Great Spirit
had commanded long ago - I
thought was far below my line
& capacity. Let me give you
here in a few words how this
humble work brought about -

When the ^{missionary} work had fairly failed
and when the various faithful
missionaries had left the country
I too made up my mind to
run away to seek my home
among Christians ^{Indians} in Canada
I turned to my little family
& say - arise & flee from this dre-
-ful & wicked city
Instead of going to Nineveh to
cry against it I wanted to flee
to Larshish a more convenient
place to myself & family I did
not want to live with the
heathens for fear I might become
the worshipper of ^{the} golden calf
which my people had already
set up - so determined bought
me a canoe to take me to the
Harbour of Lake Superior
where I took the vessel called
J. Lacub Astor the finest sailing
vessel between Sault St. Marie
& the head waters of Lake Superior
I paid my fare to Larshish

I never had a falling out with any one concerning my conduct

5) I took my family to the vessel while she ^{was} anchored in the harbor. it was dead calm - The Captain gave orders to watch the wind. I was sleepless over anxious to get away - I staid on the deck the whole night & in about 3 o'clock in the morning the wind commenced blowing. Captain the wind blowing said I - in a loud voice - The Captain no sooner came up on the deck & gave orders to heave up the anchor of faith - and in a few hours brought us to the open sea - The wind continued to rise more & more furiously at this time the old Jonah came in to my thought while looking to the mighty waves dashing over the vessel but the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea & that there was a mighty tempest in the sea so that the ship was like to be broken - at this time the Captain gave orders to throw -

To throw the Bbls & lumber overboard
to lighten the ship - I was watching
the Captain all the time - The Captain
said never saw a such wind that
he felt uneasy - when the Captain
said these ^{words} - The old Jonah came
in again - into my thoughts - The mighty
waves dashed over the ship - at this
time the Captain gave order - down!
down! down! the sails & flee to the harbour
from whence we started - ^{in the night} ~~later~~ arrived
safely to the Harbour while my poor
heart beat like a drum - and in
about dusk ^{very day} the wind fell a little
& in about 1 o'clock in the night
the vessel got ready again to venture
out and when we was about the
same distance out the sea as we
was before - The thundering organ
to appeared from the west - The Captain
said - another heavy storm approaching
No sooner the dark ^{clouds} had fairly &
covered the whole heavens the wind
burst upon ^{us} more furiously as ever
and again Jonah came in more

7 Exhibiting the appearance of life
like before me - The Captain said
he had sailed on this lake ^{now}
over twenty years - and never
in his life experienced such
angry sea. I am afraid said
he - our ship will be broken & make
our graves in the bottom of the sea
I was ready to fall. I trembled like
the leaves of the forest I went down
to the Cabin & knelt down with my
family & ask God's protecting hand
to land us safely to a dry land -

after our short prayer the Captain
came in - I ask him what is ^{it} Captain

Danger! Danger! said he - To these
^{words} humble me to the dust - I soon both
the Captain the Mariners were
solely afraid - The fear had got
fairly holden me for my children &
wife, ^{so} I was watching the Captain for
fear that he would come ^{to say} to me

"What meanest thou O sleeper"
Come & let us cast lots that we
may know for whose cause

This evil is upon us - for I know
if they did catch lots - the lot
would have fallen upon me -
and thrown me over board but
I was certain that there was
no whale to swallow me in Lake
Superior - and besides would
take a very large whale to swallow
my size over two hundred lbs -
at this time the captain gave
orders to return again to the
same harbour - I would down
again to my cabin & ask God
if ever I put my feet on a dry
land that I would return to my
health - people - but spare ^{me} a little
longer - I told my poor wife that we
would return to our dying people -
who can tell if God will turn & repent
& turn away from his fierce anger
that they perish not - after Dr. Beck
& the Rev Mr Peake left us I took
chge of St. Cuthbert Mission
at Gull Lake near Crowwing
from after the trouble broken

broken out & deserted the mission & came to Crowwing the headquarters for the Devil spit - Here I continued to labour for two or three years under many disadvantages where the the Devil spit was flowing like the River - - The year came on when my people must move to this promised land - I know to remain here with few of my people was of no use - while under ^{the fire water} and bondage of sin - I done all I could to encourage them to go & seek refuge for their dying people - - The Bishop came & ask me to follow my people - I said no - I had previously made up my mind not to come here at all for various reasons - - One in day the head chief of the Nation was very bitter against our church preferring the Romanial Missionary to come up here for his people - I for he was

a man of blood & that if I did
come up that he would make
trouble continually & even would
have taken the life of a man - For
this reason I said that while
Hole in the day was a living man
I thought it was advisable for
me to remain behind - after my
poor people left me I ^{perked} ^{up} ^{with}
to me to come were they were
& that they would protect me

These many letters are still
in my possession I love & greatly
pity my people - I have often gone
alone to thickets ^{& asked} how pity
upon my poor people - & to open
the way for me to reach them.

Nearly two months passed
away since my ^{people had} left me - Hole
in the day was assassinated by
his own people - & on the following
day I turned my thought towards
my people I love & pity - in a few
days got ready to go to the unknown
country - my caravan had

Moved when I received letter
from the Chief J. Little informing
me - that in a very few days I
^{he}would start down with five chiefs
& four warriors to meet me on
the road - My second campment
near a farmer's house gave
me very unwelcome reception
and it was about noon sun
down when he came over to my
campment - I told my wife &
company to leave immediately
on the ground - and if they did
not leave within an hour
he would come & compelled
us to go in the night - I came
home late after the sun down &
my wife told me & others what
the pale face man had said to
them - really a good one laid
I said to my company - if the
pale face man comes again I
ask him ^{know} what company he has
abused - sure enough the man
walks briskly towards us

he come and ask if my company
understood him = Yes sir
understood you every abusive
words of yours = said I — My
friend do you really mean
what you said to my company? Yes
said he — then I tell you friend
you are very mistaken of
your power — I too have little
command — when I say to that
Broue do this he doeth & when
I say come he cometh I tell ^{your}
friend ^{what you said to my company} that is your very instructive
-ness your moral nature to take
advantages over your fellow-men
when you ^{can} do so with ^{an} ease Had
my forefathers received the same
instruction = the same Christian pro-
velledges as your nation enjoy to day
I tell ^{your friend} you never would have
compelled us to take one cent an
acre for this vast Continent — I ^{know}
it to you friend — I have learned letters
I have learned to worship the God of you

13) The God of your fathers - I am
traveling on the public highway
where every man has a right to travel
& beside he has the full liberty
to camp wherever the night over
takes him - Therefore I have
the full right to travel on any
public highway ^{& camp where please} - And shall re-
main on my camp much as long
as I please & there ^{more} when I
get ready - "O certainly - certainly
friend - said he - then ask
^{me} if I wanted any potatoes
I told him yes - & gave me
five bushels - & beside made
warm friends between us after.

I thought it was rather
hard to be abused while I
had obeyed the orders of our
great father at Washington and
that ^{too} - while we are hastening
on to words the setting of the sun
not to be allowed to camp over
night - I say it is rather too hard

And as I was traveling on the
public highway - occasionally
meet a pale faced man - ask
me = friend were are you
traveling to - I say - towards
the sitting of Osun to the place
were our great father ^{the President} are draw-
ing us & to my people - I under-
stand ^{said one white man once met} that is beautiful country
for your people - Most beautiful
& thank God - ^{after} when we arrive there
no white ^{man} nor President shall never
molest us nor offered us one ct.
an acre for that Beautiful land,
any more - - Whether the pale face
man was really earnest in asking
me to such question - I cannot
say - the farmers - and ask
me to stay over Sunday to give
them ^{little} talk about the Indians &c &c
& promise me to give me anything
I may ask from Pork Lager &c &c
on that day my son ^{had} killed a Bear
one deer - I consented to stay
not for the pork but to tell them

about the curdians - & how the blessed Gospel
had effect them - The farmhouse
was ^{well} filled - Here I must pass on
omitting the service - The farmer
however were very kind to us
& did us all they can in the way of
food - On next day about noon
I met the Chiefs & Braves ac-
cording to their promise - On that
day I shall never forget what took
place - In all around it was in-
deed a day of great rejoicing

Chief Tullie grasped both of
my hands with great joy - Chief
Tullie was the head Brave of the
Hole in the Day & previous to his
removal to here - He was with
his Chief fighting against us &
our Mission - Few months before
his removal - separated from Hole
in the Day & took part for his
people & joined the removal party
after his conversion
It was a genuine deep settled
firmness - He worked with me

in hand & in heart - He was
indeed a truly Godly man

His house was a house of
prayer He gave no peace to
his enemies but him - his
death was a great peace
& happy - like Moses of old
his people mourned & bemoaned
about their persons a mark of
distinction for thirty days

The first Sunday after
my arrival he invited to
hold my public service to
his house - It was now winter
& cold - no place to hold my
services I continued on in
this ^{way for} over two years - In the
summer under the shade of
the beautiful trees - God blessed
my humble work to the conversion
of many souls - Thus my Christian
brother - how the Great Spirit brought about
this great work of love - & how He opened
the way & how wicked I was to try to run away
from His presence
Rev Saml Hollingsworth & J. J. Immes



Rev Saml. Hollingsworth & Co
Greenfield
Mass



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