

Mr. J. H. Hollingsworth D.D.
{
I have for us been broken that we may be
blessed and thank all our friends
of the West

White Earth Reservation Dec 30th 1878.

Rev Saml Hollingsworth D.D.

Rev & dear Brothers

The great Christmas day has passed away
very pleasantly with us - and I am sure
my people enjoyed on the occasion - our
church was well timed most beautifully
every thing about the church was done
tastefully & nicely - early in the evening of
24 inst ~~the~~ church was well filled - on
that occasion many had to stand up in
the church for want of room or seat.

Near the chancel were occupied by
the school children 150 in number - before
receiving their presents made short ad-
dress to the children & to the adults.

I had most beautiful tree for
them all - being the first Christmas tree
I have ever had for the children - during
the ten years my missionary labour
among them - I ask the children before
receiving their presents must give
one or two hymns or carols - which
they did most satisfactorily - the two
carols was rendered most beautifully
when I heard these carols
my heart was warmed within me - I was

So thankful - that I could not control my
self my tears drop freely - I say to my
self - ten years ago - what were their
condition of these dear children &
their parents living & dying without
hope & without God in the world

I said - ten years ago these very sweet
singers and their parents were wandering in
heathenism & in sin - ten years ago these
loving & praying children & their parents believed
after this life have a home a great happy Home
beyond the setting of the sun - what has brought about
what has changed them from heathenism to
Christianity - God in his great mercy has pitied
helped us - turned our hearts to love him to
talk to him - I have often wondered at this
people that have always lived in perfect
darkness for centuries - and to turn their attention
to Christian religion & to love it with all their hearts
is beyond my comprehension - I say this for my
past experience & in my early day - I had learned
studied all the heathen religion of my fathers &
was confirmed thoroughly to its teachings - I was in the
grand Medicine Lodge initiated into it when quite
young - I had the very best grand Medicine men
to teach me all its bearings - (just one moment)
what is called the grand medicine lodge is the most
sacred religious rites among my people performed
once in a year - & only to those ^{that} belong to it participate
and in the Grand Medicine that there are 4

4 degrees first second third & fourth - The first part that there are ^{certain} teachings you must learn before entering to the lodge & beside that there are certain fees attached to it & the fee must be increased as you go along to reach to the fourth one & every degree have its own order of its teachings - when you have attained to the fourth - you are called Grand medicine man or master - It would require many pages of paper to write it down - & it is the most sacred and the most oldest religious ceremonies among all the different tribes of Indon - handed down from generation to generations

I say - I have the best teachers learned thoroughly to its very beginning & to the very last - As St Paul has said to his country men that he had confidence in the flesh - if any (said he) other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh I more - I thought that ^{what} contained in the religion of my fathers I had mastered and often my people know that I had learned all their religion so young - They loved me the more & wanted me to appoint me as ^{their} chief but declined & if ^{people} my people would tell it that know me from the beginning "that after the most strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee" - and since I became a missionary to my own people - how often do I meet a Grand medicine man making strong objection to Christian religion - their objections & arguments like a child's play - for I have already learned them & understood how to meet them

In turning to worship God: serving him with true
hearts — when we first came here ten years ago
who ever thought that such a change would take
place among these people — Many heads of
families chiefs & warriors thought that this
country was but a country for them to perpetuate
their heathen religion all the time but no. The
Christian religion was far more stronger than
theirs & now see & feel that this new religion
now makes them happier men & women — They
enjoy with exceeding joy & comfort with their
religious lives. No wonder to hear one of the
chief exclaimed the other day I am as happy as
any of the pale faced man — I have plenty wheat ^{and} plenty
plenty of all kind of vegetables which the Great Spirit
gave me to grow — In trying to worship & serve God
I say I am happy man — but on the other hand I
feel really sad — very often I have wept for my
Red brothers in the treatment received by the hands of
a Superior race — I feel for them — I love them
& pray God to have pity upon them all — My Christian
chiefs received news direct from Washington the
expectation of the government will in a few days
will call for them — to visit Washington — for what
reason I know not — but my Christian brother
you know best the wish of this government towards
the poor Red men — we understand that the government
is about removing all the Chippewas out over Reserve
the Chippewas from Michigan Wisconsin Dakota & all the Pemmican
into one Reservation several thousands from Wisconsin

5) Several thousands, mine from Michigan and
3 or 4 thousands more from all part of our state
Recollect - these are all heathens &
worshippers to wood & stone - It will be the most
dreadful thing I dreaded for my Christian
people - We are trying to prepare against it
we are trying to learn more & more the ways
of the Great Spirit - I have organized 4 different
Classes - That we have 4 Bands belonging to our
own church - one Band number from 150
to 200 persons - Each Band has a chief
who is the head of the Band - These Classes is
to meet once each week talk - sing - pray
& give counsel & to encourage one another to be
strong to be more prayerful &c &c - These gatherings
have & are doing much good - The thing dear brother
that gives me great encouragement is the
regular attendance of my Christian brethren
to our public services - My church is always
full - Responses are so loud & distinct
which gives me great encouragement -

Many poor half clad women walk every
morning from two to three miles every Sunday
morning - A dear brother I feel happy when
I see my church is full - I say in my short prayers
God - pity me see my poor people who are eager
to listen thy precious & living words - give me words ^{what} to
say for the glory of thy holy name amongst my poor country
men - two weeks ago the head chief said to me your
lessons & your preaching has influenced my people
to say - I was the most ^{of} foolish man - it was all for you

to my soul - Christian Religion makes our heart big
with love to God - continued

I am entirely alone I am not strong
man as I used to be five years ago - though I am
still able to visit around my Christian brethren
yesterday I visited three different places
to my sick communions & administered
to them the Holy Communion to three different
places & beside my teachings orally to the given
persons - Our school is in good condition
I think every thing goes on favorably to the
prospect of sustaining ourselves as a
Christians - Every thing we are new
beginners will take years before we can
learn every thing in the ways of the Father

We are yet poor money if my brethren
are really needy - I have visitors almost
every other day asking me an assistance
in the way of clothing - I think many of our
pale faces friends have forgotten us - on last
year & about this time I had received
11 boxes of second hand clothing & this year
we have received one beside yours - this
coming very short - I presume because
the hard times throughout the country

Again my dear friends we
thank you most truly & in really I do not know
what I would have done - had you not sent
clothing in the box I find one over coat that I wear
every day to go to church



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