

Mr. Saml. Hollingsworth S.D.
from your country brother
your obedient servant

White Earth Reservation July 28th 1899

Rev Saml Hollingsworth S.D.

Christain friend & brother.

please let me intrude your precious
time for one or two minutes.

Another Annual visitation of
of our beloved Bishop has passed away.
His party consists some of your
prominent Clergy & Ecclesiastical. When
the Bishop travels in the Indian Country
he never forgets his fish hooks - at this
time brought no gun with him - as he was
bending his course to Red Lake Mission
from here. In comparison the boat one of our
beautiful Lakes took a an Indian canoe
to fish was not gone not over an hour brought
home 12 fine pickerals - When the Bishop
arrived here Chief Manogashig said
was to the fish - Bishop is here with the deciding
bait for the poor fish - On the 21st of June Dr
Knickerbocker preached - of course poor Emma
gubrow had to do the interpreting to the people
next day which was Sunday Dr Newton of
Philadelphia - The church was full & crowded
to its capacity - ^{preached} Then comes the confirmation
of only nine persons - Some of our best Educated
were present

The Bishop remained with us until Wednesday when he started to Red Lake Mission 80 miles north of us - The road was such that no decent white man ought to go on it - so rough & stony & what is worse the mosquitoes were thick as the air - poor Bishop did not sleep a wink for two nights - Before the Bishop started up I tried to discourage him on account of the mosquitoes I know he would suffer much - The Bishop have had experience this before - but the raw hands that accompanied him never knew that there were such tormentors existed in the land - To these very men had fairly felt & experienced what the poor Indians missionary had to bear & endured - but they did not all taste the bitter cups that we had to suffer - I wonder if those dear brothers ever know what it is to feel hungry - real hungry to do without eating ^{for} ~~two~~ days & one night - To do without a mouthful for two days & one night is very common thing for poor Ennezeahbaw.

Dear Brother I am really glad to inform that the government have given us a great gift or present - The government has given us 37 for yoke of working oxen 50 head of cows few hogs sheep 4 Reapers 2 Lathing Machines 4 Mowers 4 Rakes 25 for harnesses hoes chains bedsteads box & cook stoves Knives & forks plates & cups and what is best of all is the great school house one hundred feet long 75 feet wide 3 stories high

The frame is already up & is to be the finest
structure in our settlement - This is the free
gift of the government to us & is to be finished
in Sept or in Oct next - The government
has written a very good & kind letter to us
She says - "My friends I am glad to hear the
improvement you are making towards
Christianity & civilization - It encourages
you my friends to go on & improve I sent
you some presents to help you along your
work - Go on good" Who ever thought to receive
a such presents from this great government - She
is indeed the most kind & noble hearted towards
my people - This great presents my people deeply
appreciated never to be forgotten - Chief
Minogeshig said - I wish this great Christian
government had added a fine church for
us I believe would have died on its knees
for joy - The question have been often ask
me since - who are to be the teachers - shall
Christian pale face men women teach our ^{rising}
generation or shall ungodly men & women ^{come}
& teach - Why these question ~~are~~ have been ask
me is - that our agent is ungodly man he
belong to the rank of Darwinism - of course my
people thinks that he cares but very little whether he
will employ a Christian man & woman or one of
his own stamp - Our head Chief said & ^{answered}
when he was ask - what changed his people from ^{darkness}
& from Paganism to Christianity? - Christian religion -

Loving the Great Spirit in ^{our} whole hearts & accepting
the terms of the blessed Gospel - that is what
changed ^{the} nations in all the world & blessed be God
he can't mind - that is what will change
my "oppressed poor people" from heathenism
to Christianity" - The Bishop before he returned
home received an urging request from the
chiefs & head men of the Little Mountains Bands
of Indians - which says - Dear Bishop how you
have gotten us - we are here over hundred miles away
from our Missionary Enmezagbowh - 8 years ago

Enmezagbowh Baptized 32 of us - five years ago
he came & visit us & Baptized 4 more & since we
have been living in the midst of our heathen brethren
still retaining in our hearts the instruction we
have received from our Missionary Enmezagbowh
never omitted the sabbath day but have ^{assembled} ^{to sing & pray} ^{to sing & pray}
together by our selves under the shade of a tree & dear
Bishop - Can you not send us Enmezagbowh this summer
men to remain with us one or two months - The Bishop
turned to me - and ask me whether I would be willing
to go to these poor dying people - yes Bishop I said Cripple
as I am I shall go to those poor Christian Indians. I
ask the Bishop - may I go & take my old Missionary horse
in my own conveyance - when night over takes me I can
make fire & lay down & if I am out means I can kill
game ducks, pigeons on my way through - - Brother said the
Bishop - will require many nights & camping out - I think you
had better go in the Cox as far as will go - I think I can procure
you 2 tickets one for you & one for your wife - and beside you
had better not go until the last of August or wait until
some kind friend will help your traveling expenses
I have set the day to start if my health permit on the 25th
of August so as to reach there on the following Sunday - my
dear brother & friends - bear my imperfections - please let

please let me be bold - to ask
your congregation to help in few
articles of cast off clothings for these
real object of pity - These
people live far away from any
white settlement. The Bishop
have sent me 15 dollars in money
to buy provision or calico for
them - I can carry with me any
clothing sent me for them. I have
a very large trunk that I can put in
any thing sent to me for them -

I remind what is most re-
markable about these poor
Christian Indians - few years ago
the government agent went to visit
these Indians - The agent was a Christian
man - He arrived at their country
Saturday night - Sunday morning
the agent took a walk towards
the wigwags on an open prairie -
behold he saw Indians sitting
under the shade of a tree - The agent thought
that must be a council - as it was

a praying council nearer & nearer
he approached - all at once all
rose from their feet & began to sing
"Near my God to thee" &c &c - The agent
at once saw that there were ^{Christian}
Indians - He was struck with
wonder - How can these poor Christians
retained their faith when living
among their heathen brethren -

The agent came home to White
Earth & told us all about it with
tears in his eyes - And in a
few days the agent sent me
there with \$150 one hundred
& fifty dollars in money & bought
provisions & some clothing for them
from their settlement to the
nearest depot is 35 miles
distance - My wife will go with
me who is my great help mate
in all my work.

Our Bishop was well pleased ^{to see}
the work moving on - I thank the
Great Spirit that he has placed us
& brought us from darkness to the light
of Christianity - we are trying to love
him with our hearts - Pray for us dear
brother & friends
Truly yours Brother
J. J. Menezes



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