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Laquippale. May 6. 1839.
Monday morn.

Bro. Pond

I can only take a few moments this morning to write you before going to plough for the Indians. We finished planting corn on Saturday, and in the afternoon Mary Jeffries and the Frenchman who used to read with Mr Gavin came to be married. There was a house full to witness the ceremony. His taking her to wife has been rather a comical affair on the whole as Stewawiniban has been disputing his right to her at every step and once the contest was so earnest that they drew pistols. But Mr Neville has prevailed. Mary it seems took Stewawiniban the best. Mr Neville told me some weeks ago that she was beginning to love the Frenchman a little.

When I left you I walked industriously all day and at night slept within two or three miles of home - or rather I should have said staid there for it was too cold to sleep with one blanket. The matches you so kindly gave me failed in making fire till I came to the last one. It was the charm.

Nearly three weeks since Joseph and Antoine with about thirty Indians went up to Lake Gravier. They went to get buffalo robes. The Indians went to dance and eat dogs. I also made one of the company. Was gone nine days. Came home with Pankawicasta and some others round.

Big Stone Lake. The soil at Lake Traverse is in my opinion better than it is here but I saw very little timber. While there I conversed with a man who said he was a chief of the Shanktonas. He said that in five days one can go to the Missouri from there.

The Sabbath after you left Mr Penville and Antoine came to meeting, and also yesterday. The girls have come every Sabbath. Mr Penville now encourages the Indians to come.

Since you left we have generally had thirty or more present and yesterday there were about 50. What Mr R's plan is I know not. He has told me several times that they were all going to come to meeting. Externally things are more favorable now, but I know we sail on a very deceitful sea.

The Sabbath School I have not tried to keep up although I might have had a few scholars every day, but I find the other duties more than I am able to perform well, in connection with the assistance I must render Mr Huggins.

Mr Penville has commenced his Sabbath evening meeting.

We were glad to hear of your safe arrival - hope you will be comfortably situated.

Remember us affectionately to Mrs Pond, your brother's family and all the members of the mission. If Mr Gavin has changed his mode of life tell him we hope it may be for the better.

May heavens best blessings rest upon you all.

Yours affly
J. N. Riggs.

Recd Jan 30.
May 30.

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