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Traverse des Sioux

June 28 1849

Dear Brother Pond;

More time has elapsed since I wrote you than is usual between my letters. I spent almost three weeks in a journey to Lacquiparle, and Stone Lake. I got home the 20 inst. I see nothing of very special interest at Lacquiparle. The Indians there are very scarce of food and pretty hard beggars. Niyahduya Lyangmani came with a large company to ask flour while I was there. Tetrage ^{suggested} ~~made~~ me to give my opinion, which I did very joyfully, but it was not agreeable to all. I told them they ought to be ashamed that they were unreasonable, and that if I were in Mr. R.'s place I would not hear them make a request in a body. That I did not allow the Indians where I lived to come to me in a body to make demands. If they had business they had to send an ambassador. That to grant their request was entirely impracticable, etc.

Mr. Libbey was so kind as to write me that old Sleepy and some of his men had made complaints against me to the Governor. The old man came here early in May and brought with him seven or eight men. We fed them some in the evening. After they had been in some time, I said Nitankeki ti en manke ktanace "Hiya den manke ktā, scin den unhipi den unwankepi ktā" I was somewhat surprised, for it was not like Sleepy's eyes. He and his company for the most part stayed here for some days, I in the mean time objecting once in a while but trying at the same time not to be impolite. On the evening of the second or third day (second I think) I told him he might sleep here with one man but the rest must go to the tents. They left that evening but the

next night they were all back. Wife and Mrs. Higgins both remonstrated that I was spoiling those Indians. I disliked to say to the old man These men must not sleep here. So I did not. I told them to be quiet and not to make a fire for it was not cold.

In the morning about one or two hours before day they filled the stove with dry wood and matted down a candlestick left on the stove and made the room so hot it was almost suffocating. I arose at day and complained in rather a mild way for me. But what I said conspired with a sense of the wrongs inflicted on me caused them to leave in not a very pleasant humor. And this is the foundation of Sleepy's story that I put him out of the house.*

As to my whipping the young man, it is not a whit less false. About a year ago I pretended to whip two little fellows for shooting arrows into our cows; and this spring I took from a boy of about fourteen a war club and told ^{him} a little truth viz. that he was a rascal, and that if he was caught again storing our calf, trying to break into our house, and stealing potatoes he might get into trouble, I did not wish to whip him, nor complain of him to the Gov. but did not intend to be molested. Then giving him him his war club I said, 'Te can ku ohua hda wo, ga ake tehan hi xui wo. Hicun ceya kihda. So from this Wamam hdi-oranko goes and tells the Governor that I Kacey a his grandson who is a young man. Ixtahdige Taken wohitika, ci.

Stone Lake is a much prettier place than I supposed, and the prospect of having a prosperous mission Station there is more hopeful than I expected. Hemok has been teaching some there the past winter. His scholars seem to have advanced very well, and they are mostly I believe of leading families. There about there a tolerably large number of half breeds, and I suppose they would be generally

*Wamam hdi-oranko hda wo. Ixtahdige Taken wohitika, ci.
gratified to have the means of instruction afforded them. Besides Wamdiokige and some of the rest from Lacqui parle would I suppose be truly gratified to have a missionary. I suppose a missionary there who could speak the language might get a pretty good audience, twenty or upwards regularly on the Sabbath, when the people are at home. Mr. Riggs and I went together. I think we ought to try and get some farming help and send some one to commence there next year. Will the mission think so and vote so at the next meeting?

I sometimes feel a little sorry for you and your Cordelia, but much more so for the latter. My wife would be lonesome if there was no family with us. I felt averse to Miss C. going a way from you, but you and she knew best what suited you.

We have not had as many Indians here to meeting when I have been at home since I was down in the spring as formerly, but the difference is not very great. We never had any regular attendants. Some have attended pretty regularly for months together, but no one for a whole year.

I hope for better days. Tell Mrs. R. that I will render her any assistance I can in travelling with pleasure.

Yours truly R. Hopkins.

N.H. When you have read this, please put it in another
cover and send it to your brother Eidev. If I were to
write him another it would probably be no better.

Yours
R.H.

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