

AMERICAN MISSION,

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Sunday, Sept. 4. I preached in the open air at Renesington. The Lord was powerfully present. In the afternoon, spoke in the city of Philadelphia. In the evening, Brother Raine preached, and I exhorted. We then held a prayer-meeting, and some came to the meeting in deep distress; and the Lord manifested his glory in the salvation of four of them; and they declared that God, for Christ's sake, had pardoned all their sins.

Monday, 5. Held our quarterly meeting. The circuit begins to wear a more pleasing aspect, and all were determined to set out afresh to labour for souls.

Thursday, 8. Brother Raine and I travelled thirty-four miles toward Wilksbarre.

Friday, 9. We travelled fifty-two miles, and went through Bethelsham, a beautiful town, containing one thousand inhabitants, and a church belonging to the Moravians. We travelled ten miles up the Leighigh river to Mauch Church.

Saturday, 10. Went five miles to Newtown. Met with some of our old friends who had emigrated from England. Preached in the evening, and formed a class of nine members.

Sunday, Sept. 11. Opened a new chapel built by the inhabitants for religious worship. In the evening, preached at Mauch Church, and held a prayer-meeting. Many were in distress, but for want of faith they went away sorrowful.

Monday, 12. On our journey for Wilksbarre. Having got 9 miles, we took through the woods; and after travelling ten miles we lost our way, and wandered about a long time. After getting right, and travelling about three miles, we were stopped by trees lying to the extent of a quarter of a mile, blown down by a hurricane, a night or two ago. We were obliged to turn back; and in a little time our gig broke down; and a man came past with a gun over his shoulder, who was much affrighted, saying he had seen a bear, and that the bear was near at hand. This caused some alarm, as we had nothing to defend ourselves with. But by trusting in HIM, who has in all ages been with his people, we were preserved, and got safe back to the place where we entered the woods.

Tuesday, 13. Travelled thirty-six miles, and stopped all night at a friend's house.

Wednesday, 14. Arrived at Wilksbarre and were kindly entertained by Mr. Wood and his family. Proceeded fourteen miles, and stayed at a friend's house, who treated us kindly.

Thursday, 15. Travelled thirty-six miles mostly in the rain. Arrived at Mount Pleasant, where Bro. John Raine has his house and family. We were thankful for our safe arrival; and could say,

"We've had a tedious journey, and tiresome it is true,
But see how many dangers, the Lord has brought us through."

Friday and Saturday we visited the people, our own members and others.

Sunday, 18. Preached thrice, and led a class of between twenty and thirty people.

Monday, 19. At three in the afternoon, spoke in a log-house, surrounded with trees.

Wednesday, 21. Travelled six miles with Bro Raine; and spoke at three o'clock in a log-house, so surrounded with trees that I could see no other house. But there was a large congregation. It is surprising to see the readiness manifested by these people to hear the gospel. Some had walked to this meeting, through the woods, ten miles. I had good liberty, and Bro. Raine led the class. It was a precious time. We did indeed drink of the river whose streams make glad the city of God. We then walked two miles to the house of our class leader; a few friends came in, and we spent a profitable evening in singing, praying, and talking of the goodness of God.

Thursday, 22. I parted from my kind friend, Bro. Raine, travelled nine miles, and spoke in school S. on the way side, to a good congregation. The next day travelled six miles, and preached at one o'clock in a tavern, and had much liberty. I then travelled nine miles, and preached at Blockley, to a serious attentive congregation; and had a refreshing season from the presence of the Lord. Here I met with Brother Greenby, a pious young man, who was a local preacher in our Hull circuit, in Old England; and is now a local preacher amongst us in this country.

Saturday, 24. Spoke in a school house to a good congregation; after which an aged woman came to me in a flood of tears, expressing her desire for salvation. She said she had not heard a sermon for ten years, but thanked God that she had both heard and felt the truth that evening.

Sunday, Sept 25. Spoke at Pittstone in the morning. Then went seven miles, and spoke at Wilksbarre, in the court-house, to a large congregation. In the evening, walked two miles, and spoke in a school-house, to a great concourse of people, and met a class ; and had a glorious out-pouring of the Spirit: one woman roared aloud in the disquietude of her soul, and obtained the pardon of all her sins, and joined the society.

I stopped that night, and the night following at Mr. Wood's, an Englishman, belonging to the episcopal Methodists, He kindly entertains our preachers.

Tuesday, 27. I set off for Philadelphia; went thirty miles.

Wednesday; 28. Travelled fifty miles thro' a wild woody country, inhabited principally by Dutchmen, few of whom can talk English. The next day travelled forty miles to Philadelphia.

Sunday, Oct. 2. Preached at Schuylkill, and had a good time.

Sunday, Oct. 9. Brother Morris and I opened a new church at Manayunk, seven miles from Philadelphia. It dimensions are 40 feet by 25, and 11 feet high: eight windows and one door; eighteen pews and ten benches. The walls are of stone; and above the door is a stone bearing an inscription, "Primitive Methodist Church." With the date and the following passage, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us."

The whole cost will be about 700 dollars; and we expect to make up about 400 by begging; so the debt will be about three hundred; and the pews will be let for 140 dollars a year. It has a good burying ground, and I trust it will do well.

Tuesday, 11. Left Philadelphia, and on Wednesday got to New York, and were detained till Friday, on account of our luggage not arriving.

Saturday, 15. Got to Albany, and stopped Sunday over. Heard Sister Sutton preach in the morning, and I preached in the afternoon and evening; and baptized Bro. Watkin's child and another, and administered the sacrament; and the Lord was powerfully present with us.

On the Monday morning we took the canal boat, and on Thursday morning, Oct. 20, at 11 o'clock we got to Utica. And here I intended to stay and open a mission. I went to a friend's house, and got a little refreshment; and left my family there until I got a place for them to live in.

I fell in with Mr. Potter, who had been a member and a class leader among our people at Loughborough, in Old England. He informed me that Bro. Mills, one of our leaders, from York, in Upper Canada, had been at Utica, expecting to have met with me there. But had gone away two days before I arrived. But had left a letter to say they were in want of a preacher;* and desiring me to come as soon as possible. So we took a boat that same night, and on Sunday, Oct. 23, we were at Palmyra. In the afternoon I heard a Presbyterian minister. In the evening, being solicited by the captain, I preached in the boat, and had a good time.

* Bro. N. Watkins had removed from Canada to Albany, which city is the seat of the government in the New York state. —Ed.

Wednesday, 26. We got to Lockport, where we left the canal. We were then 62 miles from Canada, and our money was all gone except a few coppers, with which I bought bread and milk for my family. And I was under the absolute necessity of selling my watch for four dollars, which I paid for taking us twenty-seven miles further.

Thursday, Oct. 27. Arrived in York, where we met with a kind reception from Brother Lawson and his wife and family, and the whole society; some of whom were waiting for the arrival of the packet. In the evening attended a prayer-meeting in Bro. Lawson's house, and had a good time.

Sunday, Oct. 30. I preached twice in York, and led a class, and had a precious day.

Monday, 21. I was unexpectedly solicited to address a large concourse of people assembled in York to see a man executed for murdering his child. I felt it a great trial. But I have seldom been more divinely assisted. Many were deeply affected; and I have since heard that some were awakened. May the Lord grant that the awakenings may issue in sound conversions to God.

Tuesday, attended a prayer-meeting, and gave an exhortation. Thursday, preached in York, and had a good congregation.

Friday, visited some of the coloured people, for the purpose of trying to collect a coloured congregation.

Sunday, Nov. 6. Preached in the morning, and had a precious time. In the afternoon, Bro. Lawson and I opened a new place, where were many French Catholics. We obtained the house of a Catholic to preach in, and appointed preaching to be continued. May the Lord give us success there.

Monday, 7. Formed a new class in my own house.

Saturday, 12. Went into the country twenty miles. The roads being bad, and not knowing the way, and it being the first time I ever rode so far on horseback, I felt a good deal fatigued, and poorly in body.

Sunday, 13. Preached to a good congregation, and had a profitable time. In the afternoon rode four miles, and preached in Price's school house. Led the class, and two more joined.

Monday, 14. Rode ten miles, chiefly through woods, and the roads were so bad, that it was with difficulty I could get along. Many times the horse and myself were like to stick fast. At night, preached in Antre Road, to a large congregation. Stopped the society, read the rules, and gave them tickets, and two joined; one of them cried aloud for mercy, but did not obtain liberty.

Tuesday, 15. Spoke at Strutsville. Wednesday, 16. At Churchville, A large congregation. Led class, and gave them tickets. Thursday, 17. Spoke in Switzer's school-house, and formed a class of three members. Friday, Rode ten miles. Preached at Brother Smith's. The congregation was small, the people being hindered by the bad roads.

Sunday, Nov. 20. Morning, preached at Antre Road, and had a refreshing season. I then received a letter to say that both my children were ill, and desiring me to return as soon as possible. This again gave me to feel the need of submission to the Divine will. In the afternoon, spoke in the Church of England, to a great congregation; and the Lord was powerfully present, especially while giving the sacrament, many were bathed in tears. In the evening, spoke again at Antre Road.

Monday, 21. I returned to York, Wednesday, 22. Spoke in Young street. Friday, 25. Attended a prayer-meeting.

Sunday, Nov. 27. Preached twice in York, and led a lovefeast. It was a good day. In the lovefeast I was much delighted with the experience of a coloured man, he was so happy. He said the grass in the fields, the trees in the wood, and all around him, seemed to be filled with the love of God. I feel an ardent desire for the salvation of the coloured people. Oh, may the Lord save them. Amen.

York town, in Upper Canada, is seven hundred miles from Philadelphia. And I arrived at York on the 27th of October, 1831, and met with a kind reception.

December, 6. We held our Qr. day, and found our number of members to be upwards of one hundred.

I feel the weather here to be extremely cold, almost unbearable. My children were ill, but thank the Lord, they are recovering.

On the 4th of this month, I received a letter from Bro. Nathaniel Watkins, requesting me to go (over to Albany,) and open their new chapel. But it came too late, and the distance is too great. He says his sister, (Ruth Watkins,) is with him. I think she will be very useful there.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

Wm. SUMMERSIDES.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1832/177