

2236 Wabush St

Chicago

Oct 5th 88

Genl O B Howard

My Dear Bro In Christ

Notwithstanding

the many years that have passed since I had the pleasure and profit of your society I have not forgotten you and my memory often carries me back to those days, and to special times when we have not believed in the providence of God but brought together without any planning of our own and have had more at least I meet converse of things pertaining to the Kingdom of Christ (perhaps Cause of Christ is a better term to use in speaking of Christian work for Christ's Kingdom in its lifted sense has not yet come and will not until He Himself in person, it in person at his second coming with out for his followers, and my heart is filled with love and adoration for Him

Who has prepared those Heavenly Mansions ^{for} us in the City Oral City - Two
whose maker and builder is God
And as though the faculty of memory
I can bring before my mind's eye
The scenes of bygone days when
this same Blessed Jesus has con-
descended to allow me to come very
near to Himself. (I've dear brother
I have touched the hem of his
garment twice at least) So by
the Eye of Faith I can see and
make Oral the things that God
has prepared for those who love
Him. I know He has told us that
It has not entered into the
heart of man to conceive the
things He has prepared for those
who love Him. But may we not
in this case as when He tells us
He will do for us above what we
are able to ask or think according
to the power that worketh in us
attributed omnisciently to us so to
the lack of faith on our part to
grasp so great conception. It's God
the Holy Spirit who worketh in us
through faith to the saving of our
souls. And my dear brother perhaps
I have done wrong by visions and

to you too in witholding from you
the fact that He interposed also
for the saving of my body. The
letter was one year before the war
and therefore before I knew you
except by reputation, and my
heart has often burned within me
to tell you about it. But for some
reason I have kept hidden in my
heart except to a very few what
God in direct and almost im-
mediate answer to my prayer did
for the healing of my body. And now
that I have yielded to my convictions
of duty together with the counsel
and advice of Teachers in Israel
who have known me many years
and of this wonderful providence
of God in my experience to proclaim
at least to those who pray what the
Lord did for me in answer to my
prayer for healing before I knew of any
case of physical healing in more mod-
ern times than Luther's prayer for
Melancthon his companion in labor
with which case you are familiar
And it was not until after a series

of events in my history tending to
open mine which did open to
degrees my mind and heart to the
reception of the great and glorious
truth which is so clearly revealed
in the Scriptures, that we have a
God who is still touched with a feeling
of our infirmities of both soul and
body, and will come to our relief
as the Scriptures both old and new
teach that He has done all through the
ages, and as I write to the lamented
Rev. G. M. Humphrey who had been one
of my most intimate friends and
advisers, and continued so to be
until his death while Prof. in
Yale Seminary, which letter was
written only a few days after I was
healed, I said, "Why should it be
thought a thing incredible that
God should do this thing for me"
notwithstanding my conscious unworthi-
ness and have from childhood striven
to overcome. But it is only through
the grace of God that we receive any
favor at His hands, I first of all
told Mr. John V. Farrell and then
then young Moody whose body as my boy
called him. We were intimately associated

in Sabbath School ~~and~~ other Christian
 work here, and the Harwell one myself
 had attended. The same school when
 boys and I could not withdraw from
 them if I would the glorious fact
 of my castration. But without saying
 more I will in no manner fear as I
 can tell you first about the malady
 which afflicted me, it was hip disease
 as it is commonly called and which too
 is so common, and I have good reason
 for believing that I was born with
 my right hip out of place (and you
 will no doubt recall the fact that for
 some reason I had a limping gait)
 this motion was irremediable after I was
 healed by reason of a life of limping by
 reason of a misplaced and painful
 hip, was allowed for some reason
 to follow me to some extent, and perhaps
 for the same reason that Paul, Thon
 in his flock was not removed, God knows,
 I also had from birth several severe Scrup-
 tious swellings which for many years
 threatened my life and did at the time
 I was healed, but as they were in local-
 ities that could be obscured from view

I Rept them his except of course
my Sainthly mother and those who
knew me in childhood, and Mrs
Bishop Whipple knew me well in those
and sundry other ^{the} ^{as well as the} ^{hip} ^{trouble}
days, the ^{the} ^{trouble} could not be his
but the pain I endured was my great
trouble and with the limping and at
38 years of age March 8th 1860 I was
worse so far as my hip and limb was
concerned than I ever had been
and I became convinced that my
earthly pilgrimage at least so far
as active usefulness would be short
But up to this time I had only
prayed for grace to bear my affliction
without ^{gratly} ^{desire} ^{to} ^{be} ^{more} ^{useful} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{cause} ^{of} ^{Christ}
I had worn a cork sole and high
heel on my right foot and was at
that ^{time} ^{when} I was healed, and I also while
in St Louis in 1837 or 8 procured or
rather had made under my own Super-
vision a jointed support or movable
crutch, I say movable for the reason
that it was so arranged as to be worn
or used under my clothes passing from
my shoulder to the sole of my foot underneath
My pants arose into my boot it was for the
purpose of keeping the weight of my body
off from my hip as much as possible But
it was too cumbersome and soon laid
aside. And here in Chicago on Saturday

The 30th day of June 1860 about noon
I applied to Dr Jos R. Gore a well
known Physician and Surgeon who
then had his office just across the
hall from where we held our business
men's daily Prayer meeting in the
Methodist Church Block Cor Clark &
Washington St, to know if he could do
or anything to relieve me he replied
that he could not tell without having
a personal Examination which he
would make on Monday following
and Mr Sappanata with the understand-
ing that I was to meet him at
his office, the consultation was had
on the Street, After taking this step
it is natural that my mind was
occupied with the subject for my
Case was beyond the reach or rather
out of the range medical treatment
for a displaced joint or malformation
could not be corrected by the use of
Medicine, and so I reasoned (not
of "temperance and judgment to come")
for I was temperate and had prepared
my mind for judgment through depend-
ence towards God and faith in Christ
as my personal Saviour) but if the

possibility of any human power
to relieve me but to say come me
for hip disease of long standing
was then and I suppose still is
considered incurable, for my uncle
Joseph Clay of Auburn N.D. who
was one of the leading Physicians &
Surgeons of Central Iowa, and
who had known me from childhood
told me that he had never seen
or heard of a case like mine
being cured and he did not
doubt the author of my cure, thus he
told me the first time I went East
after I was healed, but to return I
resolved to keep my engagement with
Dr Gore I however continued to grovel
the matter in my mind and little by
little my thoughts went to God, first in
the form of a query whether or not I
had a Scripture warrant for making
my trial affliction a subject of prayer
and as you know precedents are
numerous all through the Scriptures
both Old and New of our Saviour
interprising in behalf of the body of those
who have believed on him (I ascribe
the ~~the~~ ~~scripture~~ healing of persons
in the Old Testament to our
Saviour for the sake of the
Old is the Christ of the New Testament
as you know, and I have never

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found even a semblance of a line of
demarcation in Scripture between
God's Children who wait & Him in
Faith in the early centuries, and
now and certainly there is a great
need of Divine help now as then.

Well then the time passed until
morning which on my way to the regular
weekly Prayer Meeting of the B. M. C. A.
it was a beautiful clear evening and
the stars shone more brightly than usual
and for a moment my mind was
drawn away from myself in the
contemplation of the wonderful works
of God in the firmament, and as
I gazed Heavenward the thought
flashed upon me that God who could
perform such wonderful ^{works} of Creation
could easily extend to me the aid
so much needed and with the
inspiration of the occasion I
uttered this ejaculatory prayer alone
on the street not thinking of my earthly
surroundings "The Lord made me
and He can mend me" and so
I believed it, I went to the prayer
meeting as usual and returned to
my room where I was fondling at the

time, My wife and little boy had been
with me for a time but had gone
to Beloit Wisconsin on former home
only a few days before this so I was alone
with me my wife spoke of my being
so very lame meaning more than ever
before, I then told her of the pain
I endured which I had hitherto suppr-
essed from her knowing that it would
do me no good to burden her with
my suffering and it was the pain
rather than the limping that I
desired to be freed from if possible
I returned later than usual after
having taken a bath so as to be clean
for Sunday and the Examination on
Monday by Dr Gore, for I had not
yet abandoned the use of measures
in some way in connection with my
Case and thus I returned later than
usual probably about eleven o'clock, and
that you may have a clear under-
standing of the Case I will speak
more in detail than I thought of doing
in this letter, for it is reasonable for
me to suppose that you will be inter-
ested to know about it - and
from myself as you have known
me so long, and the fact that the
irreligious world scoff at the idea
of Gods interposing in behalf of any
man and I am sorry that so many
who use the form of Prayer have so little

practise faith in God, answering
their prayer, and specially for the
body, when the fact is there are
more cases of answers to prayer for
the body and temporal things recorded
in the Scriptures than for the Soul
And the Saviour devoted more
time as we read to the wants of the
body and it was made use of to
convince the unbelieving that he
had power also to forgive sin, and
this is called the Great Physician, and
so many have found Him to be in
all eyes of the world. I will now
speak of a dream that I had during
the night. but I attach no importance
to it. and am not given to dreaming
and do not consider myself visionary
but rather conservative, and holding
fast to the old Scriptural landmarks
and in taking God at his word for
the healing of my body I am simply
holding to the faith first delivered
to the Saints, I dreamed that I
was at Dr Gores office as per appoint-
ment and they were making the
examination of my hip I was in
my imagination laid on a table and

without infirming me what they were
going to do. The Dr thrust his lance
into my hip & thigh and laid the
flesh open to the bone, putting
in a white cloth and made me
from my sleep and I did not
awake until later than usual for
me on Sunday for Sunday was their
specialty and has usually been a
busy day with me as I have all
ways been connected with the
Sunday School in some capacity
from Deaklan to Superintendent
and at that time I was much
interested in helping Bro
Moody as he then was in a former
State for the great work which he
has since achieved in the cause of
Christ, his work was then among
the children for the most part.

And the business men's daily prayer
meeting needed all I could do for
it and my family dependent upon
me for support and all this
rushed into my mind, but as I
have said I did not make peace with
without going into minute detail, which
I could do for it is all as fresh in
my mind as if but yesterday instead
of twenty-eight (28) years ago that I
was healed.
And which a sleep my hip was brought

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with proper plan and the pain and
even tenderness gone, and it seemed
to me as if I were on hallowed ground
and in the immediate presence of
God, and was overwhelmed, and
with tears of joy and gratitude com-
municated and stored in awe and
amazement at what God had done
for me. ^{While all of this was taking place} I could not doubt it
being in answer to my prayer of the
evening before on the street, it might
be said that my prayer was very short
that's true but my thoughts were
constantly going out to God, as I
presume the ^{man} who went to Jesus for healing did
and then ^{and} prayer too was short, its
object was much speaking, but believing
that it secured the attention and blessing
of God, we are told of prayers in Scripture
that were long and doubtless but only as
something of a cross and troubling symbol
in the eye of God notwithstanding the
length and elegant diction.

In the morning after the boys prayer-
meeting in North Market which I was much
interested in, and having taken the
first step in its organization I felt that

I was under Special Obligation to do
all I could to sustain it - and having
taken the first ^{proposed} step in its organization I
felt that I was under Special Obligation
to God and to the Souls of that neglected
Class in all Cities, the poor Children
to sustain it. For the Conversion of the
young I have long realized to be the
hope of the Church. And I believe
the "Lamb's Book of Life" will reveal
more clearly and possibly the Saviour
of Our Saviour to those who objected
to little Children being brought to
Him "Forbid them not for of such
is the Kingdom of Heaven" And
the history of that prayer meeting
is the earliest history of what is
now Chicago's Church its first fruits
or members having been gathered from
that prayer meeting. But to return after
the programming I requested Mr. Hamak
and Br. Mandy to be then all called him
to go home with me which they did
and to them I first told the joyful
news, and the next morning at my
request Mr. Hamak accompanied
me ^{to see} my old time friend Rev. Prof. J. W.
Hick then and now of the Theological
Seminary here, and to him I narrated
and demonstrated to his entire satisfac-
tion the genuineness of my Cure,
next to Rev. Dr. Robert Patterson pastor
of 2^d Presbyterian Church at his own

request and in the presence of Mr. Farrell
 But before adhering to him, my wonderful
 affection for the hands of God I was
 impressed as I believe by an overriding
 Providence to say to him (as Mr. Farrell
 will no doubt remember) for he was
 present at this interview also at my
 request "I consider it your duty
 as our Ambassador of Christ to
 investigate this matter and I
 will recede to any proposition you
 may make in order to satisfy you".
 In justice to Patterson I wish to
 say that this remark was not
 suggested by any indication of doubt
 on his part. And from that day to
 this he has never given me any
 reason to think he entertains any
 doubt of the truth or source of my
 healing and we have met many
 times since then. So you see this thing
 was not done in a corner.

Next to Mrs. J. H. Humphrey who had
 also known me quite well & told what
 the Lord had done for me, her husband
 having just gone East, and soon
 to him by letter, and immediately on
 his return to Chicago he came to my

room and saw me and commended with
me rejoiced over what God had done
for me in answer to my prayer, both he
and Prof. Fish had known me well
prior to this so they were well able to
judge of the matter, and this is a
sample of the course I have pursued
with reference to his publication, with
him and there are exceptions, until
the meeting of a Christian Conference
last December in this City, at which
several persons who had been healed
in answer to prayer within a few
years past were expected to be
present and among them one or
two with whom I had had correspon-
dence in England I could hardly
restrain the thought of withholding my
testimony to the faithfulness of
God in answering my prayer for healing
and to do so seemed like turning my
back upon my benefactor and a
cold shoulder to them, who had
been healed in like manner, and
I consulted with my Rev friends J. W.
Fish of whom I have spoken and
Rev E. P. Goodwin the latter has known
me through his whole pastorate of

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Twenty (20) years in this City, and both
of whom I presume you know, and
they unhesitatingly advised me to
tell what the Lord had done for
me, and just before the close of
the last meeting of the Conference
I did so in a very brief manner
and but very few in the audience I
presume and what little I did say
and I know Mr. Coakman the leader
of the Convention did not for he
was just on the eve of leaving for
New York. And when in Washington
last fall Dr. Sundeland, advised me
very strongly to write a narrative of my experience
of healing as it would strengthen the faith
of others who are suffering as I believe
for lack of faith in God the great
Physician of Soul and body, and also
Christians in general, and when in New
York City good father Lanphen who you
know as the father of Huller St. George meeting
advised me to the same course without knowing
the counsel that Dr. Sundeland had given me.

And ten (10) years ago while in San Francisco
I was so forcibly impressed that I ought to do so
inwithstanding my confidential friends and

advises had up to that time uniformly
referred me back to God the source from
whence I received my great blessing
for guidance, that I did prepare a
Statement and the first time I went
to New York City I deposited it for
safe keeping together with the last high
healed and cork sealed box, and several
letters that I had received bearing on
the subject of my healing including
one from a lady friend of my mother
who knew me in childhood and knew
all about my ailments, and they
remained in the Mercantile Safe
Deposit Co Vault until a few months
since I withdrew it with a view to its
publication together with some of the
correspondence that I have had since
on the subject of Divine healing, including
some correspondence with persons who have
been healed in like manner within the past
few years. And having become so thoroughly
convinced that it is God's will that I should
do so I felt a desire to say at least what I
have now done to you as a further witness.

But it is not to add ism to ism there is too
much of that already. And there is too much
Bible reasoning substituted for Bible teaching.
What God says in His Word should be conclusion
and Christ's ministry and teaching is clear
and unambiguous on the subject of Faith &

Prayer, and for both Soul and body, And
 Quens fall intailed Sickness as well as Sin
 And Christ's Atonement was to redeem
 man from the consequences of Sin resulting from
 the fall, and our bodies are as all true
 Christians believe to participate in the
 benefits arising from the Atonement of Christ
 the same as the Seal the Spiritual man
 at the Resurrection of the just, and the
 bodies of true believers are the temples of the
 Holy Ghost which here and my belief is
 with right living Gods Children who have been
 joint heirs with Christ should come to the
 grain as a shock of Corn fully ripe for
 the harvest. And all the anointing
 that is required is of the Holy Ghost and
 faith which works by love and purifies the
 hearts. And our pilgrimages to Mecca are
 necessary to be made by those who seek his
 blessings from God. It is face to face with
 God in that Holy of Holies, Sacred Communion
 with God, and so in the case of the Soul
 so with the body until its mission on Earth
 is ended. And who believe, that a Soul
 can be saved without the exercise of ^{spiritual and} faith
 in Christ. Neither do I believe that Divine
 healing is obtained without faith when it is
 practicable. If this is true as I believe it to
 be in the Church of Christ fulfilling its

Mission? And is not the lack of "Signs
following" as promised in Scripture attrib-
utable to lack of faith and they living
and am I not bound by the ties of
love under a double obligation to God
for my redemption in two fellow Souls & body
and to Him be all the glory here and
hereafter

Perhaps I am presuming too much
upon the interest you will feel in this
matter which so absorbs my own mind &
heart. But as I have said and reiterated
it is a fact that God will answer the
prayer of his believing ones for recovery
from sickness as from sin is it not
of great interest to the world that
it should be more widely known
than by here and there one who has
experienced it to be true in their own experi-
ence as I have in mine? And how
is that end to be accomplished? And
what so likely to incline others to
pr to God in faith as the testimony
of those who have been healed in answer
to their ~~own~~ own prayer? And what
would be more convincing proof to the
unbelieving of the existence and power
of God to forgive sin? I trust himself
you know acted upon this principle in
the case of the man let down through
the roof to be healed. And in the light

of Scripture and upon Expiration &
 ask again should I put in some
 way give my testimony as a living
 or a long since dead witness to the
 truthfulness of Gods promises. And
 dear brother if you knew the solemn
 vows that I attend to God when I was
 in trouble, and again after I was
 healed you would not wonder that
 I have trembled at times through fear
 that I was displeasing God in withholding
 my testimony. And when I tell you as
 I feel constrained to do notwithstanding
 the great length of this letter, that God
 will say it with profound reverence
 committed to me as I truly believe
 in a vision as visible as Peter or
 Paul had, or those who dreamed
 dreamed and saw visions in Old
 Testament times, and do not the
 Scriptures teach that God not only
 has but would continue to communicate
 with his children through this medium?
 And in the light of this and what he has
 done for me, is it presumption in me
 to believe that God has this communication
 with me in order that I may be myself to

be, and as I wish you to know more
of my experience I will tell you, that
In January 1854 while fast asleep
I dreamed or was impressed with the
thought, or had a vision as you may
choose to characterize it, that I was
about to die and I sent a messenger
and called my bedside quite a number
of my unconverted friends and told
them I wanted to give them my dying
testimony in favor of the obligation
of Christ and pointed them to Him
for Salvation and soon after they
had left me to die as they and I too
supposed, and just as I was breathing
my life out sweetly, a Voice sounded
in my ears as distinctly as if spoken
and directly to me saying "You cannot
die yet I have further use for you!"
It startled me but did not interrupt
my vision, I then sent out and called
in another class of friends all tried
Christians and when they came I told
them of the message I had received and
requested them to kneel by my bed and pray
that I might fulfill the mission for
which my life was to be prolonged which
they did, I saw no heavenly messenger or
apparition, but I did distinctly hear the
voice and received it as a message from
God.

Again while in St Louis in 1858 I was
startled from a sound sleep with the

announcement "Satan has desired to have you that he may sift you as Wheat." and perhaps if I had not heeded I would have received the comforting assurance that Jesus gave Peter that he would pray for him that his faith fail not. And perhaps the Savior had the same mission in view for me when the sifting process should be carried far enough and notwithstanding the chaff that still remains should I cut fellow my connections of earth.

Again sitting by the side of my Mother's grave in Beloit Wisconsin I wrote to my Reverend Z. M. Humphrey on the 17th of March 1860 only three (3) months previous to the time I was healed. And of which I then had no thought of being cured. "That I said "I am ~~drawn~~ drawing near to a crisis that is to try ^{on me} my faith more severely than ever before" and asked him to "pray for me that my faith fail not." This I regard as having been a prearrangement of some coming event in my history or as Mr. Humphrey said in my long letter "The shadows of which has cast before", but I had not the remotest idea of being healed in answer to prayer or

in any other way and of physical
maladies was not in my thoughts at
the time - and still again some time
after I was healed I was greatly per-
plexed to know what I ought to do
and I sought Council of God by praying
that He would guide me to some portion
of His word that I might take as an in-
dication of His Will concerning my course
I was at a Hotel in a little town in Ohio
(Therest) on the Pittsburg & Hartway RR waiting for
a train to go to Dayton Ohio, and I possessed
a Bible that I found on the table in the
parlor of the Hotel and opened it at
random having no idea where and
my eyes fell directly upon these words

"Be not as the horse or mule that
understandeth not to be held in by bit and bridle
I will guide thee in the way thine shouldest
go!" Could I doubt this being in answer
to my prayer just uttered for guidance?

I will speak of but one more which
occurred while I was in San Francisco
10 years ago while engaged in the
Paper Mill Enterprise about which you
knew something I became very much
concerned lest I was misapprehending
the Will of God realizing that I had done
so little in return for His great kindness
to me. I was fully absorbed with my business
affairs and I had in fact been for years
expecting myself to the utmost to at
least free myself from preliminary indebted-
ness to others so that I could feel and say
that I owed no man anything but love

and good will. But notwithstanding
 my untiring efforts and the fearfulness
 of the distant enterprises that I
 undertook I could only succeed in
 supporting my family comfortably
 and thus the years had passed
 since I was healed, and I was often
 perplexed beyond measure, and all
 the time carrying a double burden of
 obligation to God and man. And
 under this pressure I again sought
 counsel of God through his word after
 earnest prayer for guidance by the
 Holy Spirit who is promised you know
 to guide those who seek His guidance
 and. On opening the Bible my eyes were
 drawn so if by a magnet to these words
 "I am afraid of you least I
 have bestowed upon you labor
 in vain" and then by the same power
 my eyes glanced across the page to the
 conclusion of the message "Stand
 fast therefore in the liberty wherewith
 Christ hath made us free and be not
 entangled again in the yoke of
 bondage". And thus Howard in you
 of you can the force of the impression

made upon my mind.

Soon after this my connection with
the Paper Co was dissolved unexpect-
edly and the conviction fastened upon
me that I should ^{then} at least make a
written statement of the facts and cir-
cumstances connected with my restor-
ation to physical soundness as I have
narrated before, which I did as I have
also stated in this writing.

Now Bro these are the prominent
features of my experience and oh
you wonder at the solicitude I
have felt and expressed too to
my most confidential friends and
advisers, or of whom I have sought
advice from time to time. When my
burden has been too great to bear alone.

And please pray for me that I
may follow the guidance of God
through his word, His Spirit, and His
providential dealings with me.

And if an apology is due for coming
to you thus freely you will in the kindness
of your heart find it in the letter itself
and I should be very glad to hear from
you as soon as you may be inclined to
speak. And please remember me to Mrs
Howard, and Grace who I have not forgotten
as the little girl I was so much interested in
in the Sunday School Class in Washington
and I hope she has continued to grow in

grace and the Power of Jesus when
 to know right is life everlasting
 And if Capt Wilkinson is still with
 you please remember me to him.
 you know I introduced him to you
 but he I have not forgotten the
 night he spent with me at my
 private room in Washington
 And may the Lord bless
 and keep you and yours
 Is the prayer of

Your old friend
 J B W
 B. J. Field



The name of the person who
 has been appointed to the
 office of Secretary of the
 Board of Education is
 Mr. [Name] of [Location].
 He was appointed on the
 1st day of [Month] 18[Year].
 His term of office will
 expire on the 31st day of
 [Month] 18[Year].
 He will be succeeded by
 Mr. [Name] of [Location].
 The Board of Education
 is composed of [Number] members.
 The members are [List of names].
 The Board meets on the
 1st day of [Month] 18[Year].
 The Board has the honor
 to acknowledge the receipt
 of your letter of the 1st
 day of [Month] 18[Year].
 and in reply to inform
 you that the same has
 been forwarded to the
 proper authorities for
 their consideration.
 Very respectfully,
 [Signature]
 [Name]
 [Title]

*copy of,
preceding letter.*

2236 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Oct. 5th, 1888.

General O.O. Howard,

My dear brother in Christ:-

Notwithstanding the many years that have passed since I had the pleasure and profit of your society, I have not forgotten you and my memory often carries me back to those days, and to special times when we have as I believe in the providence of God been brought together without any planning of our own, and have had, to me at least, sweet converse of things pertaining to the Kingdom of Christ-perhaps Cause of Christ is a better term to use in speaking of Christian work, for Christ's Kingdom in its literal sense has not yet come and will not, until He Himself inaugurates it in person at His Second coming with rest for His followers, and my heart is filled with love and adoration for Him who has prepared those Heavenly Mansions for us in the City, real City too, whose Maker and Builder is God. And as through the faculty of memory I can bring before my mind's eye the scenes of bygone days when this same Blessed Jesus has condescended to allow me to come very near to Himself. Yes dear brother I have touched the hem of His garment twice at least. So by the eye of faith I can see and make real the things that God has prepared for those who love Him. I know He has told us that it has not entered into the heart of man to conceive the things He has prepared

copy of
friendship letter

3238 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Oct. 25th, 1888.

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Page 2.)

for those who love Him. Yet may we not in this case as when He tells us He will do for us above what we are able to ask or think according to the power that worketh in us, attribute our inability to do so to the lack of faith on our part to grasp so great a conception. It is God-the Holy Spirit who maketh in us through faith to the saving of our souls. And ^{too} my dear brother perhaps I have done wrong to my Savior and to you in withholding from you the fact that He interposed also for the saving of my body; the latter was one year before the war and therefore before I knew you except by reputation. And my heart has often burned within me to tell you about it, but for some reason I have kept hid in my heart except to a very few what God in direct and almost immediate answer to my prayer did for the healing of my body. And now that I have yielded to my convictions of duty, together with the counsel and advice of Teachers in Israel who have known me many years and of this wonderful providence of God in my experience to proclaim at least to those who pray, what the Lord did for me in answer to my prayer for healing before I knew of any case of physical healing in more modern times than Luther's prayer for Melancthon his companion in labor, with which case you are familiar. And it was not until after a series of events in my history tending to open, and which did open, by degrees my mind and heart to the reception of the great & glorious truth which is so clearly revealed in the Scriptures, that we have a God who is still touched with a feeling of our infirmities

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(Page 3.)

of both soul and body, and will come to our relief as the Scriptures both Old & New teach that He has done all through the ages, and as I wrote to the lamented Rev. Z. M. Humphrey who had been one of my most intimate friends and advisers, and continued so to be until his death, while Prof. in Lane Seminary, which letter was written only a few days after I was healed. I said: "Why should it be thought incredible that God should do this thing for me?" Notwithstanding my conscious unworthiness and have from childhood striven to overcome, but it is only through the grace of God that we receive any favor at His hands. I first of all told Mr. John V. Farwell and the then young Moody, or Brother Moody as everybody called him. We were intimately associated in Sabbath School and other Christian work here, and Mr. Farwell and myself had attended the same school when boys and I could not withhold from them if I would, the glorious fact of my restoration. But without saying more I will in as concise form as I can, tell you first about the malady which afflicted me. It was Hip disease and is commonly called now which too is so common, and I have good reason for believing that I was born with my right hip out of place, and you will no doubt recall the fact that for some reason I had a limping motion. This motion was instinctive after I was healed by reason of a life of limping, by reason of a misplaced and painful hip, was allowed for some reason to follow me to some extent and perhaps for the same reason that Paul's thorn in his flesh was not removed. God knows. I also

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(Page 4.)

had from faith several severe scrofulous swellings which for many years threatened my life and did at the time I was healed, but as they were in localities that could be obscured from view I kept them hid except of course my saintly mother and those who knew me in childhood, & Mrs Bishop Whipple knew me well in those days and remembered the swellings as well as the hip trouble. The lameness could not be hid, but the pain I endured was my great trouble and not the limping, and at 38 years of age, March 8th, 1860, I was worse so far as my hip and limb was concerned than I had ever been, and I became convinced that my earthly pilgrimage at least so far as active usefulness, would be short. But up to this time I had only prayed for grace to bear my affliction without murmuring. I did however greatly desire to be more useful in the Cause of Christ.

I had worn a cork sole and high heel on my right foot and was at the time I was healed, & I also while in St. Louis in 1857 & 8 procured or rather had made, under my own supervision, a jointed support or invisible crutch. I say invisible for the reason that it was so arranged as to be worn or used under my clothes, running from my shoulder to the sole of my foot underneath my pants and into my boot. It was for the purpose of keeping the weight of my body off from my hip as much as possible. But it was too cumbersome and soon lain aside. And here in Chicago on Saturday the 30th day of June 1860, about noon, I applied to Dr. Joel R. Gore, a well known

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Physician & Surgeon who then had his office just across the hall from where we held our Business Men's Daily Prayer Meeting in the Methodist Church Block, Cor. Clark & Washington Streets, to know if he could do anything to relieve me; he replied that he could not tell without having a personal examination which he would make on Monday following, and we separated with the understanding that I was to meet him at his office. The consultation was had on the street.

After taking this step it is natural that my mind was occupied with the subject, for my case was beyond the reach or rather out of the range of Medical treatment. For a misplaced joint or malformation could not be corrected by the use ^{of} medicine, and as I had reasoned (not of "temperance and judgment to come"), for I was temperate and had prepared long since for judgment through repentance towards God and faith in Christ as my personal Savior, but of the possibility of any human power to relieve me, not to say cure me.

For hip disease of long standing was then, & I suppose still is, considered incurable. For my uncle, Joseph Clay of Auburn, N.B., who was one of the leading Physicians & Surgeons of Central New York, & who had known me from childhood, told me that he had never seen or heard or read, of a case like mine being cured, & he did not doubt the author of my cure. This he told me the first time I went East after I was healed. But to return, I resolved to keep my engagement with Dr. Gore. I however continued to revolve the matter

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in my mind, & little by little my thoughts went to God; first in the form of a query whether or not I had a Scripture warrant for making my bodily affliction a subject of prayer, and as you know precedents are numerous all through the Scriptures, both Old & New, of our Savior interposing in behalf of the body of those who have believed on Him(I ascribe healing of persons in the Old Testament times to our Savior. For the Jehovah of the Old, is the Christ of the New Testament as you know, and I have never found even a semblance of a line of demarcation in Scripture between God's children who went to Him in faith in the early centuries & now.) And certainly there is as much need of Divine help now as then.)

Well thus the time passed until evening while on my way to the regular Weekly Prayer Meeting of the Y.M.C.A. It was a beautiful clear evening & the stars shone more brightly than usual & for a moment my mind was drawn away from myself in the contemplation of the wonderful works of God in the firmament. And as I gazed Heavenward the thought flashed upon me that God who could perform such wonderful works of Creation could easily extend to me the aid I so much needed, & with the inspiration of the occasion I uttered this ejaculatory prayer aloud on the street, not thinking of my earthly surroundings, "The Lord made me & He can mend me", & brother I believed it. I went to the Prayer Meeting as usual and returned to my room where I was boarding at the time. My wife & little boy had been with me for a time but had gone to Beloit Wisconsin, our

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former home, only a few days before this, so I was alone. While with me my wife spoke of my being so very lame, meaning worse than ever before. I then told her of the pain I endured which I had hitherto suppressed from her, knowing that it would do me no good to burden her with my suffering, and it was my pain rather than the limping that I desired to be freed from if possible. I retired later than usual after having taken a bath so as to be clean for Sunday and the examination on Monday by Dr. Gore, for I had not yet abandoned the use of means in some way in connection with my case & thus I retired later than usual, probably Eleven o'clock, & that you may have a clear understanding of the case I will speak more in detail than I thought of doing in this letter, for it is reasonable for me to suppose that you will be interested to know about it direct from myself as you have known me so long, & the fact that the irreligious ^{world} scoff at the idea of God's interposing in behalf of any man, & I am sorry that so many who use the form of prayer have so little practical faith in God's answering their prayers and especially for the body, when the fact is there are more cases of answer to prayer for the body and temporal things recorded in the Scriptures than for the soul. And the Savior devoted much time as we read to the wants of the body and it was made use of to convince the unbelieving that He had power also to forgive sin, & He is called The Great Physician & so many have found Him to be in all

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(Page 8.)

ages of the world. I will now speak of a dream that I had during the night, but I attach no importance to it, & am not given to dreaming & do not consider myself visionary but rather conservative, & holding fast to the Old Scripture landmarks. And in taking God at His word for the healing of my body I am simply holding to the faith first delivered to the saints. I dreamed that I was at Dr. Gore's office as per appointment & they were making the examination of my hip. I was in imagination laid on a table & without informing me what they were going to do the Dr. thrust his lancet into my hip & thigh & laid the flesh open to the bone much to my regret, but it did not wake me from my deep sleep & I did not wake until later than usual for me on Sunday, for Sunday was then especially, & has usually been a busy day with me as I have always been connected with the Sunday School in some capacity from scholar to Superintendent, but at that time I was much interested in helping young Brother Moody as he was then in a formation state for the great work which he has since achieved in the cause of Christ.

His work was then among the children for the most part, and the Business Men's Daily Prayer Meeting needed all I could do for it, & my family depended upon me for support, & all this rushed into my mind but as I have said I did not wake from sleep. But without going into minute details which I could do, for it is all as fresh in my mind as if but yesterday instead of 28 years ago, that I was healed. And while asleep my hip was brought to its proper

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Meeting is the earliest history of what is now the Chicago Avenue Church; its first fruits or members, having been gathered from that prayer meeting. But to return, after the prayer meeting

I requested Mr. Farwell & Brother Moody as we then called him, to go home with me which they did, and to them I first told the joyful news, and the next evening at my request Mr. Farwell accompanied me to see my old time friend Rev. Prof. F. W. Fisk, then & now of the Theological Seminary here, & to him I narrated & demonstrated to his entire satisfaction the genuineness of my cure. Next to Rev. Dr.

Robert Patterson, Pastor of 2nd Presbyterian Church at his own request, & in the presence of Mr. Farwell. But before rehearsing to him my wonderful deliverance at the hands of God, I was impressed as I believe by an overruling Providence to say to him (as Mr. Farwell will no doubt remember for he was present at this interview also at my request), "I consider it your duty as an Ambassador of Christ to investigate this matter and I will accede to any proposition you may make in order to satisfy you." In justice to Mr.

Patterson I wish to say that this remark was not suggested by any indication of doubt on his part, & from that day to this he has never given me any reason to think he entertains any doubt of the truth or source of my healing, & we have met many times since then. So you see this thing was not done in a corner.

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East, & soon to him by letter, & immediately on his return to Chicago he came to my room & saw me & conversed with me & rejoiced over what God had done for me in answer to my prayer. Both he & Prof. Fisk had known me well prior to this so they were well able to judge of the matter. And this is a sample of the course I have pursued with reference to its publication, with here & there an exception until the Meeting of the Christian Conference last December in this City, at which several persons who had been healed in answer to prayer within a few years past, were expected to be present, and among them one or two with whom I had had correspondence, were expected. I could hardly endure the thought of withholding my testimony to the faithfulness of God in answering my prayer for healing, & to do so seemed like turning my back upon my Benefactor and a cold shoulder to others who had been healed in like manner & I consulted with my Rev. friends F W. Fisk of whom I have spoken, and Rev. E P. Goodwin, the latter has known me through his whole pastorate of 20 years in this City, & both of whom I presume you know. And they unhesitatingly advised me to tell what the Lord had done for me, & just before the close of the last meeting of the Conference I did so in a very brief manner, & but very few in the audience I presume heard what little I did say. And I know Mr. Cookman the leader of the Convention did not, for he was just on the eve of leaving for New York. And when in Washington late last fall Dr. Sunderland advised me very strongly to write a narrative of my experience of

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healing as it would strengthen the faith of others who are suffering as I believe for lack of faith in God the Great Physician of soul and body, & also Christians in general. And when in New York City good father Lanphen, who you know as the father of the Fulton St Prayer Meeting, advised me to the same course without knowing the counsel that Dr. Sunderland had given me. And ten years ago while in San Francisco I was so forcibly impressed that I ought to do so notwithstanding my confidential friends and advisers had up to that time uniformly referred me back to God, the Source from whence I received my great blessing, for guidance, that I did prepare a statement and the first time I went to New York City I deposited it for safe keeping together with the last high heeled and cork soled boot, & several letters that I had received bearing on the subject of my healing, including one from a lady friend of my mother who knew me in childhood & knew all about my maladies, & they remained in the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company's Vaults until a few months ago I withdrew it with a view to its publication together with some of the correspondence that I have had since on the subject of Divine healing, including some correspondence with some persons who have been healed in like manner within the past few years.

And having become so thoroughly convinced that it is God's will that I should do so, I felt a desire to say at least what I have now done to you as a brother beloved. But it is not to addism to ism, there is too much of that already. And there is too

healing as it would strengthen the faith of others who are suffer-
 ing as I believe for lack of faith in God the Great Physician of
 soul and body, & also Christians in general. And when in New York
 City good father happened, who you know as the father of the Fulton
 St Prayer Meeting, advised me to the same course without knowing the
 counsel that Dr. Sunderland had given me. And ten years ago
 while in San Francisco I was so forcibly impressed that I ought to
 do so notwithstanding my confidential friends and advisers had up
 to that time uniformly referred me back to God, the Source from
 whence I received my great blessing, for guidance that I did prepare
 a statement and the first time I went to New York City I deposited
 it for safe keeping together with the last high healed and cork
 soled boot, & several letters that I had received bearing on the
 subject of my healing, including one from a lady friend of my mother
 who knew me in childhood & knew all about my maladies, & they remain-
 ed in the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company's Vault until a few
 months ago I withdrew it with a view to its publication together
 with some of the correspondence that I have had since on the sub-
 ject of Divine healing, including some correspondence with some per-
 sons who have been healed in like manner within the past few years.
 And having become so thoroughly convinced that it is God's
 will that I should do so, I felt a desire to say at least what I
 have now done to you as a brother beloved. But it is not to add
 to you, there is too much of that already. And there is too

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much Bible reasoning substituted for Bible teaching, & Christ's ministry and teaching is clear and unambiguous on the subject of Faith & Prayer, & for both soul & body. And man's fall entailed sickness as well as sin. And Christ's atonement was to redeem man from the consequences of sin resulting from the fall, & our bodies are as all ^{true} Christians believe, to participate in the benefits arising from the Atonement of Christ, the same as the soul the spiritual man at the resurrection of the Just, & the bodies of true believers are the temples of the Holy Ghost while here, & my belief is with right living, God's children who have been joint heirs with Christ should come to the grave as a shock of corn fully ripe for the harvest! And all the anointing that is required is of the Holy Ghost and faith which works by love and purifies the heart. And no pilgrimages to Mecca are necessary to be made by those who seek blessings from God. It is face to face with God in that Holy of Holies, secret communion with God, & as in the case of the soul so with the body, until its mission on earth is ended. And who believes that a soul can be saved without the exercise of repentance & faith in Christ. Neither do I believe that Divine Healing is obtained without both where it is practicable. If this is true as I believe it to be, is the Church of Christ fulfilling its mission? And is it not the lack of "Signs following" as promised in Scripture attributable to lack of faith and holy living.

And am I not bound by the ties of love under a double obliga-

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(Page 14.)

-tion to God for my redemption is two-fold soul & body & to Him be all the glory here & hereafter.

Perhaps I am presuming too much upon the interest you will feel in this matter which so absorbs my own mind and heart. But as I have said & reiterated, it is a fact that God will answer the prayer of His believing ones for recovery from sickness as from sin is it not of great interest to the world that it should be more widely known than by here & there one who has realized it to be true in their own experience as I have in mine. And how is that end to be accomplished, & what so likely to incline others to go to God in faith as the testimony of those who have been healed in answer to their own prayer? And now what would be more convincing proof to the unbelieving of the Existence ' Power of God to forgive sin? Jesus Himself you know acted upon this principle in the case of the man let down through the roof to be healed. And now in the light of Scripture & my own experience I ask again should I not ^{in some way} give my testimony as a living, not long since dead, witness to the truthfulness of God's promises. And dear brother if you knew the solemn vows that I uttered to God when I was in trouble and again after I was healed you would not wonder that I have trembled at times through fear that I was displeasing God in withholding my testimony. And when I tell you as I feel constrained to do, notwithstanding the great length of this letter, that god(& I say it with profound reverence), communicated to me as I verily believe in a vision as veritable as Peter or Paul had, or those who

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(Page 15.)

dreamed dreams & saw visions in Old Testament times . And do not the Scriptures teach that God not only has but would continue to communicate with his children through the Mediums. And in the light of this & what he has done for me, is it presumption in me to believe that God has thus communicated with me unworthy as I realize myself to be. And as I wish you to know more of my experience I will tell you that in January 1854 while fast asleep I dreamed or was impressed with the thought, or had a vision as you may choose to characterize it, that I was about to die & I sent a messenger & called to my bedside quite a number of my unconverted friends and told them I wanted to give them my dying testimony in favor of the religion of Christ, & pointed them to Him for salvation.

And soon after they had left me to die as they & I too supposed, & just as I was breathing my life out sweetly, a voice sounded in my ears as distinctly as if spoken audibly to me saying: "You cannot die yet, I have further use for you." It startled me but did not interrupt my vision. I then sent out & called in another class of friends, all tried Christians and when they came I told them of the message I had received and requested them to kneel by my bedside & pray that I might fulfill the mission for which my life was to be prolonged, which they did. I saw no heavenly messenger or apparition. But I did distinctly hear the voice & received it as a message from God.

Again while in St. Louis in 1858 I was startled from a sound sleep with the announcement " Satan has

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desired to have you that he may sift you as Wheat." And perhaps if I had not wakened I would have received the comforting assurance that Jesus gave Peter, that he would pray for him that his faith fail not. And perhaps the Savior had the same mission in view for me when the sifting process should be carried far enough, & notwithstanding the chaff that still remains should I not follow my convictions of duty?

Again sitting by the side of my mother's grave in Beloit Wis. I wrote to my Rev. friend Z M. Humphrey on the 17th of March 1860. Only three months previous to the time I was healed & of which I then had no thought of being cured. I said: " I am drawing near to a crisis that is to try me or my faith more severely than ever before", & asked him to ^{||} pray for me that my faith fail not". This I regard as having been a presentiment of some coming event in my history, or as Mr. Humphrey said in reply to my letter, " The shadow of which was cast before", but I had not the remotest idea of being healed in answer to prayer or in any other way and my physical maladies were not in my thoughts at the time. And still again some time after I was healed I was greatly perplexed to know what I ought to do, & I sought counsel of God by praying that He would guide me to some portion of His Word that I might take as an indication of His Will concerning my course. I was at a hotel in a little town in Ohio (Forrest), on the Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne R. R. waiting for a train to go to Dayton Ohio, & I opened a Bible that I

desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat." And perhaps if I had not weakened I would have received the comforting assurance that Jesus gave Peter, that he would pray for him that his faith fail not. And perhaps the Savior had the same mission in view for me when the sifting process should be carried far enough, & notwithstanding the chaff that still remains should I not follow my convictions of duty?

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(Page 17.)

found on the table in the parlor of the hotel, & opened it at random having no idea where & my eyes fell directly upon these words: " Be not as the horse or mule that needeth to be held in by bit and bridle, I will guide thee in the way thou shouldst go." Could I doubt this being in answer to my prayer just uttered for guidance?

I will speak of but one more which occurred while I was in San Francisco 10 years ago while engaged in the Paper Mill Enterprise about which you knew something, I became very much concerned lest I was misapprehending the Will of God, realizing that I had done so little in return for His great kindness to me. I was fully absorbed with my business affairs & I had in fact been for years exerting myself to the utmost to at least free myself from pecuniary indebtedness to others, so that I could feel & say that I owed no man anything but love & good will. But notwithstanding my untiring efforts & the feasibility of the different enterprises that I undertook I could only succeed in supporting my family comfortably, & thus the years had passed since I was healed & I was often perplexed beyond measure, & all the time carrying a double load of obligation to God and man. And under this pressure I again sought counsel of God through His Word, after earnest prayer for guidance by the Holy Spirit, who is promised you know to guide those who seek His guidance. On opening the Bible my eyes were drawn as if by a magnet to these words: " I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain", & then by the same force my eyes glanced

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across the page to the conclusion of the message: " Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage." And further Howard imagine if you can the force of the impression made upon my mind. Soon after this my connection with the Paper Company was dissolved unexpectedly and the conviction fastened upon me that I should then at least make a written statement of the facts and circumstances connected with my restoration to physical soundness as I have narrated to you, which I did as I have also stated in this writing. Now Brother these are the prominent features of my experience, & do you wonder at the solicitude I have felt & expressed of whom I have sought advice too to my most confidential friends & advisers from time to time when my burden has been too great to bear alone. And please pray for me that I may follow the guidance of God through His word, His Spirit & His providential dealing with me.

And if an apology is due for coming to you thus freely, you will in the kindness of your heart find it in the title itself & I should be very glad to hear from you as fully as you may be inclined to speak. And please remember me to Mrs. Howard & Gracie who I have not forgotten as the little girl I was so much interested in in the Sunday School Class in Washington, & I hope she has continued to grow in grace & knowledge of Jesus Whom to know aright is life everlasting.

And if Captain Wilkinson is still with you please remember me

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 And if Captain Wilkinson is still with you please remember me

(Page 19.)

to him. You know I introduced him to you. Tell him I have not forgotten the night he spent with me at my private room in Washington.

And may the Lord bless & keep you & yours is the prayer of

Your old time friend & brother,

(S'gd.)

B.F.Field.

A. S. Field

(Page 19.)

Washington.
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And may the Lord bless & keep you & yours in the prayer of

Your old time friend & brother,

(Sgd.) R. F. Field.

Dear Brother Boston Oct. 3/88

I have just received the fol-
lowing telegram - "Leeds Oct. 3:-
Laura is dead Funeral Sunday:-
I will go to Leeds tomorrow &
remain to funeral & will
write you further on my return

Yours Affly Brother

Perland



Gen. J. R. ...
...
Cal

Personal