1

On Board Steamer Mifnern
Monday Nov. 13, 1863

Dearest

We have been on our way from Memphis perhaps half an hour. Since we left the great River at Vicksburg, we have traveled 300 miles by R.R. in the States of Miss & Lou-a are now "once more upon the waters" - I think my last letter was mailed before we left the Steamer at V. Well we found comfortable quarters at the Washington Hotel for two nights & the intervening day. The hill is steeper from the River than Winthrop Hill in Hallowell. The town is knocked to pieces and burned by our shells - We visited some large Schools and then rode out 10 to the Pemberton Monument - Erected on the spot where that Gen surrendered Aug. 4. 1863. It is largely defaced by curiosity-hunters or rebels = I have a little bit of mortar that had fallen off = I have never seen so long & strong Military Works as here. The country is broken up into little hills that are very steep and as the roads are graded the "cuts" are deep and the banks perpendicular high. In these

the soldiers & inhabitants bivouacked during the Siege - There are thousands of them over-head holes all over town. In them, the people were perfectly safe from shells. Our lines, under Gen Grant - were 12 miles in length are are now as high as a man's head - the people plow over the trenches wherein sleep the dead and in a few years all marks of the war except the larger forts will be be obliterated. Perhaps it is well so. Why should we seek to perpetuate especially at the South those things that will only be a perpetual source of chagrin & disgrace to the conquered people of that section. But fenced cemeteries should be furnished & defended by our Govt. We dined with the German Gen. Osterhaus. He is since "relieved". We had a tremendous out of door meeting at 5 P.M. Lieut Colonel Rigs & a good Board delivered the occasion. At 4½ A.M. the next morning we were on our way to Jackson - 50 miles in the interior - the fare was $8, the cars worn out, filthy & hard to sit in - Ambulances take us 3 miles of the distance and we arrived and breakfasted at the Dickson House in J. at 11 A.M.

Our party was increased that morning by three northern Clergymen, Congregationalists & friends of Mr. Abbott Rev. Mepan Fay & wife of Chicago & Warren (Le. of Z. Soc) of Boston. Gov. Sharkey met us at the cars and was very cordial. He is the U.S. Provisional Gov. Otis went to see him & the civil authorities. Harry was very tired & so I wandered away & sat down in the hut of colored people at the outskirts of this most desolate town that I have seen. It is a beautiful, fruitful country and was a splendid little place, the pride of the people, but it is mostly charred walls & toppling chimneys now. The State House is intact, but was cheaply, tho' ostentatiously built and the walls are beginning to crumble. On the State grounds hundreds of homeless blacks have "squatted". They have their little huts of split cypress wood generally that they have made with their own hands, but some were huddled promiscuously in old half destroyed brick buildings floorless doorless. Windowless. In one of these,

spent half an hour talking with those cheerless, desolate women. Four children were sick - four or five others "better". The women were of the lowest class, most of them driven from their old homes because of their helpless & dependant families. O what a curse it is to them to have children! Some stories were told me there of child murder, and they seemed very probable. One man was making a coffin as I walked by. He was a Dr. & Rev. and did not desert his patients till they were decently buried with the rites of religion! I walked on into a noble Oak forest bordering on a creek where the Cypress grew. I went for Moss & found plenty - all I could get into my Valise. I tabled with many cheerful wood cutters. Was grateful for the shade from the hot Sun and have had no pleasanter two hours in all my journey. I spent some time in the Legislature - They did not publicly ask Olin to speak but were many of them present the morning at 9½ when he

addressed the people from the piazza of the Gov. Mansion. When he alluded to the sympathy that he had for sufferers on both sides, I saw tears in many eyes. At 11. we bade Mr. Alvord & friends good by & took a "Dummie" car, fine built, neat & comfortable, for the North. In this, we travelled with the Pres. of the R.R. free. At Canton 2½ miles. We stopped for two hours and there was another large gathering of the people to whom I introduced Gen Howard! It seems queer not to have Mr Alvord, & look out for his valise & shawl with our own baggage. He is a good man & we love him very much. A negro (Dr. Phil) had been speaking to his people at Canton to the entire satisfaction of the whites & Gen West (Pres. R.R. & member of Congress) gave him a free pass on the R.R. that he might speak to his people elsewhere. Dr. Phil says, "I speaks reason & common sense". But such a night as we had! About 12, we had to take to an old Academy for 2 miles &

then at the town of Grenada, we took our
old war-worn car perfectly stripped of
its upholstery, & having broken-backed
seats, dusty, cold, filthy in the extreme =
All night long we slowly progressed in
this conveying at Grand Junction (200
miles from Jackson) near the borders of Ten-
at 8 A.M. = Here we were in a desolate
place, with a miserable breakfast. Dis-
tressed & little prospect of getting on:
But about 10 O'clock, there came an
Engine & comfortable cars & away we
went for Memphis (35 miles) It was
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effort was not very successful - Talk
talk about the negro & his rights
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ing noon & night - The car was well
filled with respectable people - Here are
some planters in homespun, ruined
by the war. Here a "poor white" who con-
plains that his wife has been outraged
by a negro and comes to me with it
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heard that I am "at the head of the colored population" - Here are some fine well-dressed ladies, who utter in low hissing tones those hated words "these Yankees" = But this country is grand - what noble forests - These oaks with their green sward beneath and their russett leaves are next the maple in Autumn beauty & much superior in real grandeur - Here are long miles of white cotton fields not yet gathered - (Their first frost was last Sab.) Corn on the Stalk - The Earth is yellow & rich & the land rolling - War has destroyed most of the houses & we see thirty Stockades once about every two miles. At 2 P.M. we enter the suburbs of the great City of Memphis, which, with the exception of St. Louis, has for the past 15 years been the most flourishing city

of the South - Indeed it is more like a N.W. town than a Southern one, but its great wealth, like that of Charleston Mobile & N.O. is in Cotton. At none of these places is there so much business activity: nowhere did I see such immense piles of cotton - We were taken in tow by Gen Dudley, a friend of this place, to the Gayoso House - It is a splendid hotel with a Dining Room that I have never seen surpassed - "The Gen" had a fine room of course & all our bills were "paid" by some one here: In the Evening we had a crowded meeting in a colored Church - Otis asked me to pray & spoke in his usual sincere, hearty & most impressive manner - How they sang "On Jordans Stormy banks"! Otis then allowed a colored man to speak & he endorsed "the

General" most fully, illustrating his remarks profusely & amusing us by his dialect & pleasing us by his good sense & genuine Eloquence. After we got home, in comes an editor, so I must sit up & write out the speech. Off next down to a steamer to see Gen. Thomas, but by 11, we were all in nice beds & making up for our previous night in the cars. We were awakened at 3. by the news of the "Missouris" arrival & came on board but did not get away till 9. A. M. = We breakfasted on board. This boat is much like the "Arthur" in which we came to Vicksburg but is newer. We expect to reach Cairo tomorrow & then three days to Washington over 1000 miles. I would leave them at Baltimore, but I want to get a part of my expenses

paid me if I can - I mean the thousand little things for which I have been compelled to pay out my own money - (12 cents apiece for washing, 12 cents for an apple, 50 cents for a few stitches in a shoe & the like) I will mail this at the best place to reach you - This & we all are well this morning - The Bank of the river are higher than below - more islands & "shoots". It is even more muddy - Our passengers are of a better class than before, very few tobacco spitting Lutherans - & they are a coarse "disagreeable" set, I tell you - They walked hand with their "niggers" 9 mos. in a year in order to play the gentleman at the south for the other three - Now that they are at home & the result of the war has taken all starch out of them, they seem very flat & stale - Evening - We have anchored a little below Ft. Pillow - on the Arkansas side and are taking on a huge pile of wood - The steamer simply rams her bow up on the bank - Then they run out a huge walking plank and the

50 or 100 Deck hands run ashore to the pile which is near the end of the plank. Each takes 5 or 6. 4 ft. sticks on his shoulder and they follow each other very rapidly on to the Boat again. In an hour they will thus transfer 25 cords or more. It costs a good deal of meaning by the mates & considerable by the men. Olie has been introduced a lady with whom he has dined & is now chatting in the ladies Cabin. He offered to introduce me but my olde coat is not very presentable & I don't want to take out my new one today: but I do feel the need of ladies & childrens society. It is now five weeks since I left home. Olie has brought me Chaplain Ewing's letters today. He speaks in one of loving even to hear a baby cry. I can sympathize with that feeling. I have often regretted that I did not take the childrens pictures with your own. Dadie is in my mind all the time just as when I left him, but poor little Olie! as Olie says I cant "fix" him!

Sometimes he looks

one day & sometimes another! I wonder what they are doing at Farmington. I wrote a note to Mr. Gordon on from Charleston, but have not written since. I hope there will be letters from you in Washington but hardly expect it as you may not know that I moved go there. This trip has been most kindly smiled on by Divine Providence. We had a little rain one night in Savannah & today has been a rainy day, but we think it will be pleasant again by the time we take the cars at Cairo. We ought to be in Washington by the 17th (Best R.R. connections are always uncertain.) If so I do not stop in N.Y. or Boston at all I may reach Bath Sat. night next. Be sure I will come as fast as I can dearest. I don't care to preach till a week from next Sabbath. That will give me six Sabbaths in all. God bless & keep you dearest

Your Rowland

191 11/13/1865 ***From:*** Rowland [B Howard] ***To:*** Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-152

On Board Steamer Missouri

Source: Bowdoin

On Board Steamer Missouri
Monday Nov 13, 1865

Dearest

We have been on our way from Memphis perhaps half an hour. Since we left the great River at Vicksburg, we have traveled 300 miles by R.R. in the States of Miss & Ten & are now "once more upon the waters". I think my last letter was mailed before we left the Steamer at V. Well, we found comfortable quarters at the Washington Hotel for the night & the intervening day. The hill is steeper from the River than Winthrop Hill in Hallowell.

The town is knocked to pieces and burned by our Shells. We visited some large schools and then rode out to the Pemberton Monument erected on the spot [Vicksburg] where that Gen surrendered July 4, 1863. It is largely defaced by curiosity hunters or rebels. I have a little bit of mortar that had fallen off.

I have never seen so long & strong military works as here. The country is broken up into little hills that are very steep and as the roads are graded the "cuts" are deep and the banks perpendicular & high. In these the soldiers & inhabitants burrowed during the Siege. There are thousands of these oven-shaped holes all over town. In them, the people were perfectly safe from shells. Our lines, under Gen Grant, were 12 miles in length and are now as high as a mans head. The people plow over the trenches wherein sleep the dead in a few years all marks of the war except the larger forts will be obliterated. Perhaps it is well so, why should we seek to perpetuate especially at the South those things that will only be a perpetual source of chagrin & disgrace to the conquered people of that Section. But fenced cemeteries should be furnished & defended by our Govmt.

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About 12, we had to take to an old omnibus for 2 miles & then at the town of Granada, we took an old <war-worn> car perfectly stripped of its upholstery & having broken-backed seats, dusty, cold, filthy in the extreme. All night long we slowly progressed in this, arriving at Grand Junction (200 miles from Jackson) near the border of Ten. at 8 A.M. Here we were in a desolate place, with a miserable breakfast, Otis unwell & little prospect of getting on.

But about 10 o’clock, there came an engine & comfortable cars & away we went for Memphis (55 miles). It was Sab. & I tried to turn my heart homeward & upward to God, but the latter effort was not very successful. Talk, talk, talk about the negro & his rights & oppressions is the order everywhere morning noon & night. The car was well filled with respectable people. However some planters in homespun, ruined by the war. Here a “poor white” who complains that his wife has been outraged by a negro and comes to me with it because, as he says, he has heard that I am “at the head of the colored population”. Here are some proud, well-dressed ladies, who utter in low hissing tones those hated words “these Yankees”. But this country is grand - what noble forests. These oaks with their green sward beneath and their russett leaves are next the maple in autumn beauty & much superior in real grandeur. Here are long vistas of white cotton fields not yet gathered. (Their first frost was last Sab.) corn on the stalk. The earth is yellow & rich & the land rolling. War has destroyed most of the houses & we see strong stockades once about every two miles.

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I wonder what they are doing at Farmington. I wrote a note to Mr Goodenau from Charleston, but have not written since.

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God bless & keep you Dearest.
Your Rowland

Tuesday 1 pm.
As the log had delayed us we cannot reach Washington till Friday night & therefore I must stay there over the Sabbath & can't get home till late in the week.

a sleeping car till we arrived at Martinsburg Va. I was up, face washed, hair combed & eyes fully open at 5½! But the night had covered the grand scenery of the Allegheny Mts. and the wonderful R.R. thro' round & over them, that I had hoped to see. But Harpers Ferry partially repaid the loss & the last 20. miles near Baltimore, along a winding rocky creek was the most picturesque I ever looked upon. Compared with beds, sleeping cars are nowhere — compared with Steamboat berths, about ditto — compared with straight seats or plain box cars with no seats, they are grand. We found the family all well, the house in apple pie order — the Bureau full as usual. All the family are now in bed & I must follow. I had a note from Austin A. inviting me to stop with him on my way back. If I spend a night in N.Y. I will do so. I mean to prep Portland on Sunday. Everybody says the Union Commission is gone up & so I guess he'll accept. You did right about Mr. Berwick. I knew of no reason why I should be a candidate there. I hope for a quiet heavenly Sabbath tomorrow as Dr. Boynton is on the ground. Good night darling. O that you were

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

Washington, Nov. 18th, 1865.

Dearest

After reading Hippies letter, which I was so happy to see today, a few hours after our arrival — I can't go to bed without writing my dear wife a few lines, in the hope that it will reach you before I do. "Olie sick"! and "you have no girl"! "You are up nights — no rest"! Well, these are sad tidings indeed. I haven't heard a word since I left Charleston. But the Lord will provide. He will hear my prayer for the restoration of our dear baby and for his dear Mother. How it shuts out the sunlight on all my anticipated domestic happiness to think of you worn out, dejected & ill. But I will hope still. tho' I must say that I have felt very differently since the bad news & were it not Sabbath tomorrow, I should be

on my way tonight to you - But Monday I must take to finish my work for Otis & make up my acct of Expenses and get my pay - Tuesday shall find me in N.Y. where I will attend a Freedmens Meeting and hear Beecher, Bellows, Storrs & Gen Fisher (who took tea & spent the evening here and will go on with me) - Then Wednesday I will go to Boston & if the train gets in, in time to Bath in the Boat - if not, by R.R. Thursday - If you are not quite ready to go with the children I can go home from Bath & get everything ready & you can come up, when you are quite ready = I must preach at home next Sab. (week) Mrs Plummer Morrill, who came last week thinks they have had meeting every Sabbath but one - I called on her. Mrs Mahew & Mrs Clark formally of Milton - this P.M. = We arrived about 12. pretty dirty & tired, I tell you, but felt better after a Lunch & bath & clean clothes. My last writing to you was a note in pencil from Richmond Ind. We had a pleasant visit there - Otis having quite a Levee in the Evening = We sang patriotic songs with a gusto - had a Serenade by a good Band - went to the Depot at 11 P.M. waited till 1. for the train - We had a sleeping car till 5 A.M. (my first Experience) and then found ourselves at Columbus O. one hour behind the time - missing "the connection" = We went to bed & Breakfast at a good Hotel - strolled about that city a little and started on by the "Lightening Express" train at 10.20 a.m. = It is a noble State, is Ohio Its fields are as rich and bear marks of higher culture than those of Wis. = It was just night when we reached the Ohio river near Wheeling, where we crossed & supped on a Ferry Boat = Then came

192 11/18/1865 ***From:*** [Rowland B Howard] ***To:*** Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-153

Source: Bowdoin

War Department
Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands.
Washington

[LETTERHEAD]
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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
Washington

Nov 18th 1865.

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I must preach at home next Sab. (Week). Mrs Plummer Morrill, who came last week thinks they have had meetings every Sabbath but one. I called on her, Mrs Maher & Mrs Clark - formally of Wilton - this P.M.

We arrived about 12 pretty dirty & tired, I tell you, but felt better after a lunch & bath & clean clothes. My last writing to you was a note in pencil from Richmond Ind. We had a pleasant visit there - Otis having quite a Levee in the evening. We sang patriotic songs with a gusto, had a serenade by a good Band, went to the Depot at 11 P.M., waited till 1 for the train. We had a sleeping car till 5 A.M. (my first experience) and then found ourselves at Columbus O. one hour behind the time - missing "the connection". We went to bed & Breakfast at a good Hotel, strolled about that city a little and started on by the "Lightening Express" train at 10.20 A.M. It is a noble state, is Ohio. Its fields are as rich and bear marks of higher culture than those of Miss. It was just night when we reached the Ohio river near Wheeling, where we crossed & supped on a Ferry boat. Then came a sleeping car till we arrived at Martinsburg Va. I was up, faced washed hair combed & eyes fully opened at 5! But the night had covered the grand scenery of the Alleghany Mts and the wonderful R.R. the round & over them that I had hoped to see. But Harpers Ferry partially repaid the loss & the last 20 miles near Baltimore, along a winding rocky creek was the most picturesque I ever looked upon. Compared with beds, sleeping cars are no where compared with steamboat berths, about ditto compared with straight seats or plain boxcars with no seats, they are grand. We found the family all well, the house in apple pie order, the Bureau full as usual. All the family are now in bed & I must follow. I had a note from Austin A. inviting me to stop with him on my way back. If I spend a night in N.Y. I will do so. I mean to press Portland on Lyman. Everybody says the Union Commission is gone up & so I guess he'll accept. You did right about So. Berwick. I know of no reason why I should candidate there. I hope for a quiet hearing Sabbath tomorrow as Dr. Boynton is on the ground.

Good night Darling

O that you were here or I were there!

Sabbath morning. This is the most Novemberish morning that I have seen, but don't dread the winter too much

Darling. We will do all we can to make the house warm & comfortable & our clothing ditto & ourselves contented trustful & happy.

I have seen no place, the appearance of which was so pleasant to the eye and no people among whom I would choose to live rather than Farmington. And yet if my character & reputation and the leadings of Gods Spirit & Providence will give us a home where we can be freer from temporary embarassments than there and at the same time have a prospect of wider usefulness, I hold myself in readiness to leave. But, I must confess, I see no such place while in the ministry. I could leave it today & go South and into business with my name only & make 5000$ a year at least, but I should expect the curse of God to be upon me & mine. Gen Fiske was offered $10,000 a year just to reside on a large Plantation & take charge of the labor & I have heard frequently of 2 or 3000 being offered to ordinary men for the same purpose. The object is to get a man who can manage the Freedmen & in whom they have confidence, but woe is me, if I preach not the Gospel! And I would have it so.

There the breakfast bell!

With love to all - kisses to my Darlings

Your Rowland

[Note 1: The letter from here to the closing was found in RBH-153.]

Farmington Aug. 25. 1868

Dear Mother

I hope Frank Gilman sent you my Ranges letter as you will there see what a pleasant trip we have – For the last two Sabbaths I have been at home all day & have had full houses and solemn meetings – This morning I attended the wedding of Mr. A. W. Stewart of Marion whom you saw at Sellers, and Miss Augusta Bretto – They left in the cars & will spend one day at Boston & one in Chicago. I made them promise to see you soon after their arrival. Her father formally lived in Phillips but they have been here

P.S. Mrs Goff has a very sick baby & sister Emma & her uncle Perry Latham who is here on a visit – Perry will go – Mrs Keanes is still here. He has been to Portland as always at this season. We shall be glad to see Frank. Much love to you all. Sadie writes this week & seems happy. Yours much – I will not stop more than one day in Mrs Beals house.

47

for two years - and
soon expect to move
to Knoxville Tenn. It
was a pleasant wedding -
no one present but the
family - I was glad to
see one who saw you
so recently as he did -
We all continue well -
having very warm days
& cold nights - Sarah
has lost her girl again -
Ella will go down to
Bath with Otie & Sadie
& spend a week - leaving
tomorrow - I & change
with Rev. Mr. Hayes of
Mass (Weymouth) next
Sab. leaving here Friday -
Sarah is very silent to
us about her matrimonial
plans - We hope to hire
or buy this house when
she goes away - as we

are very tired of having our children
in another family - Sadie & Otie recent
to the Cannon with us - some time
another & then attended the circus
Stephens monkeys &c - Otie was
nearly frightened to death when
first of a one horse of the circus - Sadie
"Ring Master" & thinks Otie a coward
is a boy. Remembering a boy who
lived for a story. All are quite well -
Our friends at Bath are quite from
home - It is a very time since we heard from
Lucy - We try to follow Otie & Sadie
necessitates. Give much love to Sadie
& Rosa & a kiss for Pauline Professor

Duncan

193 8/25/1868 ***From:*** Rowland [B Howard] ***To:*** Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-154 Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Aug 25, 1868

Dear Mother

I hope Frank Gilman sent you my Rangely letter as you will there see what a pleasant trip we had. For the last two Sabbaths I have been at home all day & have had full houses and solemn meetings. This morning I attended the wedding of Mr. A.W. Stewart of Marion whom you saw at Dellies and Miss Augusta Brett. They left in the cars & will spend one day at Boston & one in Chicago. I made them to promise to see you soon after their arrival. Her father formally lived in Phillips but they have been here for two years, and soon expect to move to Knoxville Tenn. It was a pleasant wedding - no one present but the family. I was glad to see one who saw you so recently as he did.

We all continue well, having very warm days & cold nights. Sarah has lost her girl again. Ella will go down to Bath with Otie & Dadie & spend a week, leaving tomorrow. I exchange with Rev. Mr Hayes of Mass (Weymouth) next Sab. Leaving here Friday.

Sarah is very silent to us about her matrimonial plans. We hope to hire or buy this house when she goes away, as we are very tired of having our children in another family. Dadie & Otie were to the Caravan with me, and their mother & were delighted with the elephants, monkeys &c. Otie was impressed by the drums & plays some kind of a one most of the time. Dadie is a “Ring Master” & drives Otie around him for a pony, flourishing a long whip.

Our friends at Bath are quite well. It is a long time since we heard form Leeds. We try to follow Otis by the newspapers.

Give much love to Dellie & Rosa & a kiss to Ralph. Yr. aff. Son
Rowland

P.S.
Mrs Goff has a Party tonight in honor of her uncle Jerry Lathrop who is here on a visit. We will go. Miss Kearny is still here. The town is full of people as always at this Season of the year. Ella sends much love to you all. Dadie misses his visit to Leeds very much. I will not stop more than one day in Mass beside the Sab.

For the following letter

Rowland Bailey Howard to "My dear Mother [Eliza Howard Gilmore] Farmington, October 17, 1868

See: Folder marked "Dated Correspondence - Photocopies of letters"

copy of letter not held by Bowdoin

Call

Princeton Ill. June 9th 1870

Rev R B Howard

Dear Brother The Committee of Supply of the First Congregational Church of this place by the unanimous vote of the church cordially invite you to the Pastorate of the Church for one year with a view of a permanent relation — at a salary of two thousand dollars a year — you will also be paid with five hundred dollars as aid to your removal to this place — In presenting this invitation to you the Committee cannot but express the pleasure they feel that they act by the unanimous vote of the Church and they trust that this to you will be one indication that God has called you to labor with us — and it is our prayer that He may direct you in your decision as shall be for His glory — We hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience — and should you decide to accept our call that you will be with us as soon as the interest of all concerned will permit — By the Com't of Supply

Rufus Barey Clerk

195 6/9/1870 ***From:*** Rufus Carey ***To:*** Rev RB Howard

RBH-155 Princeton Ill

Source: Bowdoin

Princeton Ill June 9th 1870

Rev RB Howard

Dear Brother

The Committee of Supply of the First Congregational Church of this place by the unanimous vote of the church cordially invite you to the Pastorate of the Church for one year with a view of a permanent relation at a salary of two thousand dollars a year. You will also be funded with two hundred dollars as aid to your removal to this place.

In presenting this invitation to you the committee cannot but express the pleasure they feel that they act by the unanimous vote of the church and they trust that this to you will be one indication that God has called you to labor with us, and it is our prayer that He may direct you in your decision as shall be for His glory.

We hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and should you decide to accept our call that you will be with us as soon as the interests of all concerned will permit.

By the com't of Supply
Rufus Carey Clerk