

1886
Feb 19

I this day resigned the Presidency of W. F. College in favor of Bro. J. Cook D.D. who took charge of it the same day. I leased the real estate to him from Feb. 1. '86 to July 1. '89 - I sold much of the personal property together with the store. I sold to him with quite a discount on first cost. I have been teaching for 30 years & become quite tired of it & desire now again to enter the ministry & take charge of some congregation. My principal reason for resigning, is, that after the death of my wife, I find I could not carry on the college, with my two young daughters Katie & Jennie. They are too young to manage school girls, & to him an elderly matron. I think would not do, like the wife of the President. There are many reasons for my course, which is not worth while to relate here.

I moved my furniture into the Methn. parsonage which was vacant at that time. I am comparatively fixed, & now am waiting a call to some congregation.

I had the College from Sep. 1877, to Feb. 1886. & it was a prosperous school until the distress & death of my wife. What I will do & where I will go, is in the future. I hope the Master has got a work for me to do. I will wait his providence, which I trust will not be long. In him I have always trusted & feel confident that my present movement are his leading & guiding, & that He will still guide me, & enable me to do something for the good of mankind, the elevation of hermits, & the promotion of Zion.

Feb 19. Since in my new home, I have been asked, though not officially to take the Georgia mission, & also a letter from my son Schmucker asking me if I would come to Staunton Va. I supposed my name to go before the congregation, what will be the result I can not now tell. I heard by letter that Columbus S. Co. would be vacant this month, & that some three are in fever of my taking charge of them. I look to the Lord to guide me & hope soon to be in active employment.

We are sorry to state that Dr. Smeltzer has severed his connection with the Wallalla Female College, having leased it to Dr. Steck, of Newberry County. Dr. Smeltzer has been among us and actively engaged in the cause of education about eighty years, and we doubt if any ten men in the county have done as much for the promotion of this great cause as Dr. Smeltzer. In the graduates he has turned out from Newberry College, and since its removal, from the Female College, he has devoted the standard of education in our county, awakened a deeper interest in parents in the education of their children, and sent forth numbers of teachers whose influence for good is felt in the church, in families and in every social and industrial interest.

Dr. Smeltzer is a graduate of the college at Gettysburg, Pa. and has been engaged in teaching for upwards of forty years. To a thorough education he has added experience, and being a man of high Christian character and indefatigable energy, he has accomplished much good among us and his loss in the cause of education is truly regarded.

It was connected with Newberry College prior to the war, and that institution having been given up as dead by the results of the war, Dr. Smeltzer removed it in 1868 to Wallalla. It then had one professor, seven to ten students, its charter and bell. It was opened on Main Street in the old building, now the property of the estate of Mr. Cappelaere. Its appearance, in patronage and in the building, it appeared a burlesque on the name of college. The zeal and energy of Dr. Smeltzer soon won him friends, and in a few years the citizens of Wallalla, by subscription, purchased the present male college building and the institution was opened in 1878. Dr. S. was a very able preacher, a diligent laborer in all leisure moments in the interest of the college, until by his merit as a teacher and through his sole effort the college numbered annually from 120 to 150 students, and for several years turned out from three to ten graduates. In this condition of prosperity, Newberry decided to resign the college and offered for its permanent location there more than our people could give. It was removed and Dr. Smeltzer, who had bought property here and built up the college, was left without employment.

His interest in education and his energy in whatever he undertook did not forsake him, but he set to work to build up a female college in Wallalla. Being without sufficient means, he mortgaged his property to friends for ready money, bought a lot and built the present college. All this he has repaid, and has given to the girls of this county advantages they could not have enjoyed for many years apart from his labors. Since its opening the college has annually increased in patronage and popularity, until the past year. It constantly numbered many young ladies from a distance, who sought into the most teachings and educational instruction of Dr. Smeltzer. During the past year Dr. Smeltzer and the institution labored under many disadvantages. His good lady, the matron of the college, after a serious and protracted illness of a year, died. Her illness decreased the number of boarding students as well as the local patronage of the college. Of necessity and from constant trouble Dr. S. could not devote his time so wholly to the college as he had previously done. Notwithstanding this his scholars made good progress and he gave general satisfaction to his patrons. He now has the satisfaction in his old age and after spending so many years successfully in the cause of education, of turning over to another an institution, which he founded, built up and maintained until its success was assured.

There are few men in South Carolina who deserve more credit than Dr. Smeltzer and there are none in this section more highly esteemed or whose loss in the cause of education will be more deeply felt. We trust he may long live among us and that he may see his darling institution increase annually in popularity, patronage and influence, under the management of his worthy successor.

We will here add that Dr. Steck, now in charge of the college, is a stranger to us, having recently removed to this place from Newberry. He comes highly recommended, appears to be a thorough scholar and gentleman, and so far has pleased our people. His daughter, a teacher in the college, has experience in teaching and comes with high testimonials. The girls and young ladies who attend the college are well pleased with the teachers and management, and we think we can safely say the mantle of Dr. Smeltzer has fallen on worthy shoulders, and that the college and the cause of education will suffer no detriment in present hands.

This is from the Oregon Courier, an Editorial.

It shows what I have done in Wallalla - The week before (May the 11th) I was busy in packing my furniture having received a call from 3 congregations, St. Jacobs, St. Thomas, & Bethlehem belonging to the Tennessee Synod, & have accepted the same, & on the 10th I had my good horse packed in a cherted car & directed it to Peoria's Station near Broad River. On the 11th I with Kate & Jennie & Willie started in the car for our new home, which we reached just before sun down the same day, was received by Dr. Steck down the same day, was received by Dr. Steck & Ergle. The next day our good was secured at the parsonage.

The leading of Providence seems to be in this direction. I hope I have not made a mistake. All seem glad to see us. No one objecting except Dr. Hawkins who wrote objection except a mistake. I have no confidence in his opinion. I am sincerely fixed as much as I could expect, by the help of my Master.

Now I will, by the help of my Master endeavor to exert a good influence here. It may be for the good of our Lutheran Zion in this part of the Church. I preached my first sermon May 16th at Bethlehem. These three seemed well pleased. I hope it may be so at the other places.

June 20, I preached to day at St. Jacobs & St. Thomas

The sermons were well received. Much talk about them, I pray they may not make one void. It is pleasing indeed to hear that the boys are pleased I hope I may do good among this people. I met a young man this day, who has been roving through these states, & who has a wonderful memory. Such as I have never met before. The greatest talker I ever listened to, & he was pleased & with Moody & Sankey, but not with Sam Jones. He related wonderful things in a wonderful way. But I fear, he is ruined was in the habit of drinking to much, but has abstained in these parts I hope & I think will aid him to abstain altogether. & my sermons will do him good as he is fond of my preaching.

1880
Feb 27

I this day resigned the Presidency of W. F. College in favor of Rev. J. Steck D.D. who took charge of it the same day. I handed the real estate to him from Feb. 1. '86 to July 1. '89 - & much of the personal property together with the store. I sold to him with quite a discount on first cost. I have been teaching for 30 years & become quite tired of it & desire now again to enter the ministry & take charge of some congregation. My principal reason for resigning, is, that after the death of my wife, I find I could not carry on the college. With my two young daughters Katie & Jennie, they are too young to manage school girls, & to be an Elderly Matron, I think would not do, like the wife of the President. There are many reasons for my course, which is not worth while to relate here. I moved my furniture into the Methu. parsonage which was vacant at that time. & am comparatively fixed, & now am waiting a call to some congregation. I had the College from Sep. 1877, to Feb. 1886. & it was a prosperous school until the sickness & death of my wife what I will do & where I will go, is in the future. I hope the Master has yet a work for me to do. I will wait his providence, which I trust will not be long. In him I have always trusted & feel confident that my present movement are his leading & guiding, & that he will still guide me, & enable me to do something for the good of mankind, the elevation of humanity, & the promotion of Zion.

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This is from the *Evangelical Courier*, an Editorial.

It shows what I have done in Walhalla. The week before May the 11th I was busy in packing my furniture. Having received a call from 3 congregations, St. Jacobs, St. Thomas, & Bethlehem belonging to the Tennessee Synod, I have accepted the same, & on the 10th I had my goods packed in a cherted car & directed it to No. 1's Station near Broad River. On the 11th I with Kate Jennie & Willie started in the car for our new home, which we reached just before sun down the same day, our good was secured Ergle. The next day our good was secured at the parsonage.

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Now I will, by the help of my Master endeavor to exert a good influence here. It may be for the good of our Lutheran *The Naiaid* part of the Church. I preached on May 16th at Bethlehem. These were well pleased. I hope it may be places.

Our Sister Schools.
WALHALLA FEMALE COLLEGE.

A circular recently received from the Rev. J. Steck, D. D., informs us that he is hereafter to occupy the Presidency of the Walhalla Female College, just vacated by the resignation of its founder, the Rev. Dr. J. P. Smeltzer. We deeply regret to lose our old friend, whose worthy work has blessed large numbers of our youth, and whose place, no doubt, his successor will find it difficult to fill; but we recognize with pleasure the worth and eminence of the new incumbent; and with unaffected cordiality we welcome him to the ranks of laborers in the cause of female education.

We predict for him in his new position a career of large prosperity and usefulness.

I to day at St. Jacobs & St. Thomas were well received. Much talk they may not make me saying indeed to hear that the day I hope I may do good among this young men this day, who has rough these States, & who has a many. Such as I have never met yet toker I ever listened to.

He was pleased I with Moody & Donkey, but not with Sam Jones. He related wonderful things in a wonderful way. But I fear, he is ruined was in the habit of drinking to much, has been abstained in these parts I hope the Lord will aid him to abstain altogether. & my sermons will do him good as he is fond of my preaching.

1886

Sep 6 I wish now to record my feelings during the earthquake, which happened on the night of Aug. 31 at 9⁵⁰ P.M. I had just gone to bed, & was asleep, when the shock was felt. It awoke me on the fright of one of my daughters, Jennie, who came crying Papa, Papa. It was indeed fearful. The house seems to rock on its foundations. I know what it was, & tried to quiet my family. I cannot say I was frightened, but felt a dread as yet to be come upon. It was the severest shock of an earthquake I ever felt. The noise was peculiar. I know not any thing to which I can compare it. The creating of the noise was known. It lasted about 3 minutes, but we had continually of shocks that night. The wave of the earthquake was from southeast to Northwest. In the neighborhood there were screams & cries, especially among the negroes. The day following & from Tuesday night when it was first felt, we had a dread, for we had loved ones in Charleston. & we know not their fate, we received a telegram on Saturday & a letter Saturday all were safe. No one except peculiarly delicate, can tell the feeling during such convulsions of nature, not knowing what would happen. It is not known here at this date where the centre of this great power was situated. If it were not for these safety valves, earthquakes & volcanoes, our earth would show the fate of the planet which once existed between Mars & Jupiter, whose now over 100 small bodies are now revolving. Every evening since Aug. 31, slight shocks are felt. How long they will continue we do not know. Charleston & Summerville were seriously damaged.

Oct 10. This day one year ago. My beloved Wife Annie left me for a better world. It is Sunday & I preached at St. Thomas to a large crowd. I could not help thinking of the one who once shared my trials & sorrows & comforts with me. How lonely to be without a companion. Well, I do not suppose it will be long when we will be united again. I would love to preach a few years more. Until my youngest son Willie is of age & able to take care of himself & my two daughters have some one to take care of them. What is in the future I know not. I think I can say seriously & with confidence; Thy will be done blessed Savior.

" 11 Since Sep 1st I have had health, & also my family. Preached regularly at my appointments. I seem to be doing good among my people, & hope I may be instrumental in building up Zion in these parts. My daughter Ella & her children have gone to Charleston. They started about the first of Oct. I have heard from them. She gives a detailed description of the ruins from the earthquake. She seems to be uneasy lest another shock may be felt. Many opinions have been given as the cause of the earthquake, a land slide, volcanic action & others. But what appears now to be the most reasonable cause is the contraction of the earth from the loss of heat internally. This may or may not be the cause, it seems to me to be the most reasonable. It was the most severe shock I have ever felt, & hope I may never see or experience another.

striving more and more to impress, on the young and tender hearts of the little ones, the holy truths which will fit and prepare them for everlasting happiness. May God add his blessing.
L. O. BOLAND, Secretary.

1886

Nov 1 On the last 3 day Friday, Saturday & Sunday I attended the Conference of the Tennessee Synod for the first time. It convened in my St. Jacobs church. It was a very pleasant meeting. between 800 & 1000 present on Sabbath. 246 Communion. For the first time in my ministry the bread & wine gave out, it as no other could be had at the time the communion closed. I felt badly. Neither Pastor nor members expected so large a communion. During Con. I was appointed a committee to confer with the central conference to see if the two could be united into one. What the result will be I cannot now say. I was also appointed to preach the Sunday sermon at the next conference in March on the "sin against the Holy Ghost." So far I am pleased with my charge.

Earthquake shocks are still felt. tho. not so severe. I have yet seen no account of them, or the cause of them to reject my theory of them. that is the cause of this one so severe in Charleston, the first shock that occurred Aug. the 31 1886. My theory is the contraction of the earth, on account of heat passing from the central fires into space. I may be correct & I may not. yet no theory advanced has satisfied me.

" 5 Started to day to the Tennessee Synod. to which I shall belong while pastor of these congregations here in S. C. Crossed the river at Wallacerville & to the east to Columbus. remained there overnight at Wright's Hotel. Saw a few friends in C. & heard of the dissenters in the Lutheran Church there. They have got in some difficulty in electing a man who was not ordained. Took the cars at C. the next morning for Chester. Nothing occurring on the way except we got no around to that as was promised. At Chester we took the narrow gauge to Dallas, ^{Mo.} where we arrived at about 6 o'clock. descended at Mrs. Buchanan's. met the brethren of the Tennessee Synod the next morning. It was a full Synod. I was received, preached Sabbath morning. was well received by the brethren, & think I can labor with them very pleasantly. They seem to be a earnest set of men, & especially for the true Lutheran faith. Became acquainted with them. Spent a glorious Sunday evening. & I arrived at home Thursday afternoon. & found all well. Synod will next meet in Va. 10 miles from Staunton. I hope nothing will happen to keep me away.

Nov 21 Preached at St. Jacobs to an attentive crowd. Some there for the first time. The audience are still increasing between 47500. I do not know how the ingenuity have pleased. I showed them my responsibility. I also painted at Prossie's good turn out. & quite attentive. Nothing particular happened since the last week & made. Katie has been one week in Columbus. Will stay there a week more, taking lessons in painting. Nothing new the last two weeks, no earthquake since Nov 5, while I was in Columbus. a pretty severe shock. I hope they are all over. & the news of the timid will then be quiet. I fear the same will be over tea & power & you will be of your old. So always these precedences will produce Jewish looking heat. The version when past.

1887

- Jan. 16 Nothing of any account worth recording has happened since my last record except the Holidays. & the cold weather. During the Holidays I was invited to deliver 3 *sermons* desecrated. filled 2 of them, & on account of a fever could not attend one. Received several presents. The weather has been cold on several occasions could not fill my appointments. On the 10 I buried a very old man, vide Journal of Deaths the oldest person I ever buried. This day I wrote the will of Mrs. Polly Ann Schmitz. who thinks she cannot remain long in this world, & wishes to dispose of her property as she thinks it ought. She cannot remain long here. My people at Waterloo, where the church was greatly divided before I came among them is now more united than has been for many years. I hope I may be able to in my labors here. It seems a Providence that I was called to this place & I think I can do more good in the pulpit here than in teaching.
- Feb. 4. This was a joggle day. The whole family went to a reunion of one of the best families in this part of the world. It was to celebrate the 85th birthday of Mr. Jacob Eagle. Having lived 5 years in Concord town, $\frac{1}{2}$ of his pastorate was there. A few others about 10. It was a pleasant surprise to the old pilgrim. Among his descendants were 10 great grand children. on that occasion as his pastor I was there & made a speech at the table. It was lauded with deprecations. I were more than enough to satisfy the crowd. I have here recorded the speech so my posterity may know what I said on that occasion. All passed off quietly. The young people had their sports.

1887

- Feb. 20 I must here record the circumstances, trouble & variety of my property in Waterloo. I had leased the property to be leased for (Feb. 1. 1886. to July 1. 1887) The terms were, Cash for property sold, viz Bookstore & Furniture, \$13.00 per month until July 1. 1886, & then 20 dollars per mo. to end of lease. I could not get cash for all property sold, & he paid the monthly rent for a few mos. I was in all at this date. \$232.43 & I fear he will not pay. He gave me written notice that he would leave the College. July 1. 1887. & I have accepted the notice. He advised me to get another one to rent the College. I have succeeded & Mr. J. H. Hise takes the college July 1. 1887. Rev. H. has made many promises, & fulfilled none. Violated the Lease, & I am glad he is going to leave.
- Mar. 16. I completed this day the survey of Martin's School District. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles square. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. E. S. & W. from the School House. So large a District. Some opposition. I was terribly dogged by an old maid, in passing through her property, with sleeves rolled up. I just checked she poured her anathemas upon me. I & my men said nothing. Passed on without hurt. Received a letter from Schumaker informing me that he was elected Mayor of Stouten.
- " 30 To day preached at St. Jacobs. Cold day for the time of the year. Good Cong. Preachers are in the neighborhood & have kept many from church. I was in earnest in presenting the truth.
- April 24 Communion at Bethlehem. Good Cong. Attention. The last 10 days I have had an attack of Asthma. The first attack of the kind. It was severe. alarmed the girls. Hope it will be the last. Not quite over it yet. Had no difficulty in preaching this day, though did a great deal of talking.
- May 7 Asthma still troubles me, Brod the letter here received, it speaks for itself.
- " 9 To day Katie starts for Charleston, to stand as Bridesmaid, Mrs. Jennie Mullen's marriage. She will be gone 3 or 4 weeks. I also gave the sacrament to an old man. 90 yrs of age. Sick with Dropsy. He seems to be in earnest. His near relatives commended with him. Mr. Comalander. May the Lord be with him.

May 15. Sunday night 12 o'clock, after my return from Robt's Station, I had a severe attack of sub-acute Bronchitis, supervened by Asthma. I sent for Dr Eagle. He partially relieved me at that time, but I became worse. For 2 weeks I was very ill. At one time my life was despaired of & My friends thought I would not live through the night. At another time I told the doctor if he could not relieve me I could not stand it 3 hours longer. All the effort of Dr Eagle with Chloral Hydrate, Life Everlasting, Jerneston plant. had no effect. At last was relieved by Morphine. Dr Eagle gave me during the attack, some drugs to make me sleep, which was on a Chair, for I could not lie down. I fell asleep & my children dragged me to bed, & held me up during the night, of which I was entirely unconscious. Dr E. telegraphed Dr Mayor of Newberry. also my son John & daughter Katie who were in Charleston. Dr M. examined me & on his second visit said I would not preach any more. When John came, & in consultation with the Doctor, & knowing that my children would have to take care of me, determined to move & my effects to Charleston, & meant to work pasting up. I had a severe struggle to give up my field of Labor, but if I was prevented by sickness from preaching, which was a terrible thought to me. I would rather let off with my children in C. Before my effects were moved, I was sent to C. in charge of my daughter Jennie. & was taken to my daughter Ella & stay there until the arrival of my goods & a house procured. I continued to improve. During the attack my pulse would beat 140 to the minute for a few seconds & then 80. My feet were swollen & I feared a severe attack of Dropsy. John Willie Holie & Jennie with my self are now living 68. Pradcliffe St. Pleasantly enough in one respect, but sad that I cannot preach. This was the first serious attack I recollect of having. It went hand in hand with me. I hope & pray that I may recover & be able to preach again. I am not much better June 27, '87 & hope I will recover entirely.