

The Marquis  
Mitis Feb. 25/80

Principal Dawson

My dear Sir

I hope you are all well.  
Enclosed I send you an account of our N. Y. Festival. You will see by it that the priest was among our visitors during the exhibition. He staid a good while and seemed to take a good deal of interest in it. He can speak very little English so we chatted away in French. He took notice of the Pustka flag. He read aloud the motto and then said "The burning bush." I explained to him the picture of "The Last Sleep of Joseph" before leaving he partook of cake. A few days after I sent him a little book containing John III. 16 in 134 languages. By and by I received a reply in which he thanked

me for it and said that he had  
shown it to several of his brethren  
who had been at his house a few  
days before. He regards it as a great  
curiosity. He would like if I would  
give him a few particulars about  
the first settlers in Mitis. I am  
going to do what I can to get the  
information he desires.

Of course you wish to know  
what we have done about a new  
church here. Well I have to say  
that nothing has been done. There  
is the reason. This winter has been  
to me a very painful season. Toward  
the middle of November my mother  
was seized with neuralgia in the  
head and neck. For a long time  
she suffered most severely from it.  
For several days I did the most  
of the cooking. She is much better  
now but far from being well. She  
attempts to household duties as well

as she can but she can do little  
without considerable exertion. For ex-  
ample it is difficult for her to pick  
anything up from the floor. She  
is very different from what she  
was when you last saw her. She  
has not been once out of doors since  
she took ill. I never saw her so long  
ill. The trouble has left when it  
was at first and is now in her body.  
It is only within the past two or three  
weeks that I have been able to leave  
her alone for a few hours. I intend  
going to Kinnosaki next week.

I have not been able to visit any  
of my stations along the line  
since I came back from the  
west. When I look back on what  
we have lately come through it seems  
as if it were a painful dream.

Some of the people here have been  
very kind. Some have come to demands  
at different times but through the

saw my mother's place vacant they  
went past the Manse without  
calling in to say to her "How are  
you?"

In these circumstances I have  
not had a meeting for over a year  
the managers to see how the people  
stand in the matter of stipend.  
This is a more important matter  
than building a church. It is of  
little use putting up a building for  
a well if water cannot be had.  
At present I get not a cent from  
the N. M. Fund. The people promise  
\$750 - This is not all paid. Part  
of what is paid is paid in beef, hay  
and oats. The manner of paying  
the stipend is in the highest degree  
unsatisfactory. I do my best to im-  
prove it but without effect. I intend  
having a meeting about my stipend  
in the course of 2 or 3 weeks - now  
that my mother is somewhat re-  
covered. Had she been in her usual

health I would have called a  
meeting about a new church before  
this time. Known as I have said  
to you *viva voce* I have not the  
slightest particle of enthusiasm  
about it. I have good reason for  
it. I am thoroughly acquainted with  
the state of the place. I ought to  
be after having been over 18 years in  
it. Will I am not enthusiastic  
in the least about working to get a  
church for the Methodists. How  
often our ministers resign for want  
of sufficient support! Will the  
people here cannot raise \$200.  
They can promise it but they can-  
not pay it. No, they cannot. Will  
suppose they were to give \$200. Would  
\$200 be given from the M. M. Fund?  
It would not. But if it were that  
would make only \$400. There ought  
to be only one Protestant church here  
Conscience had nothing to do with  
the formation of the so-called Methodists

Church here. Its origin was character-  
ized by a good deal of childishness  
and rascality. I speak the truth.  
I can prove what I say. The founder  
of the other church but for whom  
there would not have been another  
Protestant church here yet is a  
liar and a rogue. Yet he used  
to stand up in the class meetings  
and tell those present what a  
good man he was! The Method-  
ians have only 6 or at most 7 members  
here. However they hang on. There  
is service at L. Metic now only  
on alternate sabbaths with R.  
du Loup. At the latter place a  
Methodist minister has taken charge  
of a Presby. station!! When the  
minister is not here Mr McVicker  
conducts a meeting in the church  
but scarcely anybody goes to it.  
A good number come to us. Most  
of the old stagers however stay  
at home. A Sabbath's preaching

does them for a fortnight. It is very  
inconvenient for the minister to  
go to N. du Loup. I have little  
doubt that the Method<sup>ist</sup> would  
separate it from this place if they  
had the whole field here as I  
expect they will by and by. What  
<sup>would</sup> ~~the~~ the use of having a missionary  
here for a few weeks with a Me-  
thod. minister would be here all  
the year round?

The Method. minister gets  
all the collections here. I have  
been told by one of his people that  
there was in summer \$750.  
Now a good deal of this is Presb.  
money. Presb. thus upheld a  
church which was "got up" by a  
big rascal to crush their own  
here out of existence!!

Mr. Hanson says that if  
he be spared to visit Merit's next  
summer he will try to get a Presb.  
Ch. started at T. Merit's. I would

like to see me there - of course  
a branch one of the present church  
I have collected between \$200 and  
\$300 for such a church. If we  
had a church and service in the  
morning I think the attendance  
would be better. I wish to see a  
Presb. Ch. at L. Mitis of the kind  
referred to not because I wish to  
put myself forward - Far from it.  
But we were the first here. Presb.  
meetings were held there <sup>(L. Mitis)</sup> before  
the other church was ever thought  
of. I do not like to see our church  
trampled under the feet of the  
other party. With \$300 or \$400  
a start could be made. All that  
is needed at first is shelter from  
sun and shower. As time rolls  
on the building could be improved.  
If I had service in the morning  
at L. Mitis for a few weeks the  
people here could not reasonably  
find fault. Many a congregation



that gives its minister 5 times  
as much as they do has service  
always in the afternoon. As a min-  
ister to be fettered for the matter  
of \$100 a year. It is ridiculous  
for a 2<sup>nd</sup> class passenger to com-  
plain because he cannot travel  
in a Pullman car.

In Hague I understand is  
going to set apart a room in his  
house for meetings. Of course  
we cannot expect him to do much  
to hold up the old blue flag.

However I must here "call  
a halt." Excuse me for taking up  
so much of your time with the  
matters already alluded to. As  
I have already said we have tak-  
-en no action about a new church  
not because we did not appreciate  
your help but owing to my mo-  
-ther's long and severe illness. If  
I do not act in the matter there  
will not be much done.

I may state that I have lately  
laid out a good deal on the house.  
It is part of what was raised by  
a bazaar some years ago for that  
purpose. I lent \$70 of it to help  
a member for 6 months or 4  
years ago. I have not got one cent  
of it yet and I do not suppose  
we will. In addition I lent  
him \$30 of my own - \$100 in  
all. Well there is not the least  
likelihood that the house will  
ever be used as a house after  
I leave it. At best it will be  
a summer house for visitors.  
I know the circumstances of the  
place.

My mother and I write in  
very kindest regards to you and  
Mrs Dawson and family.

With best wishes I remain

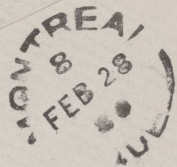
Yours  
T. Fenwick

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