

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Section 26, Pages 751 - 780

This is correspondence of Luther H. Platt and Dwight Henry Platt, missionary son and grandson of Jireh Platt, an abolitionist from Mendon, Illinois. Luther Platt's papers include letters from his wife Nettie, correspondence with religious groups, and correspondence with military officials in the South after the Civil War particularly regarding individuals still being held as slaves. The papers of Dwight Henry Platt include letters to his parents (Luther and Nettie) while he was at Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas, in the early 1880s; letters from friends; and correspondence from other individuals for business and professional purposes. Dwight served as pastor for the Congregational church in northwest Kansas, centered in Goodland.

Date: 1863-1896

Callnumber: Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt Coll. #473, Box 1 & 2

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Lower Kans
June 18 1892

D H Platt
Alton Kans.

My dear father:
I arrived home, last night about 12, from my trip to Popika. Rode out part way with Mr. McLean and walked and carried my valise the rest of the way. — I judge from your letter that you have gotten well to work. — We had a great time down to Washburn. ~~Monday~~ Tuesday Morning I met Bob on the street. He was mourning your absence deeply. After some little conversation he spoke of the bargain, and of the fact that your absence was also to be the ^{cause of the} absence of Maudie also. He wanted me to help her out of the difficulty. I didn't see how I could. Told him it would look as if I was trying to shove myself forward etc. He said not, and that she would not go at all if some one did not go with her. So after he talked to me an hour or so and took me to dinner with him I promised to ^{do} what I could.

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which resulted in my being her escort, and having her call me "awful nice." We had a fine time. There were not very many present, only 26. Judge Brewer, the Doctor, Prof. Storme, Dornell, Miss Storrs, Ralph Ingalls, Lawson, responded to toasts.

They were all good but Lawson's Ingalls did especially well, as his name was not on the program, and what he said was entirely extempore.

There was not one of your class (90) present. The Cherubs did not sing as Al couldn't come. They sent for Mel. Platt to come and take his place which he did but at the last minute Ed failed them. Mel sang a solo, also Miss Charles.

They were very late in ⁱⁿ beginning, and close, or as Judge Brewer said, "This banquet is like the ladies dresses down ⁱⁿ Washington, too late in beginning and too long in ending."

The next day I rushed Munde also, but it was Munde Bishop.

Pastor's oration was a little bit of a "Calamity howl" but his delivery was

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excellent. Mr. Cobett spoke for the
 Master's Degree.
 The reception in the evening, Miss B.
 and I, pronounced a bore.
 While I was down I made a raise
 of a route, though not a very good one
 it is S. of 10th and E. of Jefferson St.
 Not very good locality and pays now but about
 \$3.00 though a year ago it ~~paid~~ ^{paid} over \$4.00,
 but I did not have to pay but \$25.00
 for it, I thought I could get it and
 "keep my eyes out" and get a better
 one, like this. I am going down next
 week. Mr. M. has gone to Chicago for
 the summer so I am going to room
 with Mercer till he gets back.
 If you know what Harshbarger's
 address is you know mine, I don't.
 I had a letter from Miss Dean
 the other day she said that it would
 be a great pleasure to entertain you
 if you should make it handy to go
 to S. C. She got the 1st scholarship
 and Miss Bishop the 2nd.
 I also had one from Miss Bush some
 time ago in which she wished again
 to be remembered to you.

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Well I hope that you may be
successful in your work, etc.
I saw ever so many people at
the college who inquired after
you, and seemed very sorry not to see
you. — Supper is called. —

Well I have eaten and feel "too
full for utterance so will close
With love

F. L. Platt,

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

JUSTICE BREWER SPEAKS.

He Makes the Principal Toast at the Banquet Last Evening.

Twenty-six members of the Washburn college alumni, old students and officers of the college, banquetted at the Copeland last night. They began at 10:30, and it was two o'clock before they had finished, and were ready to go home.

The toast "Kansas colleges," by Associate Justice David J. Brewer, of the United States supreme court, was the feature of the evening. He told several amusing stories. It was late when he was called on, and he began by saying that banquets were very much like the dresses worn by society ladies in Washington, "they begin too late and don't end soon enough."

"I never could see," he said, "why I was made a director of this college. I don't belong to the same church, and have often wondered why they picked me up. I am like the woman who while spending Sunday in a strange town wandered into the first church she came to. It chanced to be filled with very superstitious negroes, but she decided to stay. It was a warm morning and all the windows were open. Just before services were begun a tame raven whose vocabulary was small, but not very choice, flew in through the window, and perching on the pulpit, said to the minister, 'You be—.' The colored man of God thought that was a bad omen, and leaping out of the window, fled. The raven repeated his injunction to the congregation and they took to their heels leaving the visitor alone. The raven perched in front of her on the bench and again said, 'You be—.' 'You be—, yourself, sir; I don't belong to this church,' was the prompt reply."

The judge then talked of the growth and prospects of the western colleges, and particularly of Washburn, which he predicted would become one of the great institutions of the country.

Dr. McVicar spoke on "The Alumni," and said that he was pleased to see that many ex-students married Washburn girls. He thought that was one of the advantages of a co-educational institution.

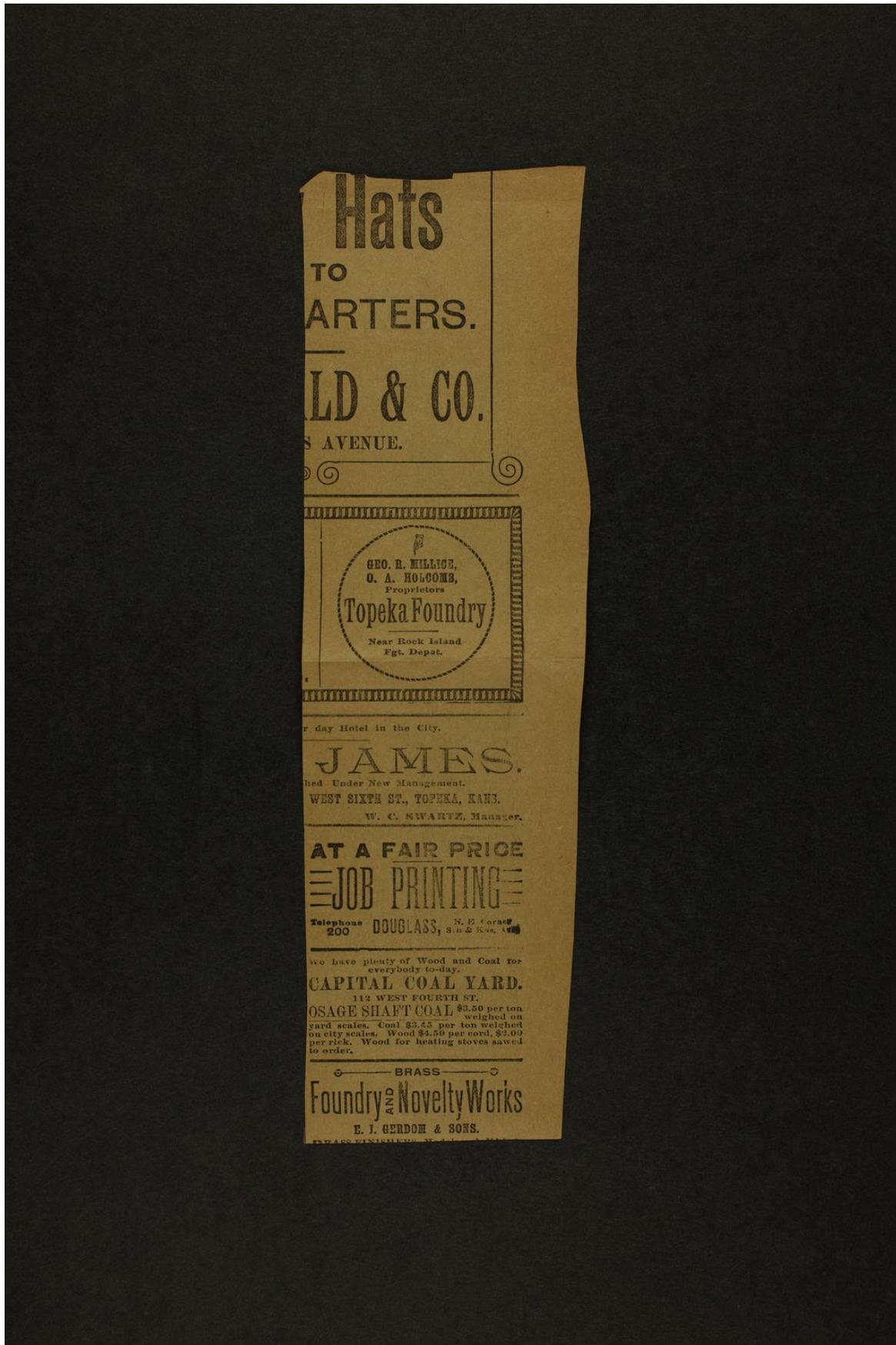
C. P. Donnell gave an address of welcome to the class of '93 and Miss Frances Storrs responded with a very neat speech.

M. L. Platt and Miss Charles sang vocal solos and the cherub quartette gave several college songs.

"The College Man in the World," was the subject of a toast by J. F. Lawson. Ralph Ingalls spoke on the "Past and Present," and Prof. G. M. Stearns gave the closing toast on the subject of "College Loyalty. Robert Stone was toast master.

Those present were Judge D. J. Brewer, Washington; Dr. and Mrs. Peter McVicar; Prof. G. M. Stearns; E. M. Platt, of St. Joseph, Mo.; Rev. J. G. Dougherty, of Kansas City; S. H. Fairfield, of Alma; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gaw, Miss Frances Storrs, C. P. Donnell, Prof. W. A. Harshbarger, Ralph Ingalls, Professor A. D. Kinsman, Miss Charles, F. C. Kingsley, Miss Mary Haines of Sabetha, Miss Bertha Lovewell, Miss Maude Chamberlain, Mrs. H. J. Miller, Miss Grace Murphy, J. F. Lawson, C. M. Merriam, Perry Platt of Dover, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stone.

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Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Does June 23rd 1890

Dear Dwight-

I received your letter of the 20th last night, and it was very welcome. Father and Terry both left home Tuesday morning. Father for Wabawnee and Terry for Topeka. I suppose you have received Terry's letter telling you what he is going to do, also giving an account of the commencesment at Washburn. I enclose a clipping from the Journal. I am glad you are going

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to Stockton hope you have
a pleasant time. I think
in many respects you
have a very pleasant field
of labour and I believe
you will be able to do
some good, I wish you
had some way of getting
among those Country
people. I am quite lonely
again, I do not expect
father home until Saturday
and Terry has gone "bag
and baggage", Della Wilson
is staying with me right.
Every thing is very quiet
at Dover, the Aldrich girls
and Harry are all attending
the Teachers Institute at
Topeka. We are having
very hot weather, today

there is a
of rain, I
growing a
beautiful
for fruit
good,
completed
work that
Church &
before fall
the season
time from
a month
home, you
nothing
your health
are in good
write often
love you

[Rev. D. H. Platt
Altos, Kans.]

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... you have there is some appearance
... I think of rains, every thing is
... but you growing and looking
... least field beautiful, and prospect
... I believe for fruit - is not very
... able to do good, Tom has
... wish you completed all the carpenter
... of getting work that - on the new
... country Church & all he can do
... write local before plastering, and
... expect the masons are at work.
... until Saturday Tom finishes it - is almost
... gone "bag" a month since you left
... Della Wilsons home, you have written
... to me might, nothing in regard to
... very quiet, your health, I hope you
... Aldrich girls are in good health.
... all attending write often with much
... stitute at love your Mother
... e having M. H. Platt
... thro, to day

[Rev. D. H. Platt
Altus, Kans.]

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1733 Lane St. Topeka, Kas.
July 4 - 1892

D. H. Platt
Alton Caborne Co. Kans.

My dear Dwight,

Your letter was duly
recd. and enjoyed greatly but had
been mislaid so if this is not
a good answer to it, it will be
for that cause. Morrill (H.K.)
recd. also a letter from home
about the same time speaking
of your visit with his people.
I attended the State Rep. Convention
during the session in which the
first three ballots were cast for Gov.
It was exciting, they adjourned at about
2 o'clock in the morning. I was
disappointed as both Morrill and
Wetch were defeated. The woman's
suffrage plank was passed by
a large majority with great ease
much to my surprise.

Will I suppose our next Gov. will
be (if Republican) nominally A. W.
Smith, but practically Bill Higgin.
When the National Convention

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renominated Harrison I felt very sorry that I could not vote next fall. But I do not feel at all sorry that I can't vote for R. W. Smith Higgin and company. I would much rather have seen Murk. Murdock get it than Smith. I attended a Musical at Mrs Charbeluin's the other night. Had a very pleasant time and things good to eat.

Yesterday A. M. I went to the Central and heard Sheldon preach on "The power of an ever-lasting life." He hit into politicians and their scramble for office. In the evening after C. E. I went down to the 1st M. E. and heard Capt. Pratt, of some Indian training school in Penn. give a lecture on "Civilizing and Christianizing the American Indian."

A week ago last night I heard Sam Small at the M. E. church. I also heard him deliver a lecture at Oakland a couple of days before on "The Man of Gadara." He is a very pleasing speaker.

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but I do not believe every
thing he said. He is much
more of an orator than
I supposed.

Well I am getting along
nicely with my route. I worked
up 30 new subs. in one
day and I think at least half
of them will stay with me.
I now call for 112 papers
Today I carried my papers
before breakfast as the folks
at the office wanted to have
a holiday so they printed
their papers for ~~Sat~~ Mon. Sat
night.

I do not know what I will
do by way of celebrating today.
I may go over to Grafield
Park this P.M.

Well I must close.
Write when convenient
With love

F. L. Platt.

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DAILY AND WEEKLY CHAMPION.

A. J. FELT, PRESIDENT.
H. CLAY PARK, VICE PRES.
ED. R. FELT, BUSINESS MGR.

ATCHISON, KANS., July 6th, 1892 189

Dwight H. Platt,
Alton, Kansas.

My Dear Friend:- Your letter of the 17th was a surprise to me, as I had only the most kindly feeling towards you. While I knew that many unjustly thought that I was the author of the "Night Hawk", I thought that when I said I would never write anything that I would not sign my own name to, my word would not be questioned. I was as ignorant of the authorship of that paper as any one until after I had left school several years.

I hope, my friend, that you are meeting with success in your field, and that your labors may meet with just reward. If you are ever in Atchison remember that the "latch strings" are out, and that I always have a bunk made up for my old college friends.

Hoping that I will always be kindly remembered by you, I sign myself

Sincerely Your Friend
Ed R Felt
H

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Secy of State's office,
Topeka, Aug 4.

Vote on County officers for 1891

Republican	131,689
People	114,207
Democratic	28,523

139730

H. Higgins

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Altam Kansas
Sept. 27th 1892

Mr Platt,

Kind Friend-

I write you
a line that you may
rejoice with us in the
good news from George.
He wrote us from Tabor
last week saying that he
was going to try to live
a Christian life. &
do just as near like God
could have him do as
he could, & also wrote
that he ^{had} joined the Endeavor
Society as an active
Member, & would publicly
Confess Christ at the

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Communion services, Oct 2nd 1891
He asked us to pray for
him, & will you too
Mrs Platt

He told me he had been
thinking about being
a Christian ever since
you wrote him that
letter, & wrote me that
he felt like he could
not wait any longer,
he was baptized at
first, but wrote me
Saturday that he liked
it better all the time
as he grew better acquainted.
He rooms at President
Brooks', & takes his meals
at "Whitier Cottage" he
wrote that his room mate
was a good Christian
young man - I send

you a letter
The College
Mary seems
for Christi
me that she
from our
would me
Church that
Sunday Sep
Put in me
so I close
wish

P.S.

I cannot find
you gave me
this address
"Advanced"

[To Rev. Dwight H. Platt
Chicago, Ill.]

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

ied, Oct 2nd
pray for
and too
feel best
it being
since
a that
we that
I could
Cuzper.
I at
to me
he liked
time
to acquainted.
aided
his meals
I had
some more
Christian
I send

you a little sketch of
the college.
Mary seems so happy in
her Christian life, & writes
us that she had ~~by~~ letter
from our Church &
would unite with the
Church there on the next
Sunday Sept 25th
P. is waiting for this
so I shall write kindest
wishes, your friend
Lucie Proctor,

P.S.
I cannot find the address
you gave me, so have taken
this address from the
"Advanced" Seminary number

[To Rev. Dwight H. Platt
Chicago, Ill.]

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T. J. ANDERSON, Asst. Gen'l Ticket and Passenger Agent, TOPEKA, KAS.

Chicago, Oct. 5, 1892.

Dwight H. Platt, Esq.,

81 Ashland Boul.

C i t y.

Dear Sir:-

I have your favor of the 30th ult. So far as this Company is concerned we will make no claims against you for the value of the trip referred to. The rules under which our Advertising mileage tickets or any other mileage tickets are issued, are that they are non-transferable and should be used only by the party whose name appears on the face of same and who should have signed the contract agreeing to its conditions. Our conductor is at fault in not asking you to identify yourself at the time the trip was made, then the matter could have been fully explained to you or made satisfactory by you.

Yours truly,

Jno Sebastian
G.P.A.

SFB

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

1546 West St. Topeka Kans.
Dec 2 - 1892

D H Platt
81 Ashland Boulevard
Chicago Ill.

My Dear Brother:

I will beg your pardon for the way I have treated you in not writing I have no excuse to offer except that of neglect, although I have been very busy.

I have just gotten home from W. C. S. open meeting. We had a good meeting, a good audience as well. — I was the declaimer, I gave them the piece on which I won my silver medal. I caught a little cold last night, and I was afraid I should not be able to speak this evening. But I managed to get through with it somehow. I was elected prize-debater a few evenings ago. So that next term I will come before the public again. There is still one more debater to choose, and then we will get together and choose our subject and begin work on it

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Those on now rank as to classes
as follows. 2nd Profs. (Hughes)
1. Freshman 2. Soph. 3.
Hughes got on, on a colamity debate,
Well so much for Society work.
My I tell you I like elocutionary work,
better than any thing else. Before I call
my education finished I mean to
do some special work along that line.
There are only three weeks more of
school before vacation, and examinations
begin to stare us in the face.
I have been getting along much
better in Greek this year than I ever
have before. One reason I suppose
is because Herodotus is such easy
Greek. But Latin! "Whit." fixes it
at us in "great big chunks" I am doing
reasonably well in it I guess however.
But History under Miss White, (Pearl) ^{Pearl}
She is the most worthless teacher I
ever had any thing to do with. She
will "jimmy around" for 15 minutes
of the hour giving out the lesson,
— which, by the way varies from
40 to 75 pages. besides a lot of
library or out line work.

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After she has given out the lesson then there is no telling what she will talk about. It may be something which we should have had a week before, or it may be she will spend 10 minutes in telling how necessary it is to hold in mind all the things discussed in class, and also those we do not discuss. Or she may read about 4 or 5 pages from some book, and then as she closes it she will say "I will hold you responsible for all the main facts in what I have just read." She has no system about her teaching or if she has it is so complicated as to be intangible. She knows enough about history but I have no use for her as a teacher. If she "flunks" me I will not take it next year but will elect French or German instead. Plato is providing I work my scheme on Mathematics, and do not have to take Fresh Math, over again. Well it is getting late & I must go to bed will add more in the morning.

Sat. morn.

I once more take my pen in

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hand to while a "sardonic grin"
 plays across my alabaster
 countenance. Do you expect to
 come home for the holidays?
 I did not get home Thanksgiving, but
 expect to be there during the holidays.
 Are you rooming with Rodgers? Or did
 he recover from his duck hunt?
 Tonight Phoe. Keen plays Richard
 III, and if I can get over my
 route in time I want to hear
 it. Next Friday night the "Gamma
 Sigmas" ~~give~~ hold their open meeting.
 Harshbarger has got another
 kid. I suppose the the folks
 have told you that however.
 If you are coming home let me
 know when and I will meet you
 if you get around before I go home.
 Well I must close. I will try
 and not be so negligent again.
 Your brother
 F. L. Platt.

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Dover Kansas
Jan. 10th 1893.

Dear Dwight,

We were hoping to have heard of your safe arrival in Chicago before this but last night's mail brought no word from you. I hope we shall receive a letter tonight.

Mamma found a letter on the desk directed to a Mr. Wilson at Alton. It was in your hand writing all sealed and ready to mail so I put it into the office.

I got home all right on Tuesday of last week, and do not think the trip

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did me any injury.
I think I am feeling a
little better. I certainly do
not cough as much as I
did while you were here,
but I do not gain my
strength as I should like.
At the annual meeting
last Saturday I handed
in my resignation as
pastor of the church to
take effect April 15th.
I think the most of
the church were surprised.
After careful thought I
gave no reason for taking
the step. until after
service Sabbath morning
when the church were called
together by the Deacons,
and Mrs. Petrusen asked
me if I would give them

my reasons
give it up?
I told them
required it, &
I had also g.
it might not
one else could
better than I
I think a
were inclined
take a rest
my resignation
me best to
to differ an
as to a suc
At the Con
there were
received to
Mr. Todd's
them by
Mr. & Mrs.
by letter.

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

injury. feeling a
certainly do
such as I
we here,
my
and like.
meeting
traveled
on as
church to
il 15th.
ost of
surprised.
ught I
for taking
after
morning
were called
Deacons.
asked
give them

my reasons for wishing to
give it up?
I told them that my health
required it, and added that
I had also questioned whether
it might not be that some
one else could do the work
better than I now.
I think a number of them
were inclined to ask me to
take a rest and withdraw
my resignation. It seemed to
me best to avoid any occasion
to differ among themselves
as to a successor.
At the Communion Sabbath
there were twelve who were
received to the church.
Mrs. Todd's family six of
them by letter,
Mr. & Mrs. Caldwell and Ella
by letter. Lucy Caldwell

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on confession and Samuel
Mellinger by confession and
Ninnie Boyer (Reubens wife)
by letter from the Baptist
Church of Silver Lake,
sending greeting "So any ch.
of like faith and order."
This is a good field
for some good man who
~~had~~ has the health and
energy to take hold of it,
Mamma is much the
same as when you were
here, her cough is better
She spent the afternoon and
we took tea last night at
Mr. Tomsons.
Will McArthur's throat has been
troubling him but he is better,
Lizzie took cold and has been
worse again, Ellie Leonard is
quite sick with sore throat.
With much love from us both
[To D. H. Platt
Chicago, Ill.]
Your affectionate
L. H. Platt

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

WORTH

Loves Kansas
Jan. 12th 1893

Dear Dwight.

We were very glad to receive this morning your letter of the 9th.

It seemed rather a long time, and rather a lonely one since you boys left.

It did seem so good to have the family all together for a few days again. and now that they are gone and neither of us able to get out very much it makes it still more lonely.

We have had a good many regrets expressed by those in and out of the church that we were going to leave.

I am more and more

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

convinced that I am not
able to keep up this
work in the winter.

I think you will do well
to be ~~caut~~ cautious about
any extra work.

^{My} Your regular work is quite
as much as you are able to
do.

Wis. politics are "hot" in
Lopaha this week.

How hot we can only guess.
But reports from there last
night (which of course you
get as soon as we do.)
indicate that they are trying
to keep "In the middle of
the road" that was blazed
by the contending factions in
Mississippi in 1876. and run
two set of representatives
with two set of officers.

each claiming
making pro

There is in
and I have
in Gov. Sewell

It remains
he has a co
to keep him
enough to do

when he sees
Whatever cour
will bring do

course of the
politicians, a
take a con
course will
him between
be blamed of

It is such
as few men
what metal
whether there

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

am not each claiming to be the law
this making power of Kansas.
There is intense excitement
and I have no desire to be
in Gov. Sewell's shoes.
It remains to be seen, whether
he has a cool enough head
to keep him level, and nerve
enough to do the right thing
when he sees it.
Whatever course he pursues
will bring down ^{on} his head the
curse of the disappointed
politicians, and if he does
take a conservative honorable
course will be likely to place
him between two fires, and he
be blamed by both sides.
It is such an opportunity
as few men have to show
what metal he is of, and
whether there is enough of