

# Kansas Memory



## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

### Section 33, Pages 961 - 990

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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those young men.  
I am at a loss to know  
which class is the more  
important for me to take  
hold of. But I am inclining  
to think if I can get  
Emma Foreman to take  
the boys that I will take  
the young men.

While several of the special  
plans which I had made  
from which I had hoped to  
see good have not been  
as yet entirely successful  
that there are some directions  
in which the work is  
going forward.

But this has been made very  
plain. Nothing but the power  
of God can do for Altoona  
what needs to be done.  
And the power of Christ  
is sufficient. With love

Yours Father L. H. Platt.

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P.S. You asked me to tell you of the political condition of things in this State. I have already <sup>written</sup> that this County which was one of the <sup>strong</sup> populist strong holds divided the County offices at this election the P. P. electing three the Rep's electing four of the County offices.

The Alma News a strong alliance paper comes to hand excusing itself for being so late in coming out with its issue because they were getting their Rooster ready to crow, but that all that he could do was to croak.

In Wabaunsee they nominated some democrats, and the democrats also nominated the same men with only one exception. When the returns came in three of the fusion

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candidates were elected and four of the Rep. though the News calls it a hard fight on their part.

As far as I have any definite reports this holds good generally in the State.

The last election will bring into office in the county offices a much larger number of Republicans than now hold the offices. and unless there is another "change" in the public sentiment will insure a republican and administration at the next election and a decided majority in the next house of representatives with the next U. S. Senator.

But this is counting the chickens before they are hatched.

[To D.H. Platt  
Chicago, Ill.]

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1733 Penn St.,  
Topeka Kans.  
Nov. 13-93

D H Platt

81 Ashland Boulevard  
Chicago Ill.

Dear Brother:

Your letter came duly to hand this A.M. I have only time to write a short note now, but will say that Politically Kans is Republican Of the county Officers in the State the Republicans had about 3 to the Popl. one, and the Democrats have ten county officers I think that is the right now number. All the District Judges were Republican but 3 I think. I say "I think" because I can't find the paper that has the exact numbers. Osborne Co was divided 3 Popl. & 3 Rep. Pop Judge Huron was also elected in that district.

Boughton asked to see if you would not write up that article for the Mid-Continent, or some other article if you chose, choose. We want it for

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the Thanksgiving Number which will come out a week from next Friday. That is Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. We would have to have the copy by Wed Nov. 22 at latest. Hope you will be able to do it. Please write me by return mail as to whether we can depend on you for the article, if you choose some other subject all right.

We are observing Y. M. C. A. week of prayer this week. Pray for us.

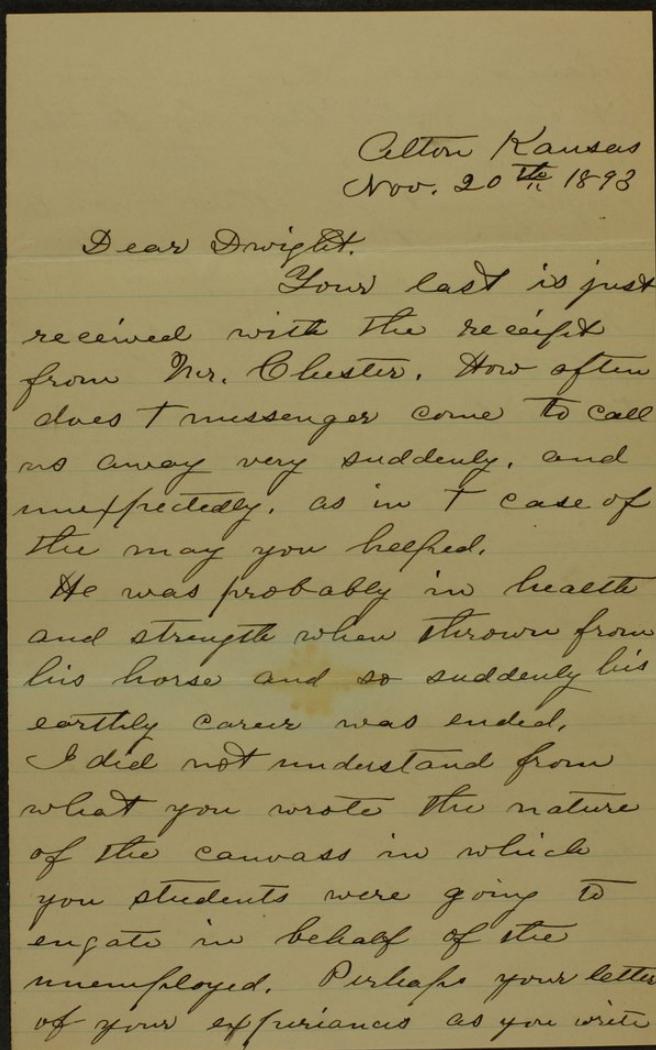
With much love I am  
Your brother, L. L. Platt,

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them will show whether it was soliciting for funds to help them, or to secure employment for them — or to ascertain the number and character of them. Whatever the plan it is one of the questions we have to meet and work ~~out~~ out some kind of a solution and that is how to deal with those who for any cause are out of work with nothing to live on. Christ's word, "The poor have ye always" is still true. It does not remove the trouble, only increases the difficulty of knowing how to deal with it. To say that so large a share of it is due to dissipation, and general shiftlessness. Our G. P. C. C. made another their meeting. I found that the young people after their service did not stop to have their meal. I found that they did not stop to have their meal. This seemed to me that they did not care to do anything. Some were seen to be smoking. The reason they did not care to do anything was because they did not care to do anything. Endeavoring to make the Sabbath a day of rest and quietness, that we have been doing. I also began

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whether our Y.P.S.C.C. have made  
for funds made another change in  
to secure their meeting.  
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we have  
~~l stand~~  
solution  
to deal  
or any  
works  
we are.  
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is still  
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increases the  
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, and  
I also began last night a

Our Y.P.S.C.C. have made another change in their meeting.  
I found that as many of the young people went away after their service and did not stop to preaching that we tried having both in one a short sermon at the close of the endeavor service, without any other ~~short~~ devotional service than their meeting. This seemed to hold the young folks. But we found some were staying away for the reason that they did not care to attend the Y.P.S.C.C. So now we have the service at seven and the Endeavor meeting following. Last Sabbath was the first that we have tried it.

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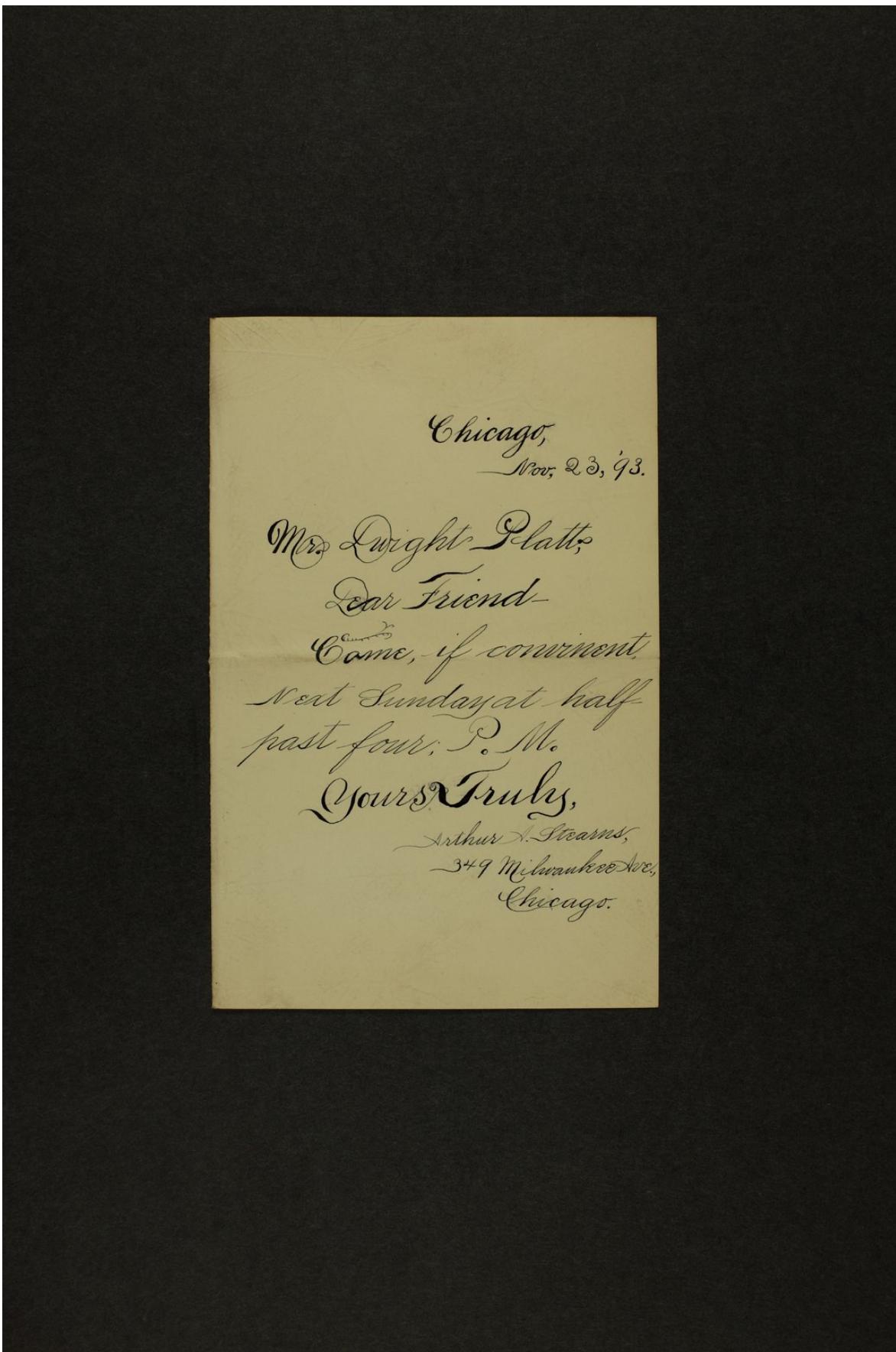
series of sermons on "The military side of Christian life" taking "Endure hardness as a good soldier" as my opening them. Shall give "Gideons 300," next Sabbath,  
"Standing" for + third, and  
"God providing for his soldiers" as + fourth. &c.  
Say after tomorrow I go to Stockton at invitation of Bro. Mills to attend a fellowship meeting of a couple of days.  
Am so far standing our fall weather pretty well. Thought I have had a little asthma.  
When it is damp and rainy as it has been this P. m. I stay pretty close.  
With much love  
Your Father  
L. H. Platt  
[To D. H. Platt  
Chicago, Ill.]

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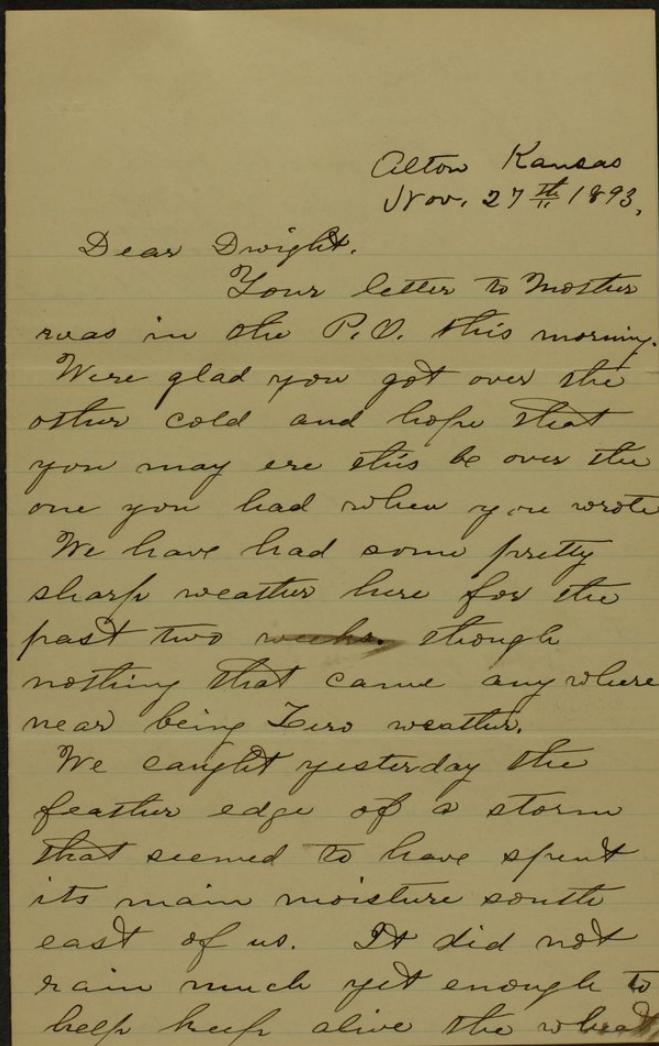


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I was at Stockton last week to a fellowship meeting. I was the guest of D. Donnell and his wife, and a very pleasant ~~meeting~~<sup>visit</sup> indeed it was that I had with them. Their children are now all of them in Topeka. Charley is still on the Capitol. His father told me that he owned some stock in the paper. I guess he solid work nothing seen him but spiritual m<sup>r</sup>. Mrs. Drills making you as you stood side of the in Hutchins it to be a Convention. quite sure Mrs. then expected to At Elton shaped, not us and on circumstan not hope hand of It was fee over Arrang

Hugh is in College and Fanny is married and living there. Her husband is in some position around the Statehouse, beside his other business of "making faces."

Had a very pleasant visit with Mr. & Mrs. Drills, who took dinner with me at the Dr's on Thursday.

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last week I guess he is doing good  
meeting, solid work there. Has  
nothing sensational about  
him but he seems a  
spiritual minded man.  
D. Dills told me of  
wife, and  
~~visit~~  
meeting  
that I had  
is children  
them in  
y is still  
s father  
owned some  
her.  
ago and  
d and  
s husband  
now around  
beside his  
"making  
asant visit  
Dills, who  
to me at  
lursday,  
I guess he is doing good  
solid work there. Has  
nothing sensational about  
him but he seems a  
spiritual minded man.  
Mrs. Dills told me of  
making your acquaintance  
as you stood together out  
side of the church door  
in Hutchinson waiting for  
it to be opened at the  
Convention. I am not  
quite sure that she was  
Mrs. then, but certainly  
expected to be.  
At Colton matters are being  
shaped, not so much by  
us and our plans, as by  
circumstances (and may we  
not hope) by the leading  
hand of the Spirit.  
It was felt by some that  
our arrangements for the

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evening services were not best. I felt sure that it was not wise to have to have an Endeavor service and then have so many of the young people go away before the preaching service. After talking it up we decided to have a sermon at the close as a part of the Endeavor meeting. This in some respects worked pretty well, but soon they found that when they invited others to come to church they excused themselves by saying that they could not go in the evening to hear the sermon without attending also the other which they did not care to. So they decided to have the regular church service at 7. and after the benediction

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the young peoples meeting.  
Making this change  
I soon found notice that  
I would begin a series of  
sermons on the "military"  
side of the Christian life".  
I also put a local to that  
effect in the paper.  
One week ago last night  
I preached the first one  
on "The qualities of a good  
soldier." Wilson (and Toney) were  
out, the first time he has  
been at our church since  
I came here. He gave the  
sermon a little pruff, and  
last week I advertised  
"A night attack. By picked  
men." We had the largest  
evening congregation we have  
had. (Perhaps a little over 100)  
with good attention, quite a  
number of them never having  
been out before. I took

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for my theme. Gideons assault drove a teacher  
with his 800 men.  
A goodly number were in  
at the meeting that followed.  
I shall probably give three  
or four more before I finish  
the series. I cannot say  
what may come of it.  
In the Sabbath School  
Mrs. Gamble got utterly dis-  
couraged with her class.  
In her efforts to be interesting  
and familiar those boys ran  
over her and were near  
running over the whole  
school. Mrs. Gamble has  
also given up her class  
of young men, and wanted  
me to take it.  
I offered to do so if she  
would take Mrs. Gamble's  
boys, but this she declined.  
I told her those boys should

and after as  
Foreman to  
she declined  
last three <sup>sa</sup>  
I have been  
But I am  
the opinion  
beginning to  
an "King m  
is certain to  
the rest of  
more. She  
did not say  
the lesson b  
a time with  
general prin  
The next d  
up the lesson  
and without  
lesson slips  
their circum  
Yesterday the

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Gideons assault have a teacher whether or no,  
and after asking Emma  
Foreman to take them and  
that followed. she declined. As for the  
give them last three <sup>Sabbaths</sup> weeks the boys and  
I finished I have been having a circus.  
not say But I am rather of the  
it. opinion that the boys are  
School beginning to think that I  
utterly dis- am "Ring master." One thing  
class. is certain they don't disturb  
be interesting the rest of the School any  
boys ran more. The first Sabbath I  
near did not say one word about  
whole the lesson but went in for  
~~the~~ Hschenk a time with the boys on  
her class general principals.  
and wanted The next Sabbath I took  
so if she up the lesson on practical lines  
Gamblers and without referring to their  
be declined. lesson slips applied it to  
boys should Yesterday the boys suggested

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how they had been in the habit of using their lesson helps, and as they were a good deal tamed down I let them study 7 lesson from their own slips.  
I think my way of dealing with them has rather surprised some of them, but with me as teacher I think they are beginning to think S. S. means something beside a "jamboree".  
I was unusually tired last night, and have been resting today. We are usually well. We are going over to Mrs. Foreman's to spend the evening and I must close. Mrs. F. has a sister from California visiting her.  
Maluma units in sending love.  
Your Father  
L. H. Platt  
[To D. H. Platt  
Chicago, Ill.]

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Topeka Nov. 29/93  
Dear Bro. Platt,  
I have  
been anxiety-  
about Stafford,  
but with your help  
in praying. and  
the Lord sent  
along a young  
minister <sup>right</sup> from  
England whom  
I have sent to  
see them. Before  
leaving I tried  
him at Talmia,  
where they man-  
nously called

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him . let be corded  
Stay home. He  
can preach - as  
my teachable and  
persuible : such  
a scholar. Helle  
writes " he preached  
two fine sermons"  
Last Sunday: very  
well " inspiring them "  
Name ~~Reverend~~ Ellwood:  
Pray on -

To D. H. Platt  
Chicago Ill.

L. H. Board

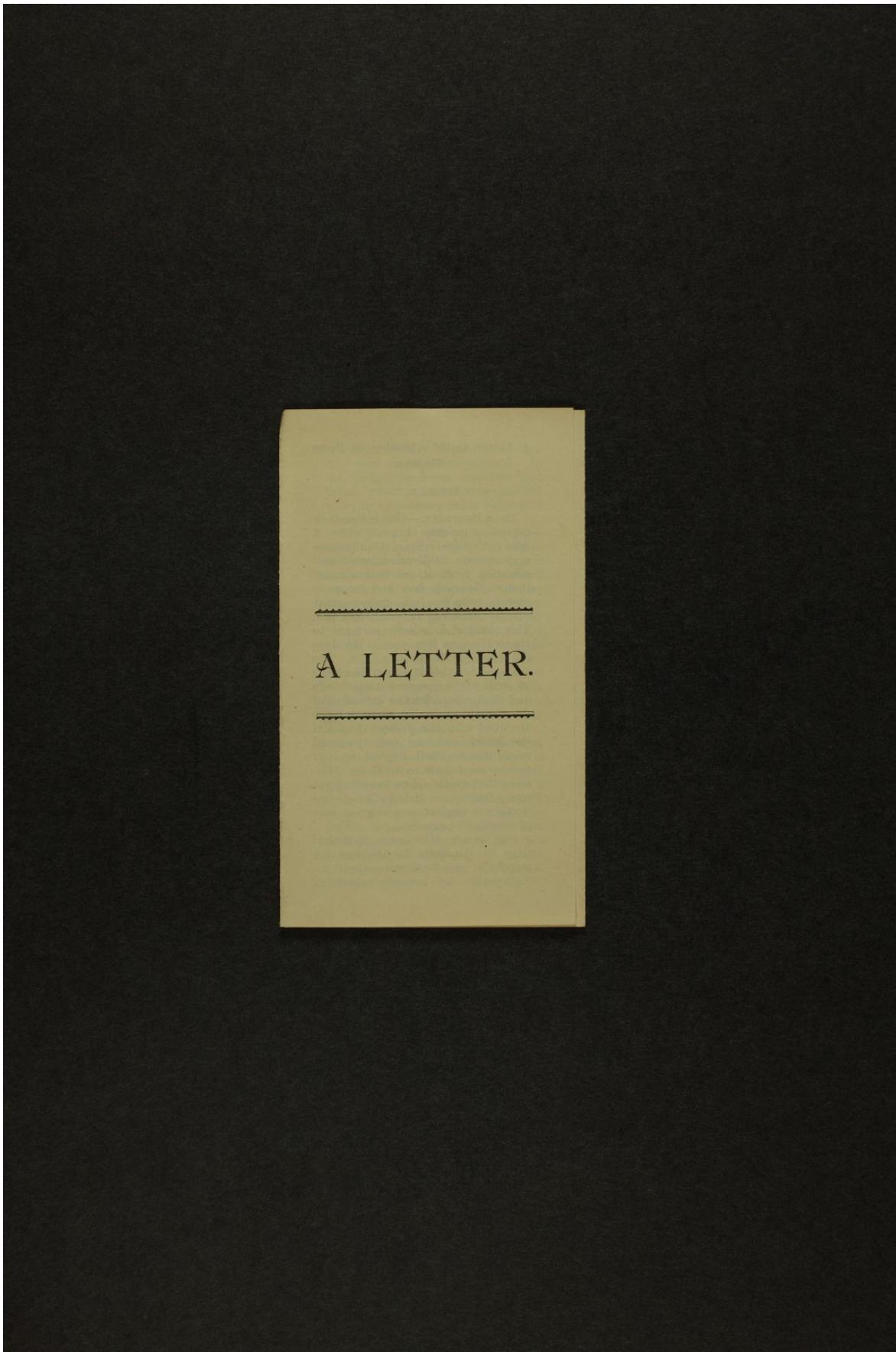
P.S. Dr. Fobbs writes  
that their supply train-  
ing delays grant to  
Plattford but says "In  
will get it as soon as  
possible and your letter  
will be the reason for marking  
the case " urgent "

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### A Letter to the Churches on Home Missions.

BY REV. L. P. BROAD.

DEAR BRETHREN.—Our interest in a great cause may slumber when it does not cease. Special influences may operate to divert interest and attention from it, so that a cause that we devoutly love and mean to sustain may be left—unless great care is taken—to languish and fail. This danger I believe pertains to Home Missions this year. We love the cause. We believe in it. We acknowledge that it lies at the basis of most of our present church life and of our hope for the extension of our church work; but we may be so absorbed with the present financial stringency and our own personal needs that we shall neglect by our meager contributions to Home Missions that which—if we were brought to the test by our living Christ—we would not neglect even at great cost of sacrifice to ourselves.

Our Home Missionary contributions in the State for the first six months of this fiscal year—April to September—are scarcely two-thirds

of what they were last year for the same period. If this is a prophecy of what is to be given in the remaining six months of the year the outlook for us is a troublous one indeed. Then we shall, as a State, close the year in debt; our work on legitimate lines in Kansas will have to be cut down; some missionaries will have to give up their work and their fields will have to be abandoned. Most of our contributions usually come in during the last six months of the year, but we have not made a very hopeful start. Do we not need then to ask ourselves, are we allowing our interest in Home Missions to slumber?

And will we awaken and “redeem the time” to give and get more for the society in the remaining months? There are certain things which awaken our interest in a cause:

1. The genuine necessity for it for the promotion of the kingdom of Christ. Is that the case with the C. H. M. S.? In planting churches and supporting those judiciously started, is the work vital in its relation to the kingdom? What can be more in line with the Saviour's plan than that believers should unite and as churches exemplify and proclaim

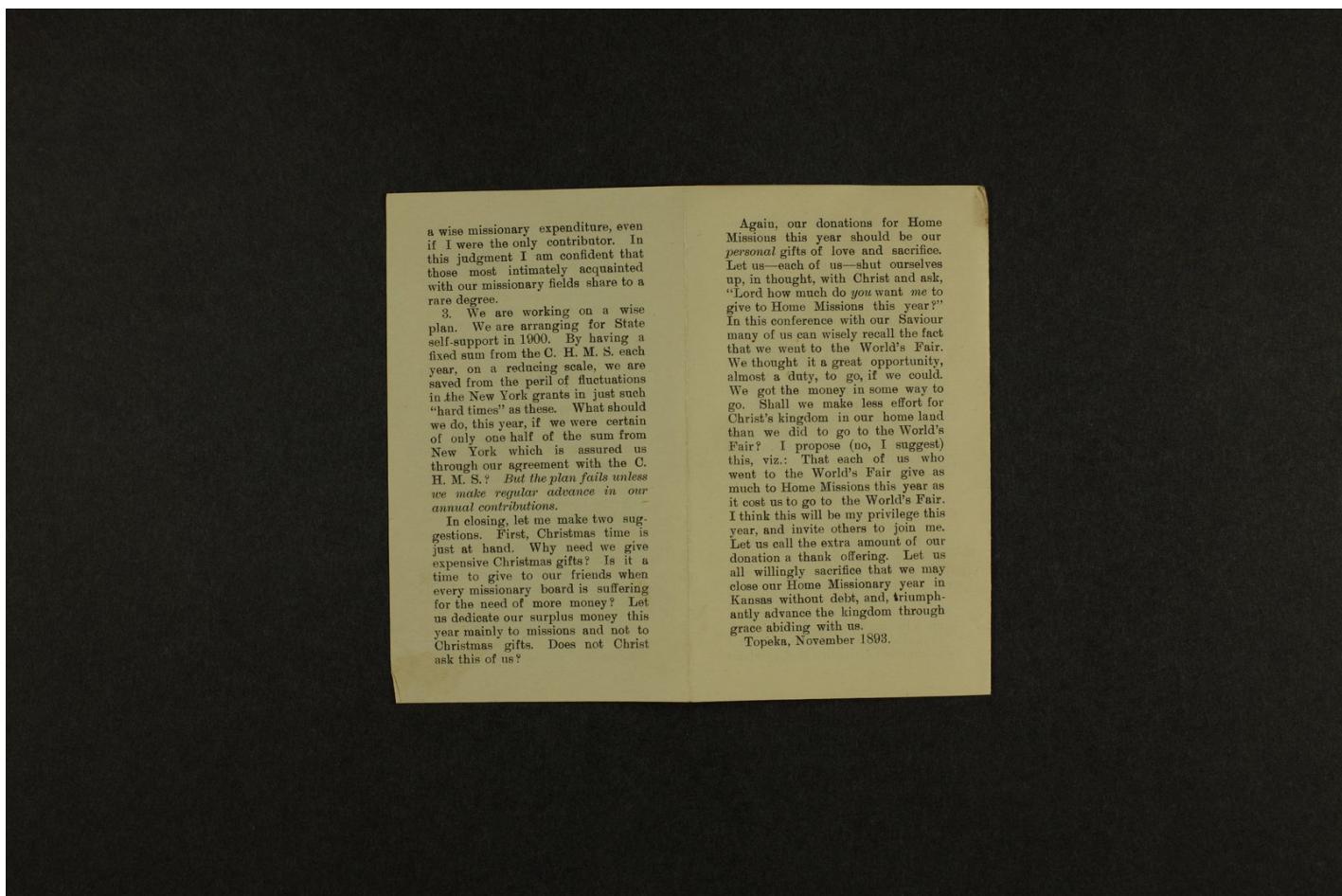
the gospel? Are not true churches of Christ centers of living light which radiate blessing to the ends of the earth? They furnish the godly men and women and the money by which Foreign Missions seek to give Christ to the whole world—the great aim of us all. Stop the fountain and you cut off the stream. Quench the source of supplies and the army is beaten. Let churches perish, or fail to plant new ones, and in the end we shall bring it about that all organized Christian work will cease.

2. The good character of the work that is being done. The C. H. M. S. has stood for many decades for wise principles in planting churches. In Kansas the work itself, looked at as a unit, was never—in the judgment of many—in a condition to more strongly appeal on its merits for support. This is worthy of our consideration since all we contribute is expended in the State. Chiefly through the wise and thorough methods of our board of directors it has come to pass that, conscientiously I, for one, can say that no church is being aided in the State to which I would not conscientiously give my own money, as

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a wise missionary expenditure, even if I were the only contributor. In this judgment I am confident that those most intimately acquainted with our missionary fields share to a rare degree.

3. We are working on a wise plan. We are arranging for State self-support in 1900. By having a fixed sum from the C. H. M. S. each year, on a reducing scale, we are saved from the peril of fluctuations in the New York grants in just such "hard times" as these. What should we do, this year, if we were certain of only one half of the sum from New York which is assured us through our agreement with the C. H. M. S.? *But the plan fails unless we make regular advance in our annual contributions.*

In closing, let me make two suggestions. First, Christmas time is just at hand. Why need we give expensive Christmas gifts? Is it a time to give to our friends when every missionary board is suffering for the need of more money? Let us dedicate our surplus money this year mainly to missions and not to Christmas gifts. Does not Christ ask this of us?

Again, our donations for Home Missions this year should be our *personal* gifts of love and sacrifice. Let us—each of us—shut ourselves up, in thought, with Christ and ask, "Lord how much do you want me to give to Home Missions this year?" In this conference with our Saviour many of us can wisely recall the fact that we went to the World's Fair. We thought it a great opportunity, almost a duty, to go, if we could. We got the money in some way to go. Shall we make less effort for Christ's kingdom in our home land than we did to go to the World's Fair? I propose (no, I suggest) this, viz.: That each of us who went to the World's Fair give as much to Home Missions this year as it cost to go to the World's Fair. I think this will be my privilege this year, and invite others to join me. Let us call the extra amount of our donation a thank offering. Let us all willingly sacrifice that we may close our Home Missionary year in Kansas without debt, and, triumphantly advance the kingdom through grace abiding with us.

Topeka, November 1893.

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1733 Lane St. Topeka, Ks.  
Dec 4 - 1893

L H Platt  
81 Ackland Boulevard  
Chicago Ill.

Dear Dwight,

Your letter, containing the proposition to spend the holidays in Chicago, came to hand today. I should be very glad to do so, but, ~~but~~ I don't know whether I can ~~do~~ do such a thing or not. I am considering it however quite seriously and if I think that I possibly can, I will, do so. You'd told me some time ago that if I wanted to take a trip any where I could get a reduced rate by virtue of being on the Mid-Continent Stoff. But I don't know whether it would work as for a Chicago. The holiday rate of 15 for 150 mile tickets are made out some of the road, I might go to Kansas City, get new ticket at St. Joe, Rock Island, Springfield, and Chicago I work that scheme. I have just been up to Alfred Bishop and I can get him to carry my

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route for me all right. I am afraid that you could not afford to pay half my fare. And I don't know whether I ought to spend the money either. I have got only \$18. to my name, and I am in debt now fully that much. I have not had any help from father yet this year but will have to have before the year is over.

I had rather planned to go ~~up~~<sup>out</sup> on the road with views. I think I could make \$25 or \$30 during the vacation.

Well I must close. I will think on your proposition, and see what I can do in the way of rates. And will write you again.

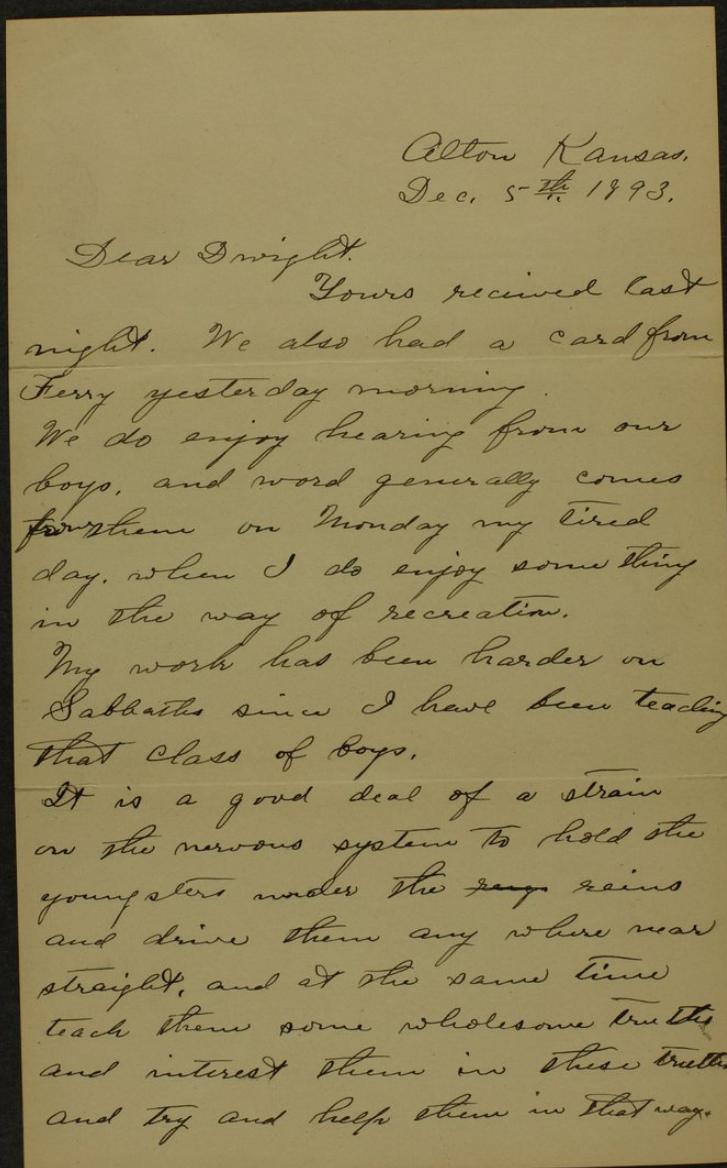
In great haste  
D. H. Platt.

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It is by all odds the hardest  
hour of the day.

I think I shall this week  
make arrangements to have them  
take another teacher, and leave  
me at liberty to take up some  
other phase of S.S. work.

I am quite interested in your  
"scheme." of spending vacation,

It would do very good to spend  
a few days in Chicago.

I should like much to have him  
get acquainted with some of  
the Teachers Prof's and students  
of the Seminary. I should like  
much to have him go while you  
are there so that you could help  
him in seeing the City, and  
yet the item of expense is one  
to be considered. You must  
remember that while you paid  
your fare one way to Kansas, it  
saved that amount in board, so

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that with what I paid you got back to the Seminary with as much money in your pocket as you would have had if you had not left the city.

If that plan is carried out it will cost you your board. Whatever his entertainment costs and his fare one way.

But still I am not sure that it would not be a good scheme.

Fury was pretty hard up in the early part of the term and so was I or I would have sent him some money to help him out if I had had it to send. But by the time I got the money so that I could help him he was over his pinch and thought he would get along without it for the present.

You need not tell him, but I had decided to send him a Christmas

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present of Five Dollars, before I received your letter, and now I will send it in advance, to use as he thinks will do him most good.

Money matters are just now easier than usual with me.

I have sold my alfalfa and Corn raised on the place.

Have paid my taxes, and for the pump I had put into the well at the house last August, and am now I believe entirely out of debt except to the Lord, and the debt which I owe to love my fellow men. I was very much surprised to receive my second quarters salary from the Society promptly. I supposed that it would be delayed. There is another thing that we are figuring on if the way opens to do it.

We have begun putting aside a

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beginning for a fund to take us to Chicago, and purchase, (or rather have manufactured) a new limb for Mamuna.

The old one is getting worn out and will have to be replaced by a new one soon. Last Sabbath morning it was out of order so that she could not wear it that day and had to take her crutches.

We are laying aside some money as we can save it thinking if we can so plan it that we may come to Chicago about the time of your commencement, have a visit and get that made at the same time.

Perhaps we can succeed in this plan. If that is the Lord's plan for us all right, but we shall have to wait and see.

We had a Thanksgiving gathering at the church Thurs. 25 being out.