

Frenchburg Ky -  
April 22nd. 1889.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.

Dear Sir:

As it pleased  
the West Lexington Presbytery, at the  
last meeting, in Winchester, to ordain  
me to the full work of an evangelist,  
and as my school will close about the  
1st of May leaving me free to devote  
my whole time to evangelistic labor,  
which I earnestly desire to do, I write  
to solicit any additional work that  
the Committee may assign me  
within reach of my present work  
at Frenchburg.

Mr. Cooper intimated to me  
that it was possible that he might  
consider it his duty to give up

Frenchburg

Morehead in consideration  
of other work that presents itself  
to him. If he should do so  
it will be accessible to me; being  
only about twenty five miles  
distant on horseback. Clay City,  
on the N. M. R. R. is about the same  
distance from me through the country.

But, wherever the Committee, with  
their knowledge of the whole territory,  
may assign me work, I will do  
it to the best of my ability.

We are getting along quietly at French-  
burg. I have been serving them as best  
I could since the 1st of March.

I will be glad to hear from  
you soon in regard to this ~~increase~~  
additional work.

Yours truly  
R. A. Irvine

I will take up a collection for our  
apportionment of the Ecumenical fund  
at our next meeting.

Yours fraternally  
R. A. Irwin.

Frenchburg Ky -  
July 26th. 1889.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Dear Bro.

In my last I wrote you  
that I would visit Bloy City and  
Stanton and report to you the result  
of my visit. I went to Bloy City  
the next Tuesday after receiving your  
letter and hunted up as many of the  
brethren as I could find and made  
an appointment to preach for them  
on the 3rd Sabbath of July and I was  
very much pleased with the outlook.

I was too unwell to go on to Stanton.  
I returned home the next day and  
went to bed with Malarial fever  
and yesterday was the first day that

I have been out of my room since then. I think the fever is now broken and I may probably regain my usual health rapidly.

In my last I wrote that I was to take charge of the Frenchburg School on the 1st Monday in August which is to continue five school months

which deprives me of the privilege of visiting those Churches by railroad.

I can only render this service to those Churches until my school is out, but after that I can give them whatever time and service may be necessary and probably if the way be clear may move my family into that part of my field.

I can ride through on horseback and preach to the Church at Stanton on Saturday night and on the morning of the third Sabbath in each month and return home

after the morning service. And then I could preach at Bley City on Saturday night and on the morning of the fourth Sabbath of each month and return home after the morning service.

This would give me the opportunity of seeing the congregations only at Church. I am sorry that I am thus situated. But when I accepted the school as a necessity, and without time for further consideration, this opening for evangelistic labor, which I greatly prefer, was not presented.

If you direct me to go forward with this work I will write and make my appointments for the month of August as I have stated above; viz the 3rd Sabbath at Stanton and the 4th Sabbath at Bley City. The Lord being my helper. This is the first writing I have done for weeks. Please let me hear from you soon.

Ans'd July 30. 89  
(So forward)

July 26  
1889



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Anchorage  
Ky

It has kept me pretty busy to  
herd my flock; but so far we have  
escaped without the loss of a lamb.

The Methodists are to renew their  
services after the 2nd Sabbath in July;  
but with a different leader.

It will be our time soon but I  
hope with a better result.

I will write soon,

Yours in Christ

R. A. Irwin

Frenchburg Ky -  
June 27th. 1889.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Chairman of S. C. C.

My Dear Bro.

Your favor of the  
22nd. inst. was received on the 25th.

It found me almost confined  
to my room by a slight attack  
of flux and a sore throat brought  
on by being caught in a shower the  
week before. But I feel now  
as though I will be all right in  
a day or two.

In regard to your communi-  
cation I will say that I will visit  
Lloy City and Stanton as early

next week as I can, probably on Monday and make an appointment to preach for them. And when I have looked over the field I will immediately write to you the result of my investigation.

I have put in an application for the Public School here at Frenchburg to continue five months from the second Monday in August, and, notwithstanding the Board of Trustees have not formally acted in the matter, it is generally understood that I am to teach the school, and from some peculiar circumstances connected with it, I feel morally bound not to withdraw that application.

I have the railroad within five miles of me but it does not return me early enough on Monday to open school promptly. But I find that I can reach Stanton on horse-back in fifteen or eighteen miles and if the roads

are moderately good, even for mountain roads, I can meet the appointments there and not conflict with the school.

By the grace of God I have been enabled to meet all of my appointments here and as the work progresses I find myself becoming more and more deeply interested in it. And I sincerely regret that I have not given my whole life to the work. But I hope the result may prove, that it is better late than never.

We have had a series of protracted services here, first by the Methodist brethren for two weeks conducted by "Sister Belle Hunt" with one addition to the church. Then the Christian brethren for a week by Bro. Surber, the state evangelist, without any visible fruits.

Rev. R. A. Irvine

June 27  
1889



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky.



Frenchburg Ky -  
Jan. 23. 1890.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Ch. Evan. Com.

Dear Bro.

This is to acknowl-  
-edge yours of the 18th. inst.  
which enclosed a check for  
one hundred dollars, it  
being the amount of appro-  
-priation for my salary for  
the quarter beginning Oct.  
1st, 1889 and ending Jan. 1st 1890;  
for which you will please  
accept my thanks.

I found the church at  
Stanton not yet completed  
- they still need money to  
purchase pulpit, pews. and

lights &c.

I regard the work at Stanton and Clay City as very interesting and important.

I hope we may be able very soon to build a plain house of worship at Clay City.

The Methodists are making great efforts to get the lead there. They have a rough plank school-house in which they worship every Sabbath.

And I am informed that they have about \$2500 subscribed toward building a permanent church.

Yours fraternally  
R. A. Irwin

Clay City

rec. Clay City



Rev. E. W. Pedinger, D.D.  
Anchorage,  
Ky.

Frenchburg Ky.

Oct. 30, 1890

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.

Dear Bro.

I enclosed please  
find a check for five dollars  
the amount of apportionment  
for Evangelistic purposes for  
Alexander Memorial Church.

I will present the cause to  
the other churches at my  
next appointment.

Yours fraternally

R. A. Irwin.

Receipt sent Oct 4 '90

Oct 5, 1890



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.  
Anchorage  
Ky.



We have kept up a union Sunday-school and Prayer-meeting through-out the year.

### Stanton Church.

Our church-building here is not yet furnished, so that we can use it for worship; and I can not say with confidence when it will be. The lumber donated for the pews is not seasoned, and consequently can not be used for that purpose now; I understand that it can be ~~used~~ exchanged for more suitable lumber and have urged it upon the congregation to make the exchange and to complete the house at once which they have promised to do.

The ladies of the congregation say that they are going to take the matter into their own hands and by giving support &c try to

Frenchburg Ky.  
Dec. 27th. 1890.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D. Chairman,  
and Gentlemen of Synod's Evan. Com.

Dear Brethren

At the close of another quarter I beg leave to make the following report of the churches under my charge.

Alexander Memorial,  
Frenchburg Ky.

I have endeavored to discharge faithfully the responsible duties of evangelist to this and to the other churches that I serve.

By the blessing of the Lord I have not failed to meet my appoint-

ments at any one of the Churches during the current quarter.

And as the Lord has given me grace, I have tried to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as I understand it, and as I think it is interpreted by the standards of our Church. My efforts have been especially directed to the younger members of the congregation.

I have taught them for three years in the Common-school and also in the Sunday-school; and have constantly inculcated the principles of industry, morality, and godliness as essential to the happiness of any people, and for two years I have tried from the sacred desk to instruct them in the "way of life" as I believe that the hope of our success, in this part of the State is in the rising generation. And

I hope and believe that I have acquired an influence for good over the young people of this Community. The work is necessarily slow, but I hope it is solid.

But the error and prejudice to be overcome, is very great, and much time, labor, patience, perseverance, and prayer is required to remove it.

Some of the members of this Church are in destitute circumstances. We have done what we could to relieve their necessities; and have been assisted in this good work by a kind friend at a distance who acts upon the principle that "giving to the poor is lending to the Lord".

We are not privileged to report any addition to the membership of these Churches. The attendance upon public worship is good.



raise the necessary funds to complete the church at an early day.

I expect to move to Stanton as soon after my school closes, as I can make the necessary arrangements; and the school close in a few days; and will urge <sup>the</sup> <sup>person.</sup> the matter on

One of deacons, John Rice, died in the month of October.

I hope by the end of the next quarter to give a more favorable report of this church.

### Clay City

This church has met a crisis. Business at Clay City is very dull and many of the employes have sought employment at other places and our little church has suffered much in consequence of it.

Out of a membership of nineteen we have lost by removals, one elder, our only deacon, and nine members and one family - Mr and Mrs. Allen and Son, who had never united with us by letter, but worshipped and worked with us. And I fear that we may still lose others who are contemplating a removal to other places.

But I hope that business will revive in the Spring and that our little City will continue to grow. I still regard it as a very important and interesting field, notwithstanding the discouragements. And I think that if we had a comfortable and accessible house of worship that the congregation would increase in numbers and effectiveness. We are compelled to worship

in the little church across the river - distant from the most of our people, and in bad weather is very disagreeable walking; but I have usually a moderate congregation in the morning but a good one at night, consisting largely of young men, who are attentive and orderly hearers. My last service was held at night in the large school house <sup>to a full house</sup> in town, and I was solicited to preach there as often as I can get the use of the house.

My confidence in the success of this work is in the Lord; for we are assured by his word that though a Paul may plant, and an Apollos water, the Lord giveth the increase.

Respectfully submitted  
R. A. Irwin.



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky.



ANCHORAGE  
29  
1890  
KY.

trust that the seed has fallen into good ground and may soon bear fruit to the glory of the Master.

I think that this congregation is in better spiritual condition than I have ever seen it before.

The children of the church are especially more interested in church work. Some of them are stimulated in the study of the Catechism, by the hope of having their names appear upon the next "roll of honor" published in the Christian Observer.

Our Sunday School is Union and the Catechism is not taught in it as a text-book, but they recite to myself as their pastor.

For nearly three years I was Superintendent of this school, and for all that time, and I

Stanton N.Y.

March 27th, 1891.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D. Chairman,  
Gentlemen<sup>and</sup> of Com. of C. L.

Allow me to present the following report of the churches under my charge.

#### Alexander Memorial.

I have resided within the bounds of this congregation from the beginning of my Evangelistic labor until the 1st of February last, when I removed to Stanton my present home. I made the move with regret and at considerable expense because I thought my personal super-

-vision was more needed in the work at Stanton.

By the blessing of the Lord I have been enabled to meet every engagement at this church but one, and that Sabbath was given to the Church at Stanton. I have the pleasure of reporting that at the last service held at this church I baptized four of the youngest children of one of the ruling elders, who had been somewhat skeptical on the subject of Infant Baptism - having been raised by Baptist parents, and at one time, I think, a member of that church himself.

There is another incident that has given me comfort in my work in this congregation. An intelligent young

man, who had united with this church soon after its organization, was led off by evil associations into a wild and godless life. He became afflicted with one of the scourges of this mountain country, Scrofula, and lingered with it for more than two years. I visited him frequently during his illness - read and prayed with him, and sometimes preached in his room to numbers of his companions and relatives.

He repented of his sins and found Jesus to be very precious to his soul and at last died triumphing in the faith. And as he talked much with his companions, we

-live state; and our only  
deacon a rail-road engineer;  
was forced to find employment  
on another road.

And some of our private  
members and sympathizers  
have also sought employment  
else where.

But I still minister to  
the few that are left as  
carefully and as punctually  
as though they were a large  
congregation. And I hope  
that as Spring opens business  
will revive and others will  
be brought in to take the  
places of those that are gone.

Respectfully submitted  
R. A. Irwin.

know not how much longer,  
a bundle of Sunday School  
papers, directed in a lady's fair  
hand, have been sent from  
Woodford Co. Ky. to this School  
once a week without failure.

At times they were received by  
some of other denominations  
with distrust - at one time this  
feeling was so strong that we  
thought best not to use the lesson  
papers but continued to issue  
the illustrated papers that ac-  
companied them which silently  
won the hearts of the children  
and the confidence of the people.

And now that bundle furn-  
ishes all the papers that are used  
in this Union Sunday School.  
A triumph of the faith and  
perseverance of that Christian  
lady.

## Stanton.

This last quarter has been a gloomy period in this valley of the Red river; both from a financial and a religious standpoint.

The R. U. R. R. which in a greater or less degree influences and controls the business of the valley, has failed to pay the wages of its employes for several months which has affected the business relations of nearly every man in the valley.

For this and other reasons the congregation at Stanton have not yet completed their house of worship. We are now having the lumber dressed for the pews, and hope to have the house ready for occupancy sometime in April.

The officers are slowly collecting the subscriptions for the building fund.

We have organized a prayer meeting here, which is not very well attended; but as the weather improves we hope the interest will increase.

I have preached at this point oftener than my schedule calls for.

## Blay City.

The same circumstance, mentioned before, that has injured Stanton, has almost overwhelmed Blay City.

Our ranks have been decimated by removals. We are left without an officer. Our elders, who are Ohio men, have returned to their na-



Report Rev R. A. Brown  
March 1891

Stanton



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Anchorage  
Ky.



AMERICAN  
MAR 28 1891  
KY.



Stanton Ky -

July 30, 1892.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.

Dear Bro.

I received yours containing duplicate check by yesterday's mail.

I am very much obliged for your kindness and sympathy and hope that this one will reach the bank to day in due time.

I sent a receipt for the amount of check, one hundred dollars, for salary to July 1st, 1892. and suppose that you received it; if not you can preserve this as a receipt for same.

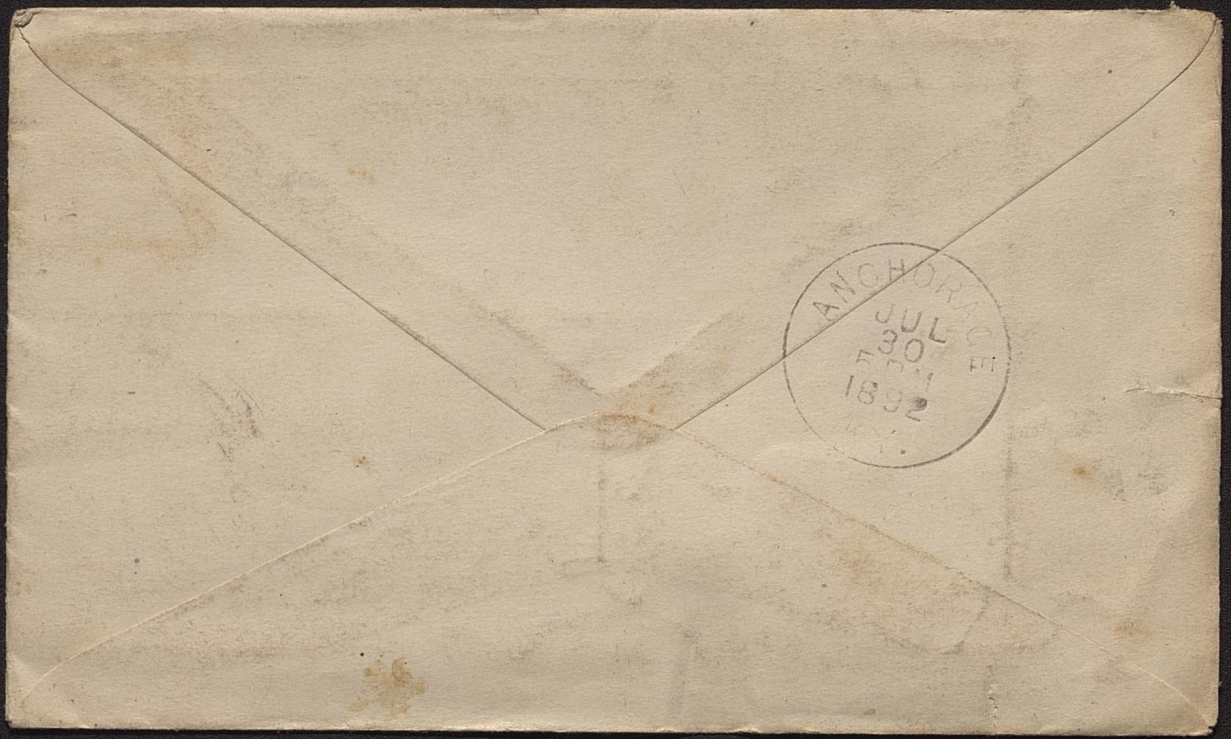
Yours fraternally

R. A. Irwin.

July 30, 1892



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Anchorage,  
Kentucky.



(1011113)

Stanton Ky -

May 23, 1892.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.

Dear Bro.

I am constrained  
to remind you of my last  
quarterly salary, due April 1, 92  
not being received.

My accounts based on this payment  
are past due and my creditors  
want their money.

Hoping that it may be conve-  
nient to forward check soon I  
am yours fraternally,

R. A. Irwin.

Stanton

CLINTON



Stanton Ky.

Sept. 9, 1892.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.

Dear Bro.

My son Logan  
Irwin, who has just started  
to Union Seminary to day,  
has been laboring in the evan-  
gelistic work, in Powell Co. for  
four months, at a salary of twenty  
five dollars per month.

He was employed by the Rev. J. S.  
McElroy, Chairman of the evan-  
gelistic Committee of West Lexington  
Presbytery. Bro. McElroy writes  
to know what part of salary  
he has received from you  
and what is still due. I an-  
swered that he had received



no part of salary for his  
services.

I infer from this that Logan  
is to receive his salary from the  
Synod's Evangelistic Committee.

He needs the salary very much  
as he has a great many books &  
to purchase at the beginning of  
the session.

You will please write to him  
at Union Seminary, Hampden-  
Sydney, Va., and oblige

Yours fraternally

R. A. Irwin.

Sept 9, 1892



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.  
Anchorage,  
Kentucky



that I can not ask her to undergo any greater hardships.

I am willing to go to an other field after the 1st of January if the Committee can see the way clear to send me.

My schools here in the Mountain have not been remunerative, as I have only received the State fund for Teaching; but my Teaching has been no unimportant part of my work as the greater of the accessions to the Churches have been from those that I have taught.

Hoping to hear from you soon. I am Yours fraternally  
R. A. Irwin.

Stanton Ky.

Oct. 31, 1892.

Rev. O. W. Bedinger D.D.

Dear Bro

Yours of the 26. was duly received and its contents noted. But I must confess that I was not prepared to receive a notice of a decrease in my salary of twenty five percent.

I had thought <sup>my</sup> four hundred dollars per annum, with all expenses to come out of it, was a very small salary even for an untried man. But hoping that as my experience and skill in the work of an evangelist would increase, the Committee would recognize the fact and

that they would give me a salary that would justify me in giving my whole time and energies to the work and so relieve me from the embarrassments and complications that necessarily attend any secular work in connection with this great work of the church.

But three months ago I had a position offered me of ninety dollars a month, which would not have interfered with my work in the church <sup>more</sup> than my present engagement, except that it would have held me nine months instead of five.

I declined it because it was my sincere desire to spend and be spent in the service of my Master as an evangelist. But the churches

which I serve are very poor and not able or at least have not contributed very much to the pastor's salary.

The contributions have rather gone the other way; he and his family out of their hard earnings have contributed more to the churches, than they to him; and to depend on these churches for even a small part of my salary is a very hazardous undertaking.

I can scarcely make both ends meet with the present salary with the most rigid economy.

My wife has been delicate for more than a year but still she does most of her house-work and assists me in my school so

Stanton, in  
the mts.

✓  
✓

Oct 31, 1892

ANTON



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage,  
Kentucky.

3090

1150

40) 1940

48.

43.

75

166 <sup>1/2</sup>

107

273 <sup>1/2</sup>

Stanton Ky.  
March 28, 1893.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.  
Chairman of S. C. C.

Dear Bro.

Permit me to  
make a brief report of the work  
in Alexander Memorial, Stanton,  
and Clay City churches.

By the blessing of God I have  
been enabled to meet all of my  
regular engagements at all of  
the churches, except one at  
Alexander Memorial in February;

I was prevented from making  
my visit to Frenchburg by inclem-  
ent weather and bad roads;  
but preached a funeral sermon to  
a large congregation at Stanton



on that day, so that the time  
was perhaps not unprofitably  
spent. The attendance on  
public worship is good at all  
of the churches and we are  
getting along smoothly in our  
church work.

Three persons have united with  
the Stanton church within the  
last few weeks.

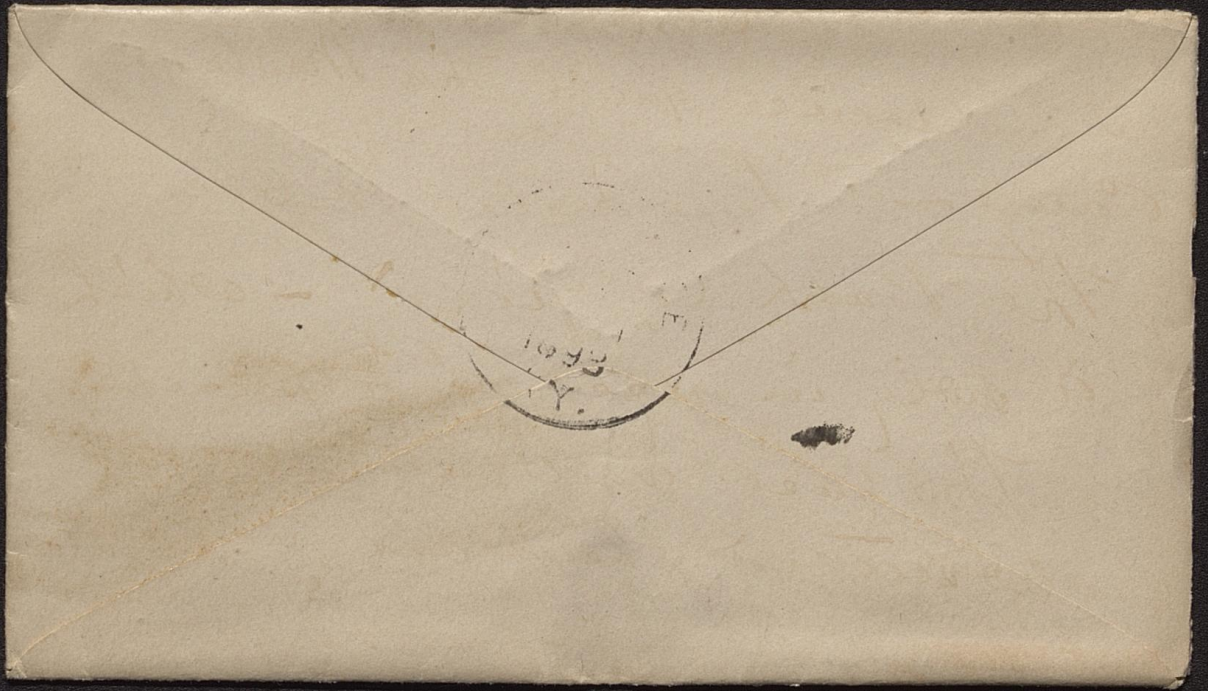
We are sadly in need of a church  
building in Kelsey City. We are now  
preaching in the new Methodist  
church there - but find it inconveni-  
ent.

Respectfully submitted  
R. A. Irwin.

March 28, 1873



Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Anchorage,  
Kentucky.





Stanton Ky.

Jan. 4, 1893.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.  
Chairman of Synod's E. C.  
Dear Bro.

I see it confirmed by the Christian Observer of this week that the Rev. Alexander Henry has accepted a call to the Churches of Eminence and Pleasureville; and of course has given up his work here in the mountains.

Since I have been in the evangelistic work I have made but few suggestions to the Committee; but I now have a suggestion and a proposition to make to you.

Consolidate the churches of Beattyville and St Helens with those of Stanton and Clay City and let me take charge of them at a living salary.

Frenchburg is difficult and expensive for me to reach, while these churches are easy of access by the R. M. rail-road.

Besides it was with the expectation of getting the Beattyville work that I moved from Frenchburg to Stanton.

With these four churches I would have employment for every Sabbath and could devote my whole time to the work, which I am so anxious to do.

And I believe that you will coincide with my opinion, that the work will be better done by one man devoting his whole time and energies to it at a reasonable compensation, than by two men trying to do it on short allowance and being compelled to turn aside to secular employment to supplement their salaries for the support of their families.

Hoping that you will consider my proposition and let me hear from you soon I am yours fraternally  
R. A. Irvine.

Jan 3, 1893



Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.  
Anchorage,  
Kentucky