

Hampton Sidney, Va.  
 Feb. 26, 1890

Rev. E. W. Bedinger,  
 Anchorage, Ky.,  
 Dear Sir,

I wrote to you a few days ago concerning work for several of the students, but in it now, have not felt inclined to speak to you of myself for two reasons; 1. because I had mentioned it to Frank, and 2<sup>d</sup>, I had gotten to be so anxious about the financial side of "vocational work" that I felt that it would be unwise.

my to say that I was  
desiring to preach the  
gospel. If the way should  
be open I should like a  
place where my family -  
- wife and two children -  
could be with me, as it  
expensive for me to keep  
them in Nelson Co, and  
is unhealthful to them,  
besides, to stay there.

I do not know that you  
remember me; I am  
from Lou. Presby and  
worked in the Springdale,  
H. Creek, and Goshen church-  
es last summer.

Yours in Christ,  
J. F. Mitchell

J. J. Mitchell Mar. 6 '90 ✓

WARREN SIDNEY VA.  
FEB 27 1890



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

CINCINNATI  
OHIO  
TRANSIT  
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FARMVILLE  
VA.  
FEB 27  
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RECEIVED  
MAR 3 1890

Brooks, Ky.,

Dec. 4, 1891

Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D. D.,

Anchorage, Ky.,

Dear Doctor,

I've just received a business letter from Tyler at N. Y. Seminary, to which he adds the following

"P. S., Have a call from Mr. King, N. C., a place of about 2500 inhabitants, and one from what will be the 2nd church at Danville, Va.

I would like very much to know if I am wanted in Louisville Presbytery or Synod of Ky., as I would rather labor there, all things being equal.

But I must give an answer  
right away. J. D. T.

I hope such a man can  
be kept, as he evidently prefers  
in Soc. Presb. ty. Would not he  
be the man for the Hawesville  
and adjacent field? It is  
my opinion that Tyler can  
and will work.

Dr., I am beginning to enjoy  
my work as never before, and,  
to be blest in it.

Yours in the work,  
J. D. Mitchell

from Rev J. T. Mitchell  
Ansd Dec 4. 91

Brooks

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D. D.,

Anchorage,  
Alaska





ANCHOR  
DEC  
4  
1891  
KY.

LOUISVILLE KY.  
DEC 4 1891  
TRANS



McHenry, Ky. Dec. 14, 1892  
Rev. E. W. Bedinger,  
Lynchorage, Ky.,

Dear Doctor,

The church at Rock-  
port has met its apportion-  
ment of Synod's Ev. Fund,  
i. e. \$5<sup>00</sup> with several  
members "to hear from,"

First Ohio Co. Ch. will,  
I've no doubt meet, with  
pledges and final payment,  
its app'tment of \$25<sup>00</sup>.

The deacons have not  
been able to get around to  
secure pledge, but with fa-  
voring circumstances  
this year, you may safely  
reckon on the full

amount.

Get off the train, some  
time when passing,  
and visit us if you can;  
spend either a Sabbath  
or choose another day  
as suits you; the people  
wish to see you, and so  
do I.

My home is, now at  
McHenry.

Yours, Filially  
J. T. Mitchell.

Brooks, Ky. May 17, 1892  
Rev E. W. Bedinger  
Anchorage, Ky.,

Dear Doctor,

The good people of McHenry Church, have just made a definite proposition, that I come and work among and with them for one year, giving them two Sundays month.

Rockport has not yet signified definitely, what that church wants.

I have just written to the session at McH. that I will settle among them as soon as all conditions permit.

The church at Rockport seem to be moving with energy to build a house of worship, and

I believe they may succeed  
by the coming Fall. ~~At this time~~

I shall be glad to hear the  
committee's will &c. Please, let me hear.

Sincerely, Yours in Christ's Work

J. T. Mitchell.

P.S. Excuse symptoms of sun-  
stroke in my scrawl.

J. T. M.

McHenry, Ky., Aug 5, 1893.

Rev. E. W. Bellinger,

Anchorage, Ky.,

Dear Doctor,

Your kind letter came some days since, but at the time other matters claiming my attention, the duty of reply was overlooked.

I am able to sit up to write this, and hope to preach once, tomorrow, but did almost all my work yesterday being on my back; I've had Cholera Morbus for some days, and it is peculiarly persistent as compared with anything of the sort I have ever experienced.

I do not mean to post this before Monday, but thought

best to write this P.M.

The contest between operators and men, maintaining a dogged persistence. The former admit the justice of the complaints of the men but claim that they are compelled to make the demands complained of, since at all other points on this road, the same terms are exacted by the operator.

Many thanks for the remittance; knowing the pressure of the times I hardly saw the way for you to send anything.

The greater part of our membership are striving to keep together despite differences.

Please, visit us soon.

Yours in the Work,

J. T. Mitchell,

little band has more than two  
really earnest praying mem-  
bers, in active work. Those two  
are an elder, and his noble wife  
who led her husband to W.

Others are otherwise faithful,  
but not prayerful.

The school-house, in which  
we have hitherto worshipped at  
R. pt. was burned recently, but  
the Baptist brethren immedi-  
ately tendered us the use of their  
house "giving a reasonable  
time to complete" ours.

"The people want to go in debt  
for furniture and dedicate  
immediately, when finished:  
I tell them that while there has  
been, so far as I know, no leg-  
islation in the matter, yet it  
may be considered a safe with  
us, not to dedicate a church

McHenry, Ky., Jan 5, 1893  
Rev. E. M. Bedinger,  
Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Doctor,

Your favor of the  
2nd inst. came to hand  
on the third, please accept  
thanks. Now, "honest confess-  
ion is good etc." and I must  
say that I've had 5 dollars <sup>Ev. Fund</sup> for the  
from R. pt. ch. for sever-  
al weeks, but needing cash to  
meet immediate expenses,  
and hoping to pay in a  
day or two, for what  
I should receive from  
the W. H. ch. I used the  
money.

Mr. H. G. Duncan has hith-  
erto been our treasurer

and, we wanted the business put into the hands of his successor before any money should be paid; and, I've borrowed or run a/c'ts, for a month and a half.

Enclosed, therefore, find \$5.00 from R. post ch., and we hope to add to this amt. by June.

During the ~~past~~ quarter there have been no additions, ~~and~~ special demonstrations of interest. Some of our members, here, have made beautiful advance in christian activity.

There is noticeable advance in work among the ladies and in the S.S. Withal, however there is the occasional reaction toward worldliness, and want of regard for the consciences of those who are weak, and unable to discrim-

inate between what is wrong and what strongly resembles wrong or leads to wrong.

Allow me to remark that these things make me more thoughtful, humble, prayerful.

At Rockport, the work seems to be; "let us build the house".

Of course, such an undertaking would, naturally, ~~and~~ air the affair, rightly, be all absorbing to this little band. The house itself, a well constructed one, costing about \$1000.<sup>00</sup> will be completed as soon as it can be plastered — the over-head is ceiled — and, with the exception of a debt of about \$200.<sup>00</sup>, borrowed cash, assumed by four members, it will be paid for if subscribers to the building fund, are faithful. I do not believe, that this



that has what might be called  
a "builder's debt" on it.

I think some want to employ  
the Methodist plan of "A Dedicat-  
ion Service to Raise Money".

I don't object to raising money,  
then, but tell them that any  
indebtedness must be assumed  
by member of the ch. or by  
some or any who may be  
willing "to stand" for the debt.

My position seems a little aus-  
tere where people are working  
so hard, but I thought it  
right.

I've preached regularly at  
Taylor Mines, and visited very  
closely from house to house.

While indifference and even  
opposition to the gospel is ap-  
palling, still, there is a man-  
ifest improved feeling and

a growth of respect for quiet, persistent, week to week, month to month effort as compared to the spasmodic. Just as I am about to feel cast down, the Lord who "knoweth our frame and" "remembereth that we are dust" puts it into the heart of some one, sleeping just before, maybe, to whisper comfort and encouragement.

Oh, that I might be "endued with power from on high."

We shall, all, be delighted when you come.

I administered the sacraments last sabbath, the first time since my ordination. I baptized three children of a mother whose husband was uncompromisingly prejudiced against Presbyterian-

ism, when she joined the church last summer. God grant that the softening of the husband and father may be under the influence of "the Spirit that quickeneth."

Henceforth we shall observe quarterly communion.

Can you arrange to dedicate the new house, if the way be clear to dedicate, on the second Sabbath of next month?

Can you come at such time as we shall be ready?

Yours faithfully, in Christ

J. T. Mitchell

P. S. Enclosed find Chk. for Six Dollars from First C. Co. Ch. for Co. Fund

J. T. M.

July, 1893

Bedinger's letter

McHenry, Ky., July 25, 1893  
Rev. E. W. Bedinger,  
Anchorage, Ky.,

Dear Doctor,

It has always been very hard for me to write, when it seems that there is but little to write about.

For about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  months the people here and at Rockport Taylor Mines, and even at Rockport have stood in an attitude of exceedingly strained relations. This strike affects all work of the church, of all denominations, and ours most of all, for the reason that the capital-side of the contest is all connected with us, here.

I'm satisfied that both parties intend rightly i. e. the capitalists and the better element of the laborers. My situation is exceedingly delicate.

The church here is doing much better

than one might expect. We have the cream of this place, largely, (this is not to be repeated) and our members strive to deal as true Christians with each other, and to behave with loyalty toward each other as Presbyterians. We have had no additions to this church, but several young men, most desirable material, seem ripening for the step. Some who had for several years remained away from S. S. and morning services have lately been attending.

At Rockport, we have, now, a S. S. about two and a half months old. Unfortunately, while the Supt. is one of our elders, and the literature is ours, (Southern) yet, we have only two teachers of our own membership, and they are not vigorous, but timid, unwilling workers. The other teachers are 2 Bap., 1 Meth., and 1 C. Presbtr. I find that this corps of workers, i. e. the three of our own membership, have heretofore not sustained, personally, cordial

relations toward each other, but thanks  
be unto him who orders all, they seem to  
be trying to overcome all that, and to  
work. I thought that circumstances  
would allow us to utilize Uncle Joe's time  
in the busy season of midsummer, at  
this village as well as anywhere, and am  
now, satisfied that but for the extremely  
hot weather, and an undercurrent of  
sentiment against us, all would have  
been well. The same people seem, now,  
trying to make up for that indifference.

At Taylor Mines, I have, with the as-  
sistance of two Baptist men, organized  
and sustained for three months, a S. S.

This is a work of some promise, it may  
be, however, that others will come in and  
~~save~~ <sup>reap</sup> where I have sowed. Howbeit, so  
I be faithful, and some be saved, I may  
still give thanks. Pray that I may be

made sufficient at T. Mines, as in all this field.

While some things seem discouraging, I do not feel cast down: I think it drives me closer to God. Then, I see so much around me for which to be thankful, so much already realized, and then looking to the promises of God, I am constrained to feel stirred, lest I fail to appropriate them.

One source of gratitude is that my surroundings enables me to sympathize with you in your care, so much greater. May the Lord bless and strengthen you greatly.

I know that you pray for us.

The people at R. port, our own people, are very desirous that you should preach a few days, for them.

Yours in the Work,

J. T. Mitchell

P.S. Pardon the lateness of this letter.

I am not ready, yet, to give up this work, not unless my people should wish it. I am praying that I may be directed how to do, and still believe that all will be well. It would not be right to leave this work now; if it should seem best, I intend to try to work with my hands and continue to supply the field to the best of my ability. Yesterday spent at Taylor Mines in house to house work and public services, and then a tramp through the snow after dark increases my desire to work here. Come and see us every noon. I hope to send another M.O. this week.

Yours in the work  
J. T. Mitchell

McHenry, Ky.,  
Feb. 26, 1894.

Rev. E. W. Bodinger,  
Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Dr.,

Enclosed find M.O. for Seven Dollars contributed by Rockport Ch. to the H. Mission Fund within the bounds of our own Presb. + Synod.

Received a notice from Bro. Rennie respecting the collection but he did not give his street & number which I do not know. Not liking to make a remittance through an indefinite address, I wrote him

a postal as an experiment  
and as he evidently has  
not received that - I've  
heard nothing from  
him - it was well  
that I did so.

I obtained this money  
by personal solicitation,  
and expect to canvass  
our membership, here  
in the same way.  
Several other duties have  
engaged my time until  
now.

Eld. Geo. S. Barkley of  
Suehwill, helped me  
in a meeting of 10 days  
at Echols, beginning on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Three made  
public profession of  
faith. Two of these will  
unite with the Ch. at  
Rockport, soon, An

excellent gentleman  
who publicly confessed  
H. and expressed a desire  
to be the Lord's, on the  
last night of 1898, and  
at the same place, united  
with the R. prot Ch. during  
the late meetings.

Bro. Pooter will help  
me here beginning Mar.  
19<sup>th</sup> D. O.

I should remark that  
Bro. Barkley is a most  
efficient helper; his  
talks are clear, and his  
methods are Presbyterian.

A letter from Mr. For-  
man informs me  
that help from the Ev.  
Comtee, will cease  
April 1<sup>st</sup>. Well, I'm sure  
that the Com. is doing the  
right thing, moreover,



Feb 26, 1894

Mc Henry



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

a system of payments.

I'm afraid <sup>that</sup> Bro. Porter's letter will create an erroneous impression. While I do walk from my home to all points of my work at times, - always to Taylor Mines and these nearer villages - yet it is not very often that I walk all the way to Echols and Rockport, though some times when my business calls me there and no train goes down at the right time, I just don't sit and wish I were there; I go.

It's a grief to me, at times, that as a minister I'm so defective in some respects, but I'm blest with locomotive ability, and that ability comes in good.

McHenry, Ky., July 7, 1894  
Rev. E. W. Bledinger,  
Anchorage, Ky.,  
Dear Doctor,

I should have written to you long since, respecting the amounts apportioned to these churches in the distribution to meet the deficit, but found it hard to bring myself to write without sending a small remittance.

As you doubtless suspect, the recent strike occasioning as it did a loss to this Co. of more than \$20,000.00, leaves even our monied people feeling poor, to say

nothing of the necessities  
circumstances to which the  
others are reduced. True,  
one or two were little affected  
financially, but I have to do  
the best I can with those  
people who are subjectively  
pressed in finances.

This strike has injured  
my chs. to a very limited ex-  
tent only, excepting in a fin-  
ancial way. My last month's  
pay from the ch. here was  
\$7.50, but I do not feel cast  
down; and you must not  
feel so on my behalf.  
I'll try to work and pray  
and trust.

Different men excel in  
executive ability in differ-  
lines; e.g. God has enabled  
me to stir up the church

to work and pray, but there  
seems a work in these congre-  
gations to which Bro. Porter  
is particularly fitted, a work  
that I can't <sup>do</sup> I accomplish  
ing the work as a whole. Bro.  
Barkley's help seems in-  
dispensable. Our several  
spheres seem parts of a unit.  
Now, let us consider a ques-  
tion: Can you suggest and  
send to us someone <sup>who</sup> under-  
stands organizing the fin-  
ancial side of the Christian's  
character? Our people  
need to be taught how  
much they owe the Lord  
in cash or equivalent,  
and that giving is a part  
of worship; and then hav-  
ing learned so much, they  
should know and adopt

P.S. I hope that when  
the people are not pressed  
for necessities, we can meet  
our apportionment of the  
redistributed debt.

J. G. M.

play here. But don't  
think I never have R. R.  
money, nor feel any dis-  
comfort of mind, in that  
score. Let there be no  
care where there is no oc-  
casion for care. Pray  
that I may do well, my  
part.

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>. This is writ-  
ten with pencil because  
I'm lying in bed. I am  
just recovering from a  
light attack of flux due to  
malaria & anal troub-  
le, and occasioned by the  
hot weather. Though there  
was no blood the scouring  
of the amicus membrane  
was quite painful un-  
til late Saturday P. M.

On this account, we had no services at Schols and Rockport Saturday evening and yesterday.

I am looking a little toward Hartford; there are we hear, one or two over there who lean our way and if the C. P. brethren give up that field, it might be our duty to go in and work. We shall try to follow the leadings of Providence.

The progress and work of these two churches do not come up to the full measure of the ideal, but we are quietly alive.

I hope that not all the seed sown at T. Mines has fallen by the way-side. I, we felt at times

that circumstances bade me "shake" the dust from my feet and turn else where but ~~was~~ our way or another that feeling has always been ~~with~~

Come down and look over this field and see our people, who often express a desire to see you, as soon as practicable.

I pray that the Lord may sustain you with much good cheer in the midst of all your ~~care~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~.

I feel so hopeful that I cannot help wishing that you may not be weighed down by the cares of your office. Pray for us. The good Lord bless you & yours.

Filially J. T. Mitchell over

July 7, 1894

✓ HENRY  
JUL  
9  
1894  
KY.



Mitchell

Rev. C. W. Beldinger D. D.,  
Anchorage,  
Ky.

Please, consider that I am writing to you and not to the world.

Believe I've not written to you of having added an appointment to preach once a month and on 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday A.M. at a school-house very near Echols. This is a new house completed in Sept.: we organized a S. S. (junior) and arranged for preaching on Saturday nights before my appointment at Rockport. I shall preach on 5<sup>th</sup> Sund. nights at Rockport. I feel greatly encouraged in our Westminster (not C. End.) Society here at Mt. H.

I meet the young people weekly for prayer and praise, and study of "doctrine." Our work is by far, in the best condition of any here.

Yours Faithfully, J. T. Mitchell

9:30, our writing to Bro. Miller  
since finishing this letter  
9:10

W. Henry, Ky.

Jan. 3, 1894

Rev. E. W. Bedinger,

Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Doctor,

Your favor of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. came yesterday, P. M. Many thanks for the check.

I must confess myself at a loss to know what to do about pushing the call of Synod's Com. For added contributions to the Ev. Fund.

Our only R. Elder at this place, criticizes our church as "expensive to run." While I've heard no complaint from him since a few months after I came into this field, yet I know that

... of ...  
this week: ...  
meeting ...  
We are having ...

he has no notion that so much as the tithes is due the Lord, but he is a man of very limited means. I've been surprised in the past few months to find how some of our people of means proportion their contributions to their personal expenditures, notwithstanding the fact that they have increased contributions to pastor's salary. I mention above matter, only to obtain if possible, a remedy, not to complain. Besides what I've mentioned, we have members who have not attended regular services for 3 or 4 years, and their reason is: they think themselves too honest to enjoy the benefits of the sanctuary to which

they "pay" nothing; they pay nothing, because they are trying to "save something and get a start." Uncle Joe could give us a real lift in these matters with some, and you could, with others. I know that you are too busy, to spend much time with individual churches but we do wish that you could come to this field for several days, at least, and that Uncle Joe could come here for a protracted meeting. The people at Rockport want you or Patterson in a meeting. I'd write for Bro. Keller, but these people are really too hard-pressed to pay for the services of a high-priced man.



J. E. W.  
1894  
KY.



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

gards. We hope to see  
you very soon

Yours in the Work,

J. T. Mitchell

P.S.

Mr. Hopper could  
give us very material  
aid in strengthening  
our financial status.

Please send him as  
soon as possible, rather  
have him come with  
you and let him can-  
vass the field in a way  
that your time would  
forbid. I'm sure that  
he could get the people at  
Taylor Mines to contribute  
and they would be bettered  
by doing so. J. T. M.

McHenry, Ky.,

Mar. 1, 1894.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger,

Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Doctor,

Your favor of the  
27<sup>th</sup> ult. is just received;  
I must confess my igno-  
rance in supposing that  
the means put into that  
department of our work  
represented by Bro. Pennie  
really passed into your  
hands and that the  
Presbytery had redistribut-  
ed the work to conform  
to the Gen. Assembly's  
system. I've been re-  
hiring in not inform-  
ing my myself

more exactly.

Yes, it is best for you to keep the \$7.00 and credit Rockford Ch. with that amt. I hope to send a remittance from the Ch. here, soon.

While I believe that we must see well to the work at our own doors, it is not well to teach selfishness (Christians are easy to teach in that non-virtue or grace?) by having them give all their means only where direct return is expected. I'm sure you'd say the same if you knew the views of some undeveloped Presbyterians whom I've met. This is said with most filial defer-

ence to yourself and the other members of our Synod's Com. You know dear Dr., that if we preach too often from the text: "Charity begins at home," the natural tendency of the human heart finds it logical to conclude that the beginning continues to the end.

How you have managed to maintain the work these past seven months is to me, a marvel!

Lastly, but in fullest appreciation, many many thanks for the check for which I've receipted.

Mr. M. joins in re-