Jan 2 - 1917
Tuesday Eve.

Dear Mother:-

Am safe in Springfield. The L & N train left Louisville late, but made up its time and caught the Big Four at Cincinnati, and, for a wonder, that got here on time. Am getting settled down now. The bunch of us is going around to Dr. Weir's tonight where we expect to have a great time. We are invited to the Dean's on Thursday night.

Love to all. Hope all are well.

Humbly,
Jean.

Jan 2, -1917

Jan 12-1917

Springfield, Ohio,
Jan. 12/ 1917.

Dear Mother:-

Well, I am once more getting down to work. This week has been pretty busy, and the last two nights I have been kept up quite late. However, the rush is over and I shall sonn be going along as usual. Last Sunday I was suddenly called to preach at one of the missions here/. The job is a thankless one, nevertheless I went because no one else could go, and I did not like the idea of the people coming out and having no one to preach to them. I used an old sermon, so the preparation was very little. And it was just as well, for out of the eighteen there about sixteen of them slept the greater part of the time.

Dr. Neve, the Professor here who teaches us German, came up to the room yesterday. He wants me to preach in German at one of the churches here in town in about four weeks! The pastor of that church has left, and the Seminary has charge of its services, and since a great deal of the preaching is in German, this part will fall upon those of us who are in the German class. I told the Doctor that I didn't know whether I could get ready in time for th that, but he feels sure that I can. So in about a month from now I am to preach in German. The whole liturgical service will, of course, also be conducted in German. But that part will be easy for me. The hard part will be the sermon. For in the German churches the people do not like it very much when the preachers use notes. So this means that I will practically have to memorize the whole sermon. For I cannot speak German well enough to speak on the spur of the moment. I'll have to have everything figured out before-hand. Another thing that will put me back is that the

people are very "low" German and have been used to that preaching. And of course the only German that I can give them will be the "high", and the result may be that they may find it hard to understand me. Another thing that I told Dr. Neve is that they may find my pronunciation rather queer. But he said that this does not make much difference with German congregations. They are not nearly so particular about a person having a foreign accent as we are. If a man speaks German with an English accent that does not matter to them nearly as much as it does to us to have a speaker with a strong German accent. So there is some hope for me. I shall not write out a sermon myself for this. Dr. Neve has given me a book of German sermons and told me to look over them and select one that would be a good one and them just memorize that. Well, all that I have to say is that I have some work ahead of me on this.

How are all at home? How is the baby? I am feeling well, only a little stiff. Grover Strubel and I have started in the men's class at the Y.M.C.A. here and we are both stiff from the first night's work. But we had a good time. They played some base ball, and I enjoyed that immensely. I am going again this afternoon.

Mother, do you think that you could have a box made for my Victrola records? I should like to have the box measure on the inside. And could you just pack my chafing dish in it and send it up to me that way? And when you do this please send me two pillow slips, and an old sheet or just a piece of one for me to use in pressing clothes. And also send me a couple of my summer undershirts and drawers too, as some of those that I have are beginning to wear out. There is nothing else that I can think of.

Well, I must stop now, as I have to get ready to go down town. Best of love to each and every one. Haven't got any work yet, but think that I see some in sight.

Always lovingly
Don.

Mizpah.

Springfield O.,
Feb. 6, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

I have just received the opportunity to buy a lot of books at a big sacrifice, and do not quite have the money. So I want to borrow $100. I thought I would ask you if you wanted to lend it to me or whether I should just go some where else. I would, of course, give you a note for it and pay interest as I would have to pay elsewhere. Please let me know by the next mail, if possible, if you can do this, as I must know at once. If you can not it will be all right, but I wanted to ask you first. - Had a splendid time at the conference in Eastern Ohio. Will write home about it. With love.

Hereinder, Jon.

Mispaka

Feb-6-1917

who has been a missionary to Japan for twenty-five years, and is a man of international reputation. I had a private talk with him about the political conditions in Japan and the relations of Japan and China, and saw a great many things that I had never seen before. He was by far the best speaker of the convention, but the others were good too.

And now let me tell you of the social side. The first evening they had a banquet for the delegates. The college quartette sang and they were splendid. One of the men in the quartette will come here to the Seminary in two years. There were witty speeches, and good eats. I appreciated the grub for I certainly was hungry, having had only breakfast in the morning. The next evening we had another banquet, rather more informal, and after that the different college delegations would give a song and yell. Our song was racy and I soon learned it, and sang it with the

Feb 12 - 1917

Monday Afternoon.

Dear Mother:-

It seems a long time since I have written to you and it is a long time. Yet I have been so busy that the time goes by swiftly. First let me tell you of my trip to Eastern Ohio - or rather to a point some distant east of here, while not in the extreme part of the state. It was a missionary conference at Muskingum College, situated at New Concord, which is 75 miles east of Columbus. We left Friday morning, Feb. 2. There were three of us, two boys representing the college, and I from the Seminary. We had an interesting although tiresome trip and reached one place in the middle of the afternoon. We found the town to be quite small, just about seven or eight hundred

the people were quite pleased at having such a conference. The college is in a hill outside the town. The main building is new and is a splendid one. It has, among other things, a hard-wood floor gymnasium and an auditorium with a large pipe-organ. The whole thing is severely plain, for the college is Presbyterian and that is their tendency. And in this particular branch of the Presbyterian Church they don't even use the hymns that we use. They use only the Psalms, which have been put into rhyme and set to music. Needless to say, we Lutherans can't sympathize with the views of Scripture and religion that cause this. — On that afternoon, after registration, I was talking with some of the delegates who were in the assembly room and was introduced to a young man named Heather, who was a student at Muskingum. I heard him say something about Princeton, N.J. to someone else, and I asked him what he knew about that place, telling him that I had been there for the past five years. Well, it happened that his father is the Mr. Heather who is the assistant superintendent of the 2nd Pres. S.S. in which I worked while in Princeton! I told him my name and he at once recognized it, saying that he had heard his father and mother speak of me quite often. I got to see quite a good deal of him, and got to like him very much. He is rather old to be in college, and I think that that is why he went to such a small place. It certainly is strange how one meets people in traveling about. In the Y.M.C.A. room I saw the picture of a fellow named Harper who graduated from Princeton Sem. last year, and with whom I did some graduate work.

I need not take much time to tell of the convention. They had some very good speakers, and they certainly were an inspiration to me. The best was a Dr. Erdick

amusement of the people in the station. Finally Lemaid drew a suitcase up, and sitting on it between the two rows of us, he told us some more stories. As our train did not come till 3 a.m. we had quite a time together. It was bitter cold when we got to Springfield. I tied a handkerchief over my ears and nose and even then suffered from the cold. We certainly slept when we got home. —

I had a funny experience last night and have been teased for it quite a bit. Our bunch is to give an Herman Organ stunt at a church social this week and as Dr. Neve's two girls are on the program too, a chum and I decided to ask them if we could take them. We went to the Fourth church where the girls attend, and after church were held back and did not get to see the one who was there. So we just about

other two boys. It is a good-natured joke at the other colleges, and as we mentioned each college we looked at the delegation from that place. The song goes thus:

"Don't send my boy to Wesleyan,"
The dying mother said;
"Don't send my boy to O. S. U. [Ohio State Univ.]
I'd rather he were dead."
But send my boy to Wittenberg
'Tis better than Cornell;
And rather than in Denison,
I'd see my boy in — Sing-Sing."

That took the house down. Then we gave a cheer. When we got to one place for entertainment that night we were told that they had heard great reports of the shining that the Wittenberg delegation made.

We stayed with a family named Graham. The three of us were on the third floor with the boy Ralph Graham. Down on the second floor there were two girls who roomed there, and in addition, two girl delegates.

Total, twelve girls, who showed us one big time. When we got home Friday night we went upstairs, and no sooner had we got there when the girls began to sing. We later found out that they were serenading a young gentleman caller downstairs but we didn't know it so we applauded when they stopped. They sang again, and then we gave them a song. The result was that we were invited downstairs. We had a good time, singing and swapping stories. The next night, Saturday, they had a little spread for us, candy, cocoa, cake, marshmallows toasted in the grate and we sure did stuff. None of us ate any breakfast the next morning. We had some more singing and one of the fellows, Homer Leonard, gave some monologues. Do you remember the "Blue Hen-chicken" that Ruth used to give? That was me, and he simply had us all convulsed.

We left New Concord Sunday night. It had been terribly cold all along. One day it was about fifteen below zero. Several of the boys had their ears frozen. The extreme cold and the snows kept all the trains late and when we got to Columbus about 11:30 we found that we had to wait till one a.m. for our train. We had had a fine time on the way to Columbus. There were several girls from Wesleyan College and we had a good time swapping stories and puzzles. As the rear end of the car was made up mostly of delegates we spent the last half hour of the trip singing hymns. When we got to Columbus we told our friends good-bye and sat down for a wait. We went out and got some warm eats and then came back to wait. About 12:30 we were surprised to see one of the Wesleyan girls coming back again. She saw us and came up to us laughing, and said that they had missed connections and had to wait till 4 o'clock. We all then sat down on opposite benches and played games, told stories and did all sorts of fool things, much to the

decided ~~that~~ we'd have to call up, when we saw the young lady in front of church. The boys with me told me to hurry and ask her, and as there was no time to argue I had to run on. She misunderstood my coming and started to walk on and the result was ~~that~~ I went home with her! After a while the Dr. came home, with the other girl. He was worn out completely from preaching. The two girls went out into the kitchen to make some candy, while the Dr. and I sat by the fire and talked. The girls finally finished the candy and the Dr. went upstairs, and we had quite a time. When I left the girls gave me the candy; I gave some of it to some of the fellows when I got back here. They all shook their heads and said ~~that~~ there was something mysterious going on. I went out to a church service and got back from it about 10:30 bringing some fudge! However, they helped eat the fudge.

Well, I must stop. I have lots to say

which is unusual, but it is getting late. So good-bye. Best of love to Mamie, and Buttie, and Sis, and the baby with love and kisses,

Always,
Ivan

Mizpah.

Feb 12 - 1917

11th my German sermon comes. I'll have to spend all next week on it.

I have terrific appetites these days. I don't see where the grub goes for I am still skinny. I go to gymnasium regularly and also take swims. Lorin Stubel says I am a regular fish.

Well, I have lots to say but must stop, if I want you to get this this week. I'll soon be over this rush and then write a respectable letter. Best of love to Minnie and to Butts and Sis and to Miss Alethea Martha, and to you.

Always,
Lorin.

Mi Zpah.

Mch 2 - 1917

Friday Afternoon.

Dear Mother:-

I have just come from one of our Seminary Conferences. These are meetings of both the students and professors here in which certain topics are discussed. I was one of the speakers for this afternoon and after the meeting, and during it, some of the professors said some nice and encouraging things about those of us who spoke. And some of the boys did too, after it was over. The subject was a hard one, the minister's spiritual life. But we all got a great deal of good out of the meeting. There is one thing that we can say of our teachers here, and that is that they are deeply religious men. They are splendid scholars, but that is not enough.

they lead lives of true devotion.

Last night I went to hear Alma Gluck, the celebrated singer. I was simply carried away by her singing. She is my favorite singer and I enjoyed the recital last night more than any musical recital ~~that~~ I have ever heard. All the songs were gems and then there were gems among the gems. The people simply went wild over her. My only regret is that I don't have about fifteen or twenty dollars to spend on some Victola records of hers. I have two of her records, and she sang both of those songs last night. What I like perhaps most in her is her life. She is practically the only singer in this country of any reputation who has no scandal connected with her name. It is true that while much of the gossip about singers is not the least bit exaggerated, much of it is untrue. But there is not even any gossip about her. And she showed it in her singing last night.

After the performance I met a Princeton man who graduated a year before I did and is now in business here. I had seen him on the street once before but did not get to speak to him. Last night I did, and we had quite a chat. Both of us agree that we want to go back to Princeton for a good visit.

I am simply overwhelmed in work. Night before last I got about two hours' sleep and at that did not get all my work done. I am going to drop some of the work. On Sunday the

Mch 23 - 1917

Friday afternoon.

Dear Mother:-

The end of the week has come and I once more breathe freely, and yet I have a lot of work to do. It seems as if it all piles up at one time. This afternoon I had a class with Dr. Neve in German preaching. He did almost all of the teaching in German. I was surprized to find that I could understand almost all that he said. By the way, I am not going to take the German charge this summer. I am going to the place where Swan Stuhl was last summer. Both Dr. Neve and I wrote concerning the German charge but received no answer, and as my answer for the other place had to be in by this morning - indeed, it should have been in a week ago, but the people waited - I decided not to take a risk on something that I might not get after all. So I shall be out in Illinois next summer. The work will be very interesting and, for me, comparatively easy. It may be that I shall do some preaching in German there.

Tonight a friend and I are going out calling. Dr. Weir's two girls asked us to come out some time and bring our musical instruments. My friend, Luther Dolbeer, and I are going to take from musical instruments, violin, mandolin, guitar, and flute. Both the girls play the piano, as do also both of us boys, so we expect to have enough noise talent for one evening.

I hear ~~that~~ you have been very sick. I did not know ~~that~~ or I'd have written sooner. I myself was sick for a while and stopped some of my work, but am much better now. I hope that you'll be better soon, but am afraid that you are worrying too much. Please don't worry, mother. I know that we can't help it at times, and yet it never pays. That that pays us the most is to give ourselves up to our Father's will. I have done that and He has helped me over places that I could not cross alone. And I know that He does the same for you. I pray for you, and know that you pray for me. We need the prayers of each other. For we are told that we must bear one another's burdens.

Give my love to Hennie, and Bertie, and Sis, and the baby. And my love and prayers are for you all.

Next week my work will let up somewhat & I can write at greater length. Always lovingly,

Your pals. Ivan.

Springfield, O.,
Apr. 6, 1917.
Good Friday

Dear Mother:-

Today has indeed been a Good Friday to me, for I have been alone all day, reading, and studying, and thinking of the events that took place on the first Good Friday. This week, too, has been a preparation for today; for each morning in our chapel services we had a special sermon for Holy Week. And last night at the Fourth Church we had Communion. It meant a great deal to me, because it was on Thursday night, "the night in which our Lord was betrayed," the night on which He instituted the Last Supper. There are a number of ordained ministers who belong to the Fourth Church, all the Theological professors, and some retired ministers. At the invitation of the pastor, each of these ministers, after he had communed went into the chancel, and helped administer the Sacrament. It was very impressive.

I am glad for today. I am glad for what took place on this day, so many years ago. I am glad that on this day I could come apart to myself, and receive the hope, and joy, and peace that I did. And I crave for all of you the increase in faith that has been mine today.

A couple of days ago Dr. Trussler called me aside. I had given him, some time ago, the thesis that

I wrote for graduation at Princeton. I hesitated about giving it to him for it was in that field that he studied at Leipzig, and he took his degree there with high honors. But he insisted on seeing what I had done, so I gave it to him. He expressed himself as well pleased with what I did, and said that he agreed heartily with my conclusion. He said that the problem is a hard one to face, and the conclusion that is forced on us is a hard one for a Christian to meet; he thought that I met it in the only way possible to the problem, and said that my position was thoroughly sound. It made me feel very happy.

Did I tell you that I preached a couple of Sunday nights ago? On Sunday morning I was suddenly asked to preach that evening. I had led the Luther League meeting at the First Church the Sunday before, and decided to take the subject that I had then and write a sermon on it. The subject was "Peter's denial of Christ." In my sermon I gave two pictures of Peter; the first, Peter ashamed of Jesus, and the second, Peter ashamed of himself. I had to write the sermon out on Sunday, for it was only in the morning before Sunday School that I was asked to preach. I went home from Sunday School and began to work, and worked through the afternoon. Then I looked over the sermon and did not like it; so I began to look through some of my old sermons to see if I could find one. I tried one, and then another, and studied on them, and finally, with just about an hour left, I went back to the one that I had just written, studied that, and preached it. One of my classmates who was out there praised it

warmly, in spite of the fact that I had to preach under difficulties. Yet, I held the congregation, and they seemed pleased.

I must not forget to tell you about a trick that we pulled off on one of the boys here. He is a Senior and is going to have charge of two churches, when he leaves, that are rather far apart. So he got a Ford. Well, he went away to preach a couple of Sundays ago, and on Saturday night a crowd of us took his Ford and shoved it to a garage in the neighborhood where we knew it would be safe. Well, on Sunday morning the poor fellow looked for his car, and it was gone. He asked where it was, and the fellow who was at the head of the whole movement to hide his car, dodged the question, and agreed with him that something ought to be done. So Jimmy, the one who owned the car, set out for police head quarters! While he was on the way we called up the police and told them, and when Jimmy got to the station, the old chief talked to him seriously for a while and then laughed and told him. Jimmy said that he was thinking of returning the favor by sending the police after us, and the chief was willing, but he decided not to.

Well, I must stop. It is late and I must get out for supper. I shall go in to the First church tonight for service.

How are you now? I have been sick. I don't

know what was wrong, except that I had been working too hard. But I have stopped some of my work, and am getting along well now. I am glad that you are improving. Please don't try to go to work too soon. Do just what the doctor tells you, too. I hope that you will get well soon.

Give my love to Hennie and Bettie and Sis, and to my niece. May call Easter joys be yours. With love and kisses,

Always.

Ivan.

Mr Jack.

April 6
1917

Dear Mother:-

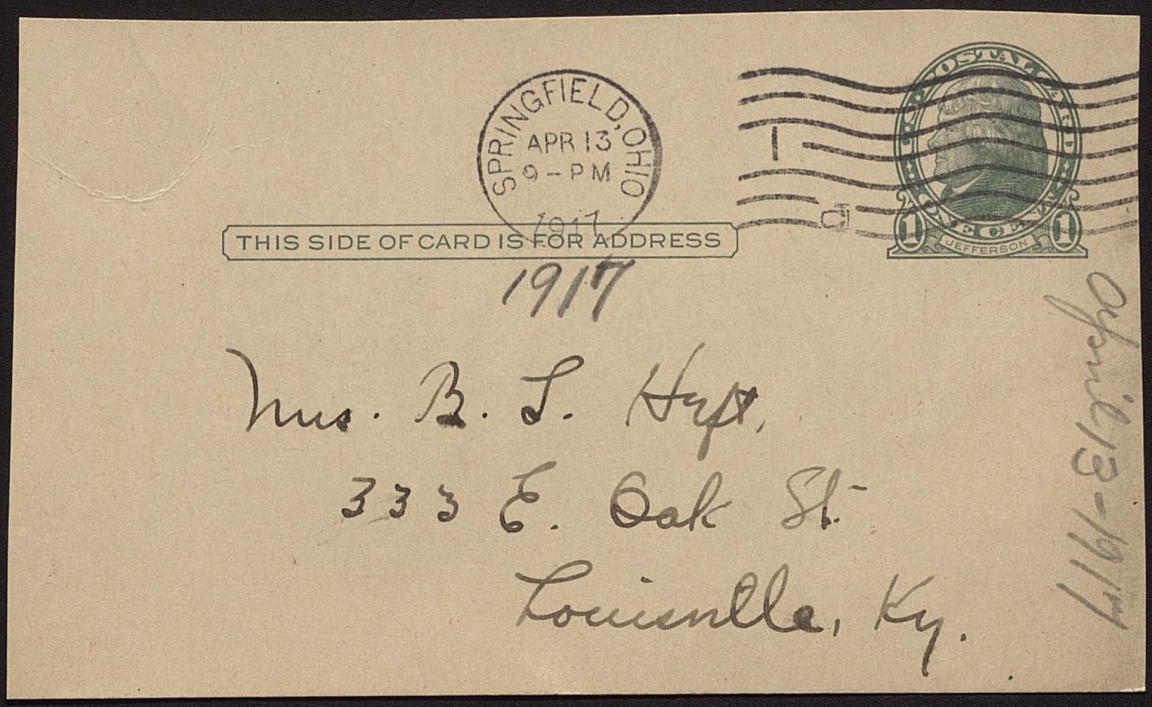
April 13-1917

Am very busy today & can't write a letter, so just drop a line. Am going to take an 80-mile auto trip with one of the boys. The place is near Richmond, Ind. I am to preach on Sunday night. Am to preach in Zeman next Sunday again, so have some more work there.

Received the picture of the baby. I am simply foolish about it. I have shown the pictures to a number of the boys and they are all tickled with it. Love to all.

Hurriedly,

Frank


SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
APR 13
9 - P.M.
1917
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS
POSTAGE
1 CENT
JEFFERSON
1917
Mrs. B. L. Hyt,
333 E. Oak St.
Louisville, Ky.
Springfield-1917

Friday Afternoon.
April 20-197

Dear Mother:

It seems as if I never can find time to write to you as I want to. I had hoped to ease up these last few weeks, and then suddenly I am asked to write several essays, and to cap the climax, to preach again in German. So when Sunday comes, and it is eleven o'clock just think of me again sporting German. Mein Text ist Luc. 6, 36-42, aus der Bergpredigt. Ich werde drei Aussprüche Jesu betrachten: I Seid barmherzig, wie euer Vater barmherzig ist; II Bittet, so wird euch gegeben; und III Mag auch ein Blinder einem Blinde den Weg weisen? werden sie nicht alle beide in die Grube fallen? Morgen muss ich den ganzen Tag studieren. Die Predigt aber wird nicht so schwer zu lernen sein. Die andre Predigt, die ich gepredigt habe, war viel schwerer als diese zu lernen.

Tell Mamie that I received her letter and the Easter-flower. Und sage zu ihr, dass die Österblume ist die schönste die ich noch gesehen habe. —

Our work stops here a week from today. Our commencement is on Sunday, Apr. 29. I shall come home on Monday then, and stay as long as I can, but am afraid that it will not be long, as I have to preach in Tivoli the next Sunday. So I shall have to leave about Friday of that week.

I met the Dean a few days ago as he was going down town. He had been to Chicago and I had not seen him for a few days. He said that while he was up there he met the Bishop! — the Home Mission Secretary, Dr. Seitzer — and the Bishop told him that I was going to Tivoli. He had not known of it. He said that he told the Bishop that he reckoned I would behave myself! Brown Stubel was with me, and said, "Boy, they's all watching you!"

Well, I must stop, and work on my sermon. Dr. Larimer, our Hebrew teacher, is giving a reception to us tonight, and I

want to go, and that will take up some time.

I had a splendid trip over into Indiana. It is past Richmond. We went through Richmond & ate our lunch there. The trip was about 90 miles. I took my fiddle along & played a solo in the S. S., and at night I preached. I'll tell you all about it when I get home.

Love to each and every one. Have had a nice letter from both Aunt L and Aunt Hattie. —

Always lovingly,

Lon.

Mizpah.

April 20-1917

April 20-1917

Monday afternoon.
April 23 - 1917

Dear Mother:-

I am writing to ask you to send my gown and cap at once. I did not know that I'd need them but suddenly find that I do. Please send them as soon as you can, otherwise I'll have to rent others. I did not know that all the Seminary students have to appear in academic costume, but find that we have to.

Yesterday I preached again in German. I got along much better than the other time. I felt more at ease in the liturgical service than before, and did not have much trouble. I had to read the sermon, for I didn't have time to memorize it. But I had studied it enough so that I could read it freely. The hymns that we sang were some of the old German hymns, and I noticed that when the service was almost over, one very old lady was crying. The tears streamed down her

face. I suppose her memories took her back to the years past. I felt sorry for her from the bottom of my heart.

This morning I read a paper in one of our classes on the old Scandinavian religion. When I finished Dr. Keyser said that the only criticism that he had to make was a favorable one. He said that my English was "clear, pure, and flowing." And he also said that the thought was well developed and expressed. And yet, I had not spent any unusual effort on the paper.

Well, I have just loads of work swarming upon me, and I have to stop. Best of love to each and all.

Hurriedly,

Sven.

April 23 - 1917

April 23 - 1917

Springfield, O.,
Apr. 25, 1917

Dear Mother:-

I received your letter today and it reminds me of something that I have been wanting to write about all along. I should like for you to get me some underwear & socks. The underwear that I have is not very good. I can wear it here but shouldn't like to do so in the summer, because the people with whom I stay will do my washing. So get me some underwear such as I have, both undershirts and drawers, and I can take them along with me from home. ~~Also get me some socks.~~ And I should like to have a couple of night-shirts, not pajamas. Just get me two, as they will be enough. And I should like also to have some soft shirts, that is, the shirts with the collars attached. And mother, don't get any like those last ones that I had, for I shall want a better grade.

April 25-1917

I'll want to wear them this summer for calling, etc., and want them to look nice. Get a grade that is at least as good as those last shirts that Alethea bought for me. And get them with the low and pointed collars, not high & round.

Frank Pryor dropped in to see me yesterday. He wants me to come down & spend a couple of days with him before I leave. I am so pressed with work that I am afraid I cannot. I have two exams this week yet, and a lot of extra work.

I have been swimming quite a bit here lately: A few days ago I traveled almost 150 feet under water. Ask Buttie if he could do that.

I had some fine business dealings today with several of the "pillars of the church" here in town. If the structure of the Lutheran Church depends on such men as these I'm going to get out before the building falls on me.

Well, again I must stop. Best of love to all. Will write again telling you just when I am coming.

Lovingly,
Ivan.

Sunday Afternoon.
April 29 - 1917

Dear Mother:-

I am having some money trouble and wonder if you could help me out. Could you let me deposit a bond as collateral so that I could draw a little on it? Or if you have one of small denomination could you let me have it? There is some money coming to me from Princeton and there is a delay in its coming. I have been counting on it all along, and I know it is safe, but it is not available for me just now. I need some money to settle a few bills that I have here and I want a little surplus when I go out to Trivoli. One of the banks here promised to lend me some money, and yesterday morning told me that it could not spare the money. So I am forced to write to you. I had hoped that I would

not have to write to you and worry you, but things have come out so ~~that~~ I must. It will be for just a short time, but still I have to have it right now. I'll not say any more now, but will talk to you Monday night.

Best of love,

Dean.

April 27-1917

congregation was touched, and yet they did not show it as many other denominations think necessary. I am anxious to start the classes in catechism. The children like it too. On Wednesday evening we have choir practice. Sunday did not have anything else during the week last year, but I am going to give some talks on the Reformation, on Luther, on the Augsburg Confession, etc. I also want to introduce the liturgical services.

Has my box from Springfield come? I haven't heard anything here yet. — Well, I must stop. Will write soon again. Could not write sooner, because I did it have any material. Best of love to each & every one. Write when you can. Am well and certainly am enjoying myself.

Lovingly,
Ivan

Mizpah.

Tivoli, Illinois,
May 7, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

Am safe and having a great time. I had a good trip all the way, although I came near missing connections at Peoria. When I got to Tivoli on Saturday morning no one met me. I found out later that the P.O. bungled with my letter, and Mr. Webber, who was to meet me, got my letter after I came. However, I left my things at the P.O. and walked out to the place here to the Jacobs sisters, the two ladies with whom I am to stay. They were not quite ready for me, and cannot take me for a few days so I am bumming around. I am at present with a Mr. Hurst and his family. They are certainly treating

me royally. A number of other people are asking me to stay with them a few days till the Jacobs sisters are ready. The food here is splendid and I simply stuff my self, and then don't see where it goes, for I am always hungry. I have been sleeping soundly, and long too. The Hunt farm is a fine one. There are four boys, and four girls, and all are making me feel at home.

I preached twice at the church yesterday, and the people evidently liked it. They certainly liked Brother Stubel. Some of them cried when I spoke of him. The church is a small one but nice and comfortable. I rode in there this morning. It is about a mile and a half from here, but one of the boys lent me his bicycle. I had to get the key to the church from a Mrs. De Worth. She is a lovely woman, and wanted me to stay with them for a few days. Everybody is as nice as can be.

I was greatly surprized and pleased yesterday at the Biblical and religious knowledge the people have. It is really profound in many cases, and is a good argument for Lutheran ways of teaching. A Mr. Erford taught the class. He is a simple farmer, yet he knew and could express some things about theology that I know some ministers of other denominations could not do. They are deeply religious too. In the morning I preached on Peter's denial of Christ, and I could see that the

ride. We usually drive the horse, but Sunday morning we went in the auto of a friend who came around for us.

Well, my box came at last. In a day or so I'll send the parts of the Victrola. I know you are wondering what has happened to it. But all is well.

I am well, and eating more at one meal than I did in one day at the Seminary. I sleep from 8 to 9 hours every night. Hope all are well. Love to each and every one. Will write soon again when I get settled. Hurriedly,

with love,

Ivan.

Mizpah.

June 17-1917

Inwoli, Ill.,

May 17, '17.

Dear Mother:-

It seems a long time since I have written, yet I have scarcely had time. The people with whom I am to stay are not yet ready so I am still "tramping." I stayed with a Mr. John Hurst and family for a while and now I am with a Mr. Webber and wife. They are a young couple, and make me feel more like a brother than anything else. They are certainly feeding me too. I have eggs at almost every

meal, and often as many as three of them. And they have not been in cold storage for a couple of years, but come right from the hen-house. There are a lot of little chickens on the farm here, almost from hundred. There are also some little goslings. There are about ninety pigs too. Then, of course, there are the cows and horses. The farm is fairly large, about 200 acres. I am having the time of my life; and yet am anxious to settle down to regular work. There is a big dog here, Jack, who soon became a good friend of mine. He goes with me wherever. Yesterday I was out in the swing reading, and fell asleep. I do not know how long I slept, but soon, while sleeping, felt that I was being watched. I woke with a start, and looked, and there sat Jack. He had been watching my face, and when he saw me look at him he threw his head up and then offered to shake hands. Mrs. Webber said that he had been watching me a long time.

I have made several calls in some of my congregation but have not had a chance to do any regular calling. The farm here is eight miles from the church. It is quite a

Dear Mother! –

Am well but busy. Fine time in Chicago. Will write from Zurich. I played the organ at the opening service of General Synod. It was the full morning & communion service, was quite nervous over it. Love to all.

Joan

January 1917

CHICAGO, ILL.
JUN 21
930PM
1917

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. B. L. Heft
333 E. Oak St
Louisville, Ky.

June 26-17

June 26-17

Dear Mother:-

I just received your letter and will answer at once. I have been out making some pastoral visits yesterday & today. This morning I was to see a family named Jacobs, Mr. J. is a brother of the two sisters with whom I am staying. He is a queer man in some ways but very good-hearted. Yesterday in my visiting I traveled about eight miles on my bicycle. And yet, distances seem short here.

But I must tell you about my Chicago trip. On Monday morning, June 18 I started out. First I did some painting at the church and then set out. As there was no morning train from Fivola

I had to go to Glasford, 8 miles away. Well, I had gone over the road once but got mixed up, and went wrong. Mr. Dr Worth (one of the farmers here) told me that I walked almost eleven miles. I made that trip in just a little more than two hours. He said "You were a mighty good man to do that" and then laughed at my not quite getting there, and added, "But not quite good enough." I ran the last mile & a half, and some of the previous distance. The people here were awfully put out about it. But I told them that I intended to ride my bicycle, but found a puncture, so I left it. And I decided it was best to go ahead & walk, for it would have taken a long time for me to get them and have them get ready, etc. And too, if I had not lost my way, I'd have got there in good time. Well, I

was stranded in Glasford at 11 am. twenty miles from Peoria, and my train to Chicago to leave there soon! But a boy there, the nephew of one of the farmers here, took me down to Peoria in a Ford delivery truck. Such bumping! We averaged about 30 miles per hour over rough roads. But we got the train. On Wednesday & Thursday I was lame & stiff, but soon out grew it & cannot feel it now. Just the Saturday before this I went down to Peoria to preach for Rev. Guss who came here to give communion. There had been a wreck, & no trains running so a freight conductor took me to within five miles of Peoria & I walked the tracks. And don't you worry about this hurting me, for I am getting brown and fat.

Well, I had a fine time in Chicago.

I met Mr. Fornhals & was with him off and on. When you see him tell him that I am sorry I did not see him before he went. I inquired Thursday at the Hotel but they said he was gone. I stayed at the hotel one night. Then Dr. Yanger got me a place in a home up in Evanston, which is the northern part of Chicago. It took me two hours to reach there on the elevated, which is quite fast. I met all my seminary teachers there, and they were glad to see me. On Sunday morning Dr. Waltz and I were walking around and we met Dr. Keyser, my teacher in Theology. He introduced me to Dr. Waltz! (He knows that Dr. Waltz is my pastor) and said that in one subject I compelled him to give me 100%. And Dr. Keyser never likes to give a perfect mark! He introduced me to another old minister

as a student of whom the Seminary is not ashamed. Dr. Larimer, my Hebrew teacher, said that I am getting fat! Dr. Luessler did some good-natured teasing, as always, and the Dean was quite cordial. Poor Dr. Neve, absent-minded as usual (the German Waitburg Synod calls him Herr Zerstreut!) did what he has often done with me & many others — forgot my name! But he doesn't forget Lutheran history or doctrine! Another one whom I met in Chicago was George Schmidt! a class mate of mine in the Sem., Luther Dolbeer, is doing mission work in Chicago, & lives with his brother who is a Lutheran minister there. Luther took me home with him one night to supper & his brother brought Geo. Schmidt home and also "Tom" Hirsch, a Springfield, O., pastor whom I know quite well. We had a great time. We got to talking about the Louisville boys who had gone to

the Seminary at Springfield. Our home churches have sent more boys into the ministry than any other city has, that is, through Wittenberg. And Dean Baustin says that they have all been uniformly unusually good. Rev. Doltzer remarked that the Louisville boys were pretty good, & Geo. Schmitt cleared his throat & reached in his pocket for a quarter. "Jim" Hausch, (the "pope" of the Miami Synod) growled that he could keep the quarter, for he meant the younger generation. Geo. Schmitt entertained the company by telling of some of the German names at home. One that flowered the crowd was Schmiedekneckt. Another was the Schanzenbachers. He asked me how they were. We had quite a time.

I did not see very much of Chicago. It is an immensely large city in extent. Its longest street is 37 miles long!

The people with whom I stayed were very nice. Their name is Ebert. They have a boy about three and a little baby. They certainly made me feel at home.

One thing I shall not forget is the tribute that was paid to Dr. Waltz at the Brotherhood convention. Once when he made a speech the whole body rose and stood before him. Another time, John L. Zimmerman, the president, said that the man who deserved the credit for the work was Dr. Waltz, and the whole convention stood up. I wish that some of those at home who are continually barking at him and always finding fault, could have seen what this body of men from over the whole country did at the mention of his name.

I also met a Mr. Williamson who used to go to our church & is now in business in Chicago. He remembered me. Do you know him?

The General Synod was splendid. I told you that I played the organ at the opening service. It was the full morning service with the communion. I was standing & talking with a boy named McCord who just graduated from our Seminary, when Dr. Hoover (President of Carthage College) came running around and said, "I'm looking for an organist." Mac said, "Here's one", and I got the job. I was awfully nervous but soon got calm. I'll tell you about the Synod later. The most important question was that of merging with other synods, and that went through unanimously. So we can look to the United Lutheran Church. I am truly glad for this. There is really no reason why we shouldn't have it, and many reasons for it.

I must stop now. Have a catechetical class this afternoon & evening. Love to all. Remember me to any that ask for me. Always lovingly. Joan.

mizpah

Tivoli, July 18

Dear Mother:-

Just a note to let you know that I am alive - and very busy. I have been trying all along to write to you but have not been able to. Will write as soon as I can. We are giving a social here on Friday night and I am busy arranging for that. In her last letter Memie was afraid that I am sick. Don't worry about it, for I have scarcely had a sick day since I am here. I sleep long, and eat a lot, and am always hungry for the next meal. Must stop now. Love to each and all.

Hurriedly,

Ivan

July 18th 1917

Aug 10-1917

Irwin, Ill.,
Aug. 8-17

Dear Mother:-

I started this letter last night but did not get to write it. I must hurry now, in order to get it off in the mail. Yesterday I had to fix my bicycle. It took quite a while. I had a slow leak to fix, took a link out of the chain, and gave it a good cleaning. The mud was just caked on it. The machine looks really presentable now. Then I had some riding of several miles to do. We are going to have a little social tonight, that is, the members of the Luther League. We did have an ice-cream supper a short time ago, but that was to make money, + we made $23, which is very good. But

tonight our main object is to have a good time, and we are going to have it. So I had to ride about yesterday and make arrangements, & tell some of the people. And when you once go to see any of these people it is hard to get away. They want you to stay a half day at least. So it was almost supper time when I got loose from the last family. As I came home I stopped in at the family across from the church, about a quarter of a mile from here. It was there that I mended my bicycle, and I had to get my things. They wanted me to stay for supper, so after calling up the two sisters here, and telling them I would not be home, I did so., After supper it was milking time, and I milked a cow. This was the first time. It took me quite a while to get on to the trick. First I had to learn how to get the milk out, and then I had to get

it into the bucket, and not so much on the ground, or the cow, or myself. I finally managed to get the milk out, but all the others had milked two or three cows a piece while I was milking my one. The cow was very gentle, and didn't seem to object to my practising on her, and made no attempt to hoist me over the hedge fence into the road. After that we separated the cream, and then went into the house. They have a little parlor organ, and they wanted me to play for them, so I played it a little. Then we talked a little and after that it was quite late, at least for country folks, so I came home and went to bed.

It has been very cold here these

last few days. However, all the reaping of small grain is done now and the heavy work of threshing is coming on, so the men don't mind cool weather.

My stay here is almost at an end. I shall leave about Sept. 3, but do not know definitely yet. Will write later and tell you.

I am sorry that Minnie cannot come. I wish so much that she could, and that all of you could come. I know it would be an enjoyable trip.

I am sending $3 to Minnie as interest on the $100. I am sorry I couldn't get it sooner. ~~When Raymond cashes the check tell him to send to the other bill that I send along, and ask him to do it as soon as possible.~~

Love to all.

Hurriedly,
Avon.

P.S. I sent the other check direct to the Trust Co.

Aug 23 - 1917

Tivoli, Ill.,
Aug. 23-1917.

Dear Mother:-

I want to drop a line to you before this week is out, and so I must do it tonight. I am visiting the family with whom I stayed first when I came here in May. It seems so long since that happened, and now I am almost ready to come home. I came over here this afternoon and had quite a talk with the two boys, and then we played horseshoe a little. Then we got the cows & as they have an early supper here, I stayed for supper. Then Adam & I went out and milked. I can milk a little faster than I could at first, and this time milked two cows while Adam did the rest. The last time it was only one. I wanted to go home then but Mrs. Hurst & the two girls wanted

me to play a little for them, & I did so. Mr. Hurst had asked me to ride along with him to Farmington tomorrow, a little town about 14 miles from here, and I told him that I would go. We have to leave early in the morning, so Mr. Hurst suggested that I stay here tonight. Where I stay we have breakfast very late in the morning, so Mr. Hurst wanted me to stay here. We called up Miss Josie, one of the sisters with whom I stay, & told her that I would not be home tonight. She laughed, for this is the second time this week that that has happened. On Monday night I went to visit a Mr. Eaford. He is a road-commissioner, & is always working out on the road. So the only time I can see him is at night. I went down to his home on Monday afternoon, stayed for supper, & then all night. Guy Stinebel had a lot of trouble with Mr. Eaford. He is old & set in his ways & very peculiar.

Just he means well, and I couldn't ask anyone to treat me better than he did. He has taken a great liking to me and says he likes me much better than the one who was here last Summer, Fuzzy! Well, he is a little gruff, but he is all right if you allow for him & know how to take him.
On Tuesday morning it was raining a little. It had rained when I went to the Ewford's but not much. So about seven o'clock I told the folks that I'd better get on my way before the roads got too muddy. It was drizzling when I left & I surely did fly. I made a distance of about 3½ miles in 15 minutes, and that over rough roads and two hills that are so steep that I had to walk up. And I didn't get so wet either.
Well, I am thinking of coming home.

The people here don't want me to leave so soon but I expect to leave on the 3rd of Sept. In regard to your trip to Indianapolis, I would take it if I were you. I may have to go on to Springfield, Ohio for a day or so before I come home, but even if I do, you can take your trip & visit the folks, for I won't be home any sooner. And if I do not have to go on to Springfield then, I can go home with you on the Interurban. So if I were you, I would be sure to take the trip. I'll write later & let you know definitely. Let me have Aunt Minnie's address in Indianapolis, in case I should have to write there.

I must close for tonight. In two weeks from tonight I am due to be home, & I hope sooner. Best of love & kisses to every one, and lots of kisses to Grandma.

Always lovingly,
Ivan.

Mizpah.

Peoria, Ill.
Aug 29 1917

Dear Mother:-

I am sorry to say that I cannot come home when I planned to. I shall not be home till Friday the 6th. Things have come out in such a way that I cannot have sooner. Will write & tell you. - Am in Peoria to day and was down here yesterday. It is quite a big city, about 100 000.

Love to all,

Ivan

Peoria
Aug 29-1917

RECEIVED
AUG 29-17

INTERNATIONAL DRY-FARMING
CONGRESS AND EXPOSITION
PEORIA ILL. SEPTEMBER

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. B. L. Hept
333 E. Oak St.
Louisville, Ky.

Springfield, O.
Friday Eve.
Sept 10-1917

Dear Mother:-

Am safe & getting settled. Jerome & I did not get in the city till about 5 p.m. on Thursday. Our S.P.N. train was 30 minutes late in Louisville, & we missed two connections in Cincinnati. We got to the Seminary & after scrapping about managed to get beds for the night.

Yesterday morning we had the exchanged glances at some of my answers. For instance, the teacher of New Testament Theology was pleased at my Greek preparation. There are some men entering here who have had no Greek whatsoever. The majority have very little. When I told Dr. Dressler that I had 5½ years he was greatly pleased.

Well, I am going out tonight to see Dr. Prince, of whom Dr. Waltz spoke. I am sorry that I could not write sooner, but was so rushed that I could not. Love to each & every one.

Always,
Sam.

Mizpah.

Sept 10-1917

opening exercises. They were very impressive. Dr. Neve, who is a native German & pronounces his name in the German way, gave us a splendid address on the future of Lutheranism. I am pleased with him beyond expression.

This morning the new men were put through the third degree. We were called in separately before the faculty and questioned. I do not know whether it is to my credit or not that my visit was the shortest. The men questioned me as to the various branches in which I had studied, and I noticed that they

there are times when he is not the most agreeable neighbor in the world.

I went visiting on Friday night, or, as the boys say here, I went "out among them." I had a good time, and as I escaped the notice of the boys here, I also escaped a lot of teasing.

Well, I must stop. Here is Reuse. I am well, but sure to miss good feeding. However, the bunch of us that are together, have a fairly good place, and we get enough to eat.

My bed is better than the one I had last year. It is not a sawdust mattress, & I sure sleep soundly when I hit it.

Well, good bye. Best of love to each & every one.

Always lovingly,

Ivan.

Mizpah.

Springfield, O.,
Sept. 16, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

I am at last getting settled down here in the Seminary. I am not keeping the room that I had last year, but have changed to a better one. The room I had last year was on the west side of the building, and in cold weather was very uncomfortable. The room I now have is on the east side. It is nicer, warmer, & I have a better view. I am still on the 3rd floor, but am going to have a better time than last year. Irwin Shuttal is running right next to me, and three other boys that are good chums of mine are grouped in this end of the building. We are going to have big times this year. We had a little celebration the first evening that we were in our rooms. One of the boys is

Sept 16-1917

named Elright, and we were visiting him. Before he came in his room I tore up some paper, put the bits in his umbrella, & wrapped the shower-stick up again as before. Later on we began to sing. Elright has a guitar, & I was playing & the rest were singing. Finally we began to sing "Fruiting on the old camp-ground." One of the boys named Henning (we call him Herring!) was walking about the room with the umbrella as a cane. He knew what was in it, so when we began to sing our fruiting song he suggested that we raise the fruit. We all agreed, and he did so, the result being a big shower of torn paper. When we saw the expression on Elright's face (he had just cleaned his room) we laughed till our sides hurt. Elright then threw us all out, and we had a roughhouse in the hall for a little bit. Last night we had a bombardment. Herring's transom was open and we began to fire things into his room. He returned the fire, and old band boxes, parts of wooden boxes, nails, bits of iron, and all sorts of things came back. Some fellows from the second floor came up to see the duel. — One of Dr. Stubbs's nick names is Gordon. He is out of town for a few days, & so I tacked up on his door a box-end that I found. It reads: Gordon & Co.; Dry gin; 1 a bottle. He'll be surprized when he comes back.

My books have come by freight from Tivoli. It was an eight day trip, & I thought the box made good time. By the way, mother, I forgot to tell the Express Co to get my boxes. If they are not sent would you have Buttie call them up at once & send them? I need some of the things.

Lewis Speaker is not on the same floor this year. You know he & I roomed next to each other last year. This year he tried to get a room next to me again but some others came ahead of him so he has gone downstairs. I must say frankly that I am glad, for

Springfield, Ohio,

Oct. 1, 1917 .

Dear Mother:-

I got your special delivery letter this afternoon, and hope that you are not very much worried about me. When did you last get a letter from me? I wrote one just a few days ago telling you what you have found out in such a round-about way. I am afraid that your hearing of my coming home in the way in which you heard it would cause you to worry. I wrote you at the same time I wrote John Gardner, telling you that I wanted to come home. And I remember that I addressed the letter carefully. It seems that the mails are very slow and unreliable. Your special delivery letter should have gotten here sooner than it did.

In regard to my sickness, it is not really serious. I was simply run down from the work of the summer. My trouble at present is that I get nervous so easily. I have spoken to the Dean

and told him that I want to take a week off and rest and he says that I ought do so by all means. I was over to his home just last night and had a long talk with him. He spoke to me very nicely about my work out in Peabody this summer. There has just been a notice in the Church Work and Observer about my being at Peabody. I have not yet seen it, but the dean did, and spoke to me about it.

I was out to preach on Sunday. I went to Vandalia, just a few miles notth of Dayton. It is Frank Pryor's old charge. The people liked me very much, and I enjoyed the Sunday there. However, the trip was a little more strenuous than I thought it would be, but as I got rather liberally paid for my services I was glad after all that I went.

Must stop now. I just wanted to get a line to you so that you will not worry. Must send this off right now so you will get it. Love to all.

Hurriedly,

Ivan.

Oct. 1917

Oct 5
1917

Friday Evening.
Oct 5-1917

Dear Mother-

Another week is at an end, and I am trying to scribble something so that you'll get it before Sunday. Last night a lot of us went out in the country on a hike and had supper out in the woods. There were five couples. Grover Stubbel went along with us and some other Sem boys. I took one of the Neve girls, Betty. We certainly had a big time. We had good eats, and after that we sang. We had a guitar & mandolin along and I performed on both of them for the crowd. I was told that if I'd go to the girls' dormitory & play some of the thing that I did, I'd take the place by storm. When I got home with Betty I went inside a while. Dr. Neve came downstairs to talk a little as he always does with visitors.

going. If I had to stand two nights in succession what I did last night with that bunch of girls I'd burst. So I'll stay away & recuperate. One of the funny consequences of last night was that both Grover Stubbel & one of the other boys were sick as dogs today. We haven't heard from any of the girls yet. We had some steak to roast last night and some of it would have been fine for door hinges. The butcher that gave us that did not lose much on the deal.

Well, I must stop now. I'll try to write a real letter to you soon. Best of love to Mennie, and Buddie and Sis, and my little girl. Am well and hearty. Eating heavy meals, and starving when the next one comes. Have a very good boarding place. With love and kisses,

Always,
Dan.

Mizpah.

He had his collar off and his coat collar turned up at the throat, and was a queer looking object. When we go there he almost invariably gets started on some theological discussion with me and then the girls tease him about it. They do his typewriting for him and both say that the "stuff" he writes is dry! He only laughs at them, knowing how they mean it. For my part I think his books & talk very interesting. He wants me to do some special study on a couple of topics that are very much under discussion now, and possibly, if I do them well enough, they may be published. What would you think of an article in one of our Lutheran papers with my name over it? Some of the other men are going to give me some special work too.

There is a social at the Fourth Church tonight given by the Luther League. The here girls want me to come, but I am not

Oct 10-1917

Springfield, Ohio,

Oct. 10, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

I have not delayed answering your letter through carelessness, but because I have been waiting to find out some things. I may as well tell you now as later what I am going to do. I have written to John Gardner asking him to secure Synod aid for me. I thought about this for a long time before deciding to do this, and have come to the conclusion that under the circumstances I am not doing wrong. I have been unable to get anything to do here and so have no means of earning any money. And since things are so it means that I would have to borrow about $200 in order to come through. I was speaking to Grover Strubel about the matter and he raked me over the coals for not taking the Synod aid. And that is what John Gardner did last year when I left for the Seminary here. And you see that if I were to borrow such a sum of money this year and some more next year it would mean that I'd have a debt of at least $500 on my hands when I left here, and that would be quite a drawback to say the least. So I have decided to take the synod aid. Othersare getting such aid and I frankly believe that I am deserving of it as much as a good many, and more than some. I shall write to Dr. Waltz and explain to him what I am doing so that there will be no misunderstanding about me on his part.

In regard then to what you are to do, please let me have another $100. That will make $200 that I have of you.

If I find later that things so come out that I can pay this last $100 back to you, I'll buy a bond and let you have it. That is, if I get from the Synod what I expect to get, I'll not need this last $100, and so can return it to you. However, I do not know definitely just what amount I'll get. Nor do I know just when I am going to get it. So it will be best for you to let me have the extra $100 now. That will make then $200. Have them place it to my account so that I can draw on it at once. In regard to settling for what I have borrowed now, that is the interest, just pay it and let me know what the amount is, and I'll let you have the money at once. Please drop me a letter or a card at once, telling me what you have done and when I can draw on this second $100.

I have a lot to tell you and the folks at home, but I'll not do so here. You don't need to tell them that I Have written this to you. So I'll reserve my other news for a letter that will go home. Am very well and getting along finely. Best of love and kisses, and many thanks for your helping me. And I am sure that you know that I will never forget it. With much love,

Ivan

P.S. - Remember me to Mr. Deter and Mr. Westermann and Mr. Schneider andMr. Kelsall and Charlie and any others that may ask about me. I am going to write Mr. Zoll a note soon.

Mizpah.

Springfield, O.,

Oct. 26, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

It hardly seems that two weeks have passed since I wrote a letter home, and yet this is the case. I want to tell you about my trip out with Dr. Neve. We went to Greenville, Ohio, which is near the Indiana line. We had a splendid time. We had to leave here at 5:25 in the morning. I certainly had to get up before breakfast in order to catch the car. We went by trolley down to Dayton, and from there took the train. When we got to Greenville we had an automobile ride of several miles in the country before coming to the church. It is a small church, and a rather small congregation. Yet they are comfortably situated, and the church, although small, is nicely and neatly furnished. We reached there just in time for Sunday School, and the people wanted me to make a speech to them. So I talked to them for about ten minutes, kidding them along mostly. I am getting so that I can do such things very comfortably now. I told them about the First Church at home in Louisville, and then of the little church where I was this summer out in Illinois, and told them how much better their church was than the one out in Illinois. And it really was. Dr. Neve afterwards said that he was glad that I spoke on this, for he wanted them to have just a little more pride in their church. We then had the church service and Dr. Neve preached. He called on me, however, for a few words after he finished. I gave them a part of a sermon that I had this summer on Luke 11:9-10, and Dr. Neve said that they were very much impressed. Then we went for dinner. Dr. Neve went with one family and I went with another

OCT 26-1917

named Steffens. The father, I think, was of Swedish descent. They had five boys, and the whole family was a splendid one. Of course they had a big dinner fixed, and yet that did not keep Mrs. Steffens from coming to church. They had chicken and cream gravy and mashed potatoes and other things. I hadn't had anything to eat since five that morning and had traveled from sixty to seventy miles, so you can bet that I was hungry and I sure did eat. And they were true country people for they enjoyed seeing me have such a good time. After dinner Mr. Steffens showed me about the farm. It is a fairly large and prosperous one. They had a mighty cute little puppy too, one that was small and fuzzy. Well, finally we set out for the church for the afternoon session. It was severla miles from the church but they had a big car, so the distance was soon eaten up. We had quite a meeting at the church that afternoon. It was to be a sort of rally of the young people, and I was to be the orator of the occasion. Unfortunately it rained a little just before the meeting, and that spoiled the crowd somewhat. However, we had a much larger crowd that I expected to come. In the meantime a quartette of boys from the college had come out to the church. They had more trouble in coming than we did, and they reached there just in time for the beginning of the works. They sang, the choir sang, Dr. Neve spoke a few words and then called on me. When I was making out my speech I remembered something that Dr. Fenner had said at our church a number of years ago on three classes of people in every church. He said that they were the workers, the shirkers, and the jerkers. I did not remember anything else, but that was enough to give me a start, so I made them a speech on that. I was supposed to speak only about twenty minutes, but when I finished I was

surprised to find that I had spoken for a half hour. And yet I had held their attention all the while, and Dr. Neve told me afterwards that the people were greatly pleased with me and what I had said, and he also was very much pleased. The boys who had come for the quartette also complimented me . After the service they gave me an envelope with money in it, and when I counted it out I saw that they had given me $5 and a little more than my expenses. So they were very good to me. They also had six big boxes of lunch, one for Dr. Neve, one for each of the boys in the quartette, and one for me. We used up some of the contents on the train going home that night. The boy who took us to the train in his machine has been in Louisville, and he and I had a little chat on the subject. He has a married brother living there; it is on Stiltz Lane. His name is Selman. Do any of you know him or know of him? When we got in Greenville Dr. Neve wanted me to meet an old German pastor there, who is a good friend of his, and who was a class-mate of his in the seminary over in Germany. He is a Dr. Ortlepp. He is a splendid preacher, and in the line of German homiletics (the study of the construction of sermons) he is about the foremost authority in this country, and is recognised over in Germany. He has written a number of fine books on the subject. When I was home once I spoke of the fact that good Lutheran pastors were not ashamed to preach in small places or country churches. Here certainly is an example of that fact. If Dr. Ortlepp were in almost any other denomination he would be trying to get a job in some big city church instead of staying in an obscure country charge. And yet he is doing a big work there, and, through his books, over the whole country. Unfortunately Dr. Ortlepp was not in, so we did

not get to see him. It was almost an hour before the train was due, and we had that time to wait. We were both tired so we just went down to the station and waited there. I got to know Dr. Neve in a way in which I never could have known him otherwise and if the trip had done nothing else for me it was more than worth while for just that alone. I could see into his life as I had never seen before. He is a man who is a deep scholar - the whole Lutheran Church knows that, as well as other Churches. And yet his religion is very real to him and means a great deal. If he has any fault it is that of being too conscientious about things and worrying about them. He became very confidential, and told me some things that were very pathetic. One, for instance, was his treatment, and the treatment of his family, by some of the people here because of his being German. In regard to that I challenge anybody to find anyone - American or other - in this country who in his heart is more patriotic than Dr. Neve or who loves our flag more than he does. It is simply narrowmindedness and prejudice, and having the nature that he has, Dr. Neve is far more hurt that the average person would be. On the train going home we had a big time. The four boys from college were there too, and they sang most of the way home. I was with them for quite a part of the way and sure enjoyed it. The people on the train too enjoyed it, and were surely amused at some of the fool stunts that those boys pulled off. And doing as we did, we advertised Wittenberg quite a bit. It was almost ten o'clock when I got home that night, and I was mighty tired. I didn't wait very long to snooze after I hit the hay.

Last Friday night the Neve girls had an informal party at their home and I was there. We all had a big time. Tonight I am invited out again & I am going to take Betty. We expect another big time. I must stop now, as I have a class. Best of luck to each & every one.

always lovingly, Don

Nov 2-1917

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM IN CONNECTION

EUROPEAN PLAN

The Heaume Hotel

J. S. HEAUME, PROP.

ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
80 ROOMS - 80 BATHS

38 North Fountain Avenue
Springfield, Ohio

Nov
Nov. 2-1917

Dear Mother:-

The last time I wrote home I had no idea that I'd write to you as I now do. I have a job in the Heaume Hotel, whose letter paper I am now using. Don't be alarmed. It is more of a graft than a job. I am cashier in the big dining room and really I have absolutely nothing to do. I am now holding down my job while writing to you. The work that I do all the time I am here could be crowded into three minutes. So I merely spend my time sitting behind the cash register and reading. I work at noons, and have to stay here just about two hours. Yet I can read the whole time and enjoy myself. Along about one o'clock, when the rush is over, but while I still have to stay here, I can get the head waiter to have one of the cooks bring my dinner out to a side table, and, snatching things from there, I can spend part of my time eating. I do not get any money for this, but I get all my board, and as much as I want. I go right into the kitchen and choose what I want and I can go at any time of the day or night. My

Nov 2

board, before I got this job, cost me $4.50 a week. It cannot compare with what I have now. My breakfasts here have averaged 40¢ and my dinners and suppers around 50 & 60¢. Add that up for one week, and divide by the 14 hours a week that I put in here, and you will guess what I get per hour — for sitting here and reading or writing, with an occasional punch at the cash register. This morning for breakfast I had oatmeal & cream, eggs, potatoes, bread, and a cup of cocoa that I made myself, and you can believe that it was principally cocoa. I had the same yesterday morning plus wheat cakes and syrup. For dinner & supper I have been ending up with pie and ice cream. So don't you worry about my getting anything to eat. If ever I fell into a graft I sure did it this time. This will save me over $100 in actual money, besides giving me fine better board. The only thing that I hate is that I have to leave the boarding place where Bruce Stuart and some of the rest of one bunch were feeding. But Bruce told me to jump at the job, or else he would. So I took it. It also makes it very convenient for me to go to the gym. classes & swimming at Y.M.C.A.

7 × 40 = 280
7 × 50 = 350
630
450
180

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM
IN CONNECTION

EUROPEAN
PLAN

The Heaume Hotel

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38 North Fountain Avenue

Springfield, Ohio

This man is a graduate of Wittenberg College & is very good to college & Sem. boys.

This afternoon I am going on an auto trip. One of the boys, named Turney, who graduated from the Sem. last year has a church about 60 miles from here. He wanted a quartette of us to come down to his church & give a concert. Dave Stirbel was to have been in it, but he & another boy can't go, so that leaves only two of us. But we are going to give quite a program. I am to play on the fiddle, mandolin, guitar & piano, & sing a couple of funny songs. The other boy, Luther Dolbeare, will play the piano, flute & guitar, will sing, & give some recitations. I leave right after my first hour, & come back tomorrow.

We had something swiftness this morning. Turney, the boy with whom we are going, has his Ford here. He & I were to ride down town this morning. When he was cranking his engine, it backfired on him and nearly broke his wrist. He thought at first that it was broken. He was thrown clear off the ground. As soon as it happened I jumped toward him and he said "Boy, I've done it."

He thought the wrist was broken, and was in awful pain. Finally he sat down on the step of the car and said very calmly, "I'm going to faint." His head began to roll, and all of a sudden he groaned and fell forward into my hands. I tried to carry him into the building but couldn't, so I tried to prop him up till I could get one of the boys. He continued to fall down, and just as I was on the point of leaving him he revived. I walked him about then and he recovered. We got some liniment and bandages down town and he is better now. He thought he would not be able to drive the Ford this afternoon, but is now able to do so. Some excitement, wasn't it.

I must stop now. Best of love to you and mamie, and Buttie and Sis, and little Alethea. How is she?

I am rushed with work. I had to write a paper for Dr. Hess on the Augsburg Confession. I spent only enough time to write it out just as I am writing this letter to you, and did not have time to revise or correct it. Dr. Hess praised it in class very highly and said it was worthy of publication. – I am to preach in German on Nov. 11th, give a Reformation address at one of the churches here on Nov. 7. – Must close.

Best of love. Always. Ivan.

Nov 5 - 1917

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM IN CONNECTION

EUROPEAN PLAN

The Heaume Hotel

J. S. HEAUME, PROP.

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80 ROOMS · 80 BATHS

38 North Fountain Avenue
Springfield, Ohio

Sunday - Nov 5

Dear Mother:-

I am once more at my job of loafing and so will write a few lines to you. I told you that several of us were going on an auto trip. We went and had a great time. We left here about a quarter of two and reached our destination at five o'clock. We had to travel about sixty five miles, and we sure did speed some. We stopped twice on the road to help some stranded autoists, and had to go through the city of Dayton, which took some time. Butty can tell you about how fast we'd have to go in order to do what we did. We finally got to the little church at Davetown and had to spend about a half hour getting thawed out. The three of us were packed in a little Ford run about and sure were crowded. We also had in the machine a mandolin, fiddle, guitar, and one music. Still it was lucky that we were packed in as we were for it helped keep us warm. We went fast and hit some bumps so hard that we'd be thrown several inches from the seat. Never were we in any danger though. We had a good many laughs on the trip, singing and telling jokes and stories, and kidding each other. When we got to Davetown we had supper in the church basement. The ladies

certainly did serve us up in style. We had chicken and mashed potatoes and biscuits and pie and ice cream. We were hungry from our ride and sure did stuff. About eight o'clock we had our entertainment. Luthy Dolbee and I were the two star and only performers. Luthy started off with a few piano solos. Then I gave a couple of squeaks on the fiddle. Luthy then sang three songs, and I accompanied him on the guitar. I then played the Spanish Fandango on the guitar, and sang a few funny songs, accompanying myself. Luthy then played a couple of flute solos, with me playing the piano. On one of the pieces I lost the place and had to make up an accompaniment. I then played a couple of piano solos, & Luthy did too. I then played a few pieces on the mandolin, Luthy playing the guitar. Luthy then gave a couple of recitations which were very good and well received. I closed the program with a few funny songs on the guitar. Turney, with whom we went, said we made a great hit.

That same night I met a retired minister who had been out in Illinois for some time. He preached in Chicago and was president for a time of the Northern Illinois Synod, the one in which I was working last summer. His name is Hartzel, and he is a splendid man. He had to give up active work as a minister on account of bad eyes. The tears were in his eyes when he told me of this. I told him ~~that~~ I was out in Tacoma for the summer and he said ~~that~~ he had preached in ~~that~~ church at one time.

Yesterday, Saturday, was also a big day for us. We slept late in the morning and then got breakfast. I had to be the mechanic on the Ford for Tunney's arm and wint hurt him so that he couldn't do a thing. After breakfast we took a walk. Tunney lives in the town of Oxford and there are three big colleges there. One of them, Oxford, is for girls alone. So also is Western. Western is a large place and has a fine large campus and very pretty buildings. There is also Miami University which is for both girls and boys. But believe me, I have yet to see the college that can compare with Princeton, and I have seen some big ones. After our walk we got a little grub and then set out in the Ford for a family nine miles away, Nichol by name. From there we were to go in their big car down to the town of Hamilton to see a big football game. The car was a Buick, and in it were Mark Nichol & his sister Helen, and the three Reverends. We sure did speed some, for Mark is a good driver. At times we were going at 40 miles an hour. We finally got into Hamilton and after a lot of confusion got out to the game. It was between two teams from our Camp Taylor and Camp Sherman at Indianapolis. The Sherman boys had by far the better players

and beat our boys 27 to 7. Still the game was close in spots and there was some really good playing done. The Taylor boys got their score by splendid playing, the best done in the game. Between the halves the soldiers who were there did some chain-gang marching out on the field, and wound in and out among themselves in a very clever way. They also did another good stunt. They formed in two lines, facing each other, and simply pitched men headfirst from one end of the line to the other. Another stunt that they had was for about seven men to stand in a circle, have five men stand in another circle on their shoulders, and then have one stand on top of the whole works. – After the game we went back into town. Our party of about 12 was all broken up and no one knew where the other was. By searching the streets and hunting up and down we managed to reunite after about an hour. Lutky and I, after some supper, rushed down to the train, which we caught just by seconds, and finally were on our way home. We got here about 9 p.m., had some grub here where I got a big feed, and finally got back to the dormitory. We then saw one of the boys off who was called back to his home in Nebraska. Irene Stuckel and I then chewed the rag for a long time and then I went to bed. This morning I had to go to work at 11:30, but the churches start here at 10:30 and there is one about a square & a half from here so I had some church this morning. Must stop now, & get one of the crows to bring me some grub. Best of love & kisses to all.

Always. Jean

Mizpah.

Friday Evening.
Nov 16, 1917

Dear Mother:-

Some time has passed since I have written home to you and I have been quite sick in the meanwhile, but am well again. First there was some trouble with my eyes which gave me terrible headaches and these in turn made me very sick. Last Sunday I had to preach in German at one of our churches here, and if I could have gotten any one to take my place I surely would not have gone. However, all the other boys who preach German were so situated ~~that~~ they couldn't help me, and so I had to go ahead. Then some more trouble came, and it was piles! They were very painful and troublesome, and for a while I thought ~~that they~~ were somewhat internal and ~~that~~ an operation would be needed. However ~~that~~ trouble is gone. The worst of it was ~~that that~~ trouble gave me the constipation, and when I got over

that, the diarrhoea followed. Last night I had an awful time, some of my trips being ten minutes apart. It seems funny now, but wasn't then.

Well, I have a lot to say but must stop, for I want to go to a meeting at the Fourth Church here. Last Sunday night I played the organ at the Fourth Church. A number of people complimented me for it.

Best of love to each and every one. Will write more later and soon, but am rushed now. With much love and kisses,

Hurriedly,

Mizpah

Ivan.

Nov 16 - 1917

Nov 16 - 1917

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM
IN CONNECTION

EUROPEAN
PLAN

The Heaume Hotel

J. S. HEAUME, PROP.

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38 North Fountain Avenue
Springfield, Ohio

Friday ~~Nov 23~~/17

Dear Mother:-

Another week has gone by and I haven't written. My only reason is ~~that~~ I am terribly rushed with work. I am glad ~~that~~ the end of the week has come so ~~that~~ I can have a lull from work. I intend to loaf a little tonight, go to bed early, and sleep late.

I saw a high-school football game this afternoon. It was a pretty good game, but the weather was bad for the spectators. It was snowing a little, and quite cold; and I and the boy who was with me were just about frozen solid. However, the cold and the air gave me a big appetite, so I came on back here to the hotel and my eating made a big dent in the day's profits.

Before I forget it, tell Raymond that I have paid for his subscription to the Lutheran Church Work & Observer for the coming year.

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM
IN CONNECTION

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and tell him, in regard to the C.E. World, please not to subscribe for that again for me but to let it drop. I'll write and tell them to discontinue it. I don't have time at all to read it, and haven't looked at it really since I am back here.

Next week we have our Thanksgiving recess. I'll not be home till Xmas. I don't know just yet what day I'll come but will tell you soon. – I'm having a suit made. I am trying a new stunt of getting a tailor-made suit. I already had one try-on and the coat was miserable. I made the fellow take it apart and am going to have a new trial. If I don't like it this time I'll just tell him to call it off.

Well, there's no news. I am quite well now, and hope all of you are too. Best of love to each and every one.

Always lovingly,

Dan.

Mizpah.

Nov 23-1917

Nov 23

Springfield, Ohio,

Dec. 10, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

I have just had a most exciting trip. It was to Upper Sandusky, in this state, to preach. I was ready to leave Springfield on Saturday afternoon at 5:30, and my Big Four train did not leave till almost eight. Of course, I had to wait at the station all the time in order to be there when it did leave. But I had company, for one of the Sem boys was there waiting for another train, and also Rev. Hersh, the Missionary Superintendent Of the Synod here. Well, I had a midnight wait of two hours in the northern part of the state, and finally got to my destination over three hours late. I put up at the Hotel there, which is owned by the superintendent of the Sunday School. I got five hours' sleep, but the weather was fourteen below, and I shivered most of the night. I preached for the morning service, and the people liked me very much and begged me to come back again when I could. The rest of the story can be made brief. My train home was supposed to leave at 1:29 in the afternoon. After waiting at the station almost all of the time I finally got away at a few minutes past mid-night! The train that I was on had to go through snow drifts six feet deep in some places. It would run into the snow till it stopped, and then back up and ram again till it finally got through. You can guess what it was when I tell you that the train that I was on was composed of just three coaches and had to have two engines to pull it. In one place we were held up by a freight train because the engine had pulled the end out of the first car in the train! Finally we got into Columbus at seven this morning, losing four hours from

Dec 10-1917

Upper Sandusky, to say nothing of how late the train came in at that place. Well, I hoped to catch a Big Four train there which had come in from the East four hours late. The blooming thing pulled out just about two minutes too soon. So after making three trips through Columbus in weather that was eight below zero I finally decided to take the Ohio Electric car to Springfield, and just did board the car as it was about to start. Of course we lost a little time on that, so I got in town here about eleven o'clock. In other words, I got here about sixteen or seventeen hours later than I should have done. One of the boys who works at the Hotel said that the teachers in the Sem were anxious about me. They knew that I had gone and had not come back yet. I missed three classes this morning. But the trip was good fun. I saw a lot of new country, got plenty of new experiences, and carried back with me a ~~trip~~ check for twelve dollars.

I have some good news to tell you. I am going as a delegate of the Seminary to a conference in Northfield/ Massachusetts . There will be only fifty seminaries of the country represented at this convention, and ours is one, and I am the delegate. However, I shall have to pay about thirty dollars of my expenses, but the trip will be worth far more than that to me. I shall visit Princeton, Washington, and New York on the way. Will tell you more later. This is from Jan 3rd on.

Must stop now. Carl Nielsen is here visiting me. He came last night while I was away. Best of love to each and every one.

Always lovingly,

Ivan.

will be home about the 21st.

my new suit is fine. Have a couple more surprises for you

Mizpah.

LUNCH AND DINING ROOM
IN CONNECTION

EUROPEAN
PLAN

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J. S. HEAUME, PROP.

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80 ROOMS - 80 BATHS

38 North Fountain Avenue
Springfield, Ohio

Dec 17 - 1917

Monday Evening.

Dear Mother:-

Just a hurried note. Am very busy finishing up some work before I come home. I hope to get home Friday some time. I may be able to get away a little sooner, but doubt it. I'll write and let you know definitely. I did some night work here a few times last week. Just think of me having charge of a hotel during the night. The job was good experience, and wasn't so bad, although one night about 3 am a fellow came down stairs and jumped all over me. The manager heard of it and said to me that if that fellow had talked to him that way he'd have broken his d— head for him! I just got a nice new fur cap. I'll show it to you when I get home. I made just about enough money by

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Springfield, Ohio

working extra last week to pay for it. Well, I must stop now. Best of love to each and every one. Will write in a day or so.

Hurriedly.

Lyon.

Miz yeah.

I traded out in the country near here Sunday. Had a sleigh ride there & back.

Dec 17 - 1917