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## Letter from Ezra Booth to Methodist Magazine Editors

Ezra Booth

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To the Editors of the Methodist Magazine

Dear Brethren - It is probable you have received no communication as yet from this quarter of the world; I as the first Volume of your useful Magazine has been received I read with pleasure & profit by myself & many others; I feel a disposition as far as I am able to contribute to its further support & continuance; being sensible that it's medium thro' which Religious intelligence may be circulated to the benefit of thousands - The three years past I have travelled as an itinerant on this Western Reserve settled principally by emigrants from the New England States. Undoubtedly it will be gratifying & interesting to our friends in the East many of whom have relations & friends in this Country & from whom they expect to be separated on the great Day of final decision to receive information respecting our situation both to this world and the world to come - The Western Reserve about 90 miles in length from E to W & about 60 miles breadth from N to S & at present is divided into three four circuits (viz) the Mahoning the Cuyahoga & the Cuyahoga - the first year I travelled the Mahoning & C. in connection with each other & the two last years I have been stationed on the Cuyahoga Ct - One face of the Intellectual & Moral world is gradually & in some places rapidly changing its appearance - It pleasing to see the sturdy travelling troops of the forest felling pioneers before the industrious husbandmen but it is infinitely more pleasing to behold the proscribed worshippers of Jehovah who have assembled from the distant parts of the wilderness to pay divine homage to their God, & where the howlings of the beast of prey & the hoarse yell of the uncivilized savage was to be heard a few years since is now made vocal with the transporting sound of the Gospel & the melodious songs of Zion - Hundreds who left their native Country immersed in worldly care & pleasure & sunk in the dark regions of sin & guilt have been liberated from the power of sin & bondage of the Devil & have found substantial pleasures in the Religion of Jesus - far then the solitary places have been made to rejoice & to them the wilderness has become a delightful heritage & has blossomed as the rose - The Cuyahoga Ct was formed the year before I was appointed to travel it - the west part was new but settling fast & rapidly improving - We (my Colleague & myself) had to encounter some difficulties incident to travellers in a new Country also Calvinistic prejudices which by hereditary succession are almost intars woven in the constitution of many of the New Englanders - by their own doctrines now but little understood & consequently (those ignorance I ~~think~~ hope) were grossly misrepresented - These difficulties are partially overcome & are gradually vanishing out of sight - Most of the Town that has a settlement can be favoured with <sup>sufficient</sup> ~~most~~ or less every month & more <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ perishing thro' the want of Religious instruction - perhaps there is no part of the world visited more by missionaries of the Presbyterian order than this ~~part~~ I think those who have been educated by the charitable institutions for heathen Missions mistake their

field of labour when they confine themselves to this Western Reserve. It is presumable that Old Connecticut cannot produce more such Christians of different denominations according to its population than New Connecticut. So far from deploring our situation as it respects the means of grace we rejoice that God has so abundantly beyond our expectations bestowed upon us the exalted privileges of the Gospel. Often have I heard the voices of the saints exulted in praise while their hearts within glowed with gratitude to their Great Benefactor for privileges which were equal if not superior to those they enjoyed in their native Country. Often have the tongues of the dumb been unloosed & in joyful acclamations have I heard them express a sense of the Divine goodness in smothering them as by a fire from the burning. Often have I seen the heat of their eyes stating from the eye of the broken hearted sinner & their piercing cries were sending the Heavens & going up to the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Surely God is here as well as there. He is in the wilderness as well as in the populous Country. And when he vouchsafes to breathe there must be joy. I will be a little more particular respecting the prosperity of Zion. At Brooklyn we have a society of 30 members. This Town is about two miles from the Lake. The settlement commenced 5 or 6 years ago. when we first visited the place we found the people universally neglecting the one thing needful there were 4 or 5 who had formerly been attached to the Presbyterian order & the rest were inclined to <sup>that order</sup> by the prejudice of education. for several months things remained as they were at first, & we were ready to give up the place thinking we should do them no good. but at length the prospects began to brighten, & a few drops from above indicated a shower not far distant. the attention of the people soon appeared to be generally arrested, & the prevailing enquiry was what shall we do to be saved. & as soon as did these favourable omens appear then preachers of an opposite sentiment visited them more frequently than we possibly could do. Popularity & the Prejudice of Education was in their favor, & many for awhile were entangled in the maze of error, & held by the power of former prepossessions. but blessed be the God of truth by diligent examination & fervent & unceasing prayer they were gradually extricated from the labyrinth of error & the truth made them free not only from error but from the servitude of satan. In Columbia where a society of 30 members. Methodist preaching was introduced here about one year & half since. opposition in some degree arose & the doors were shut against us, but others were soon opened & we were requested to continue preaching in the place. the Lord soon began a good work among the people, & not only the words but the hearts of many were opened to receive us.



Blunswick is a flourishing Town. about four years <sup>ago</sup> the <sup>first</sup> settlers  
in this place there were a few Methodist & Presbyterian  
among the first settlers who united together for worship. The  
Lord appropriated them & by experience they found him to be the  
same as in the Country they left. a society of joined & some  
time <sup>after</sup> was visited by <sup>the</sup> <sup>first</sup> <sup>pastor</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>place</sup> <sup>where</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>society</sup> <sup>since</sup> <sup>increased</sup>  
to the number of 35 most of whom have obtained a knowledge  
of salvation by the remission of their sins while residing  
in this place. Kirkfield is a town which of late has felt  
the reviving showers of divine grace. numbers have been  
awakened to see themselves suspended over a precipice of ruin  
have felt the yoke of their enemy to be gauling & the  
load upon them intolerable. in the bitterness of <sup>their</sup> <sup>souls</sup>  
of they fled to Christ for relief & refuge & found him  
mighty to deliver & powerful to save. we have an increasing  
society & it now consists of 45 members. at a place called  
Chipmaway the Lord has begun & is carrying on a glorious  
work. six months ago there was no appearance of what has  
since been manifested. thanks to Divine Grace the hearts of  
the most obstinate have been melted & the dead in trespass &  
in sins have been made alive by the revivifying power of the  
Holy Ghost we have the prospect of a considerable of an ingoth-  
ering into the Church & at present we have 30 in society  
At Wolf Creek the Lord has done wonders among & for the  
the people. sinners have felt the awful power of Jehovah  
to visit them. I have been constrained to cry out as in the latter  
of songs of Death while the flaming sword of Divine Justice  
was unsheathed in their view. but all prevailing mercy turned  
the fatal sword aside & Jesus was presented to them as an  
all sufficient saviour. by faith many laid hold on him &  
found redemption in his blood. we have a society of 70  
members in the place. The above mentioned <sup>places</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>designed</sup>  
to give you a specimen of what the Great Bishop of souls  
is doing for us in the Wilderness. the branch of the Church  
to which we belong has been highly favoured of the Lord on  
this Revival in the two years past the increase has been con-  
siderable & we have a prospect of still greater additions  
members <sup>also</sup> have been added to the Presbyterian & Baptist societies  
I might mention a great number of places besides those I  
have already mentioned where the Almighty makes bare  
his arm & works gloriously for the establishment of his  
cause & the good of Zion. but the above is sufficient to let you  
know that the same God who is worshipped  
by them is worshipped by their brethren in the West who

contend for the <sup>same</sup> faith. who maintain the same hope, & who  
press forward in order to obtain the same end

Yours in Christ  
Ezra Booth