Henderson, Ky.
Dec. 28th 1887

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

Our Church Treasurer, Mr. Reeve, will to-morrow send you his check for over Two Hundred Dollars, $215.00 I think. Very sorry the round $300.00 could not be raised. I did what I could. Hope it will give relief.

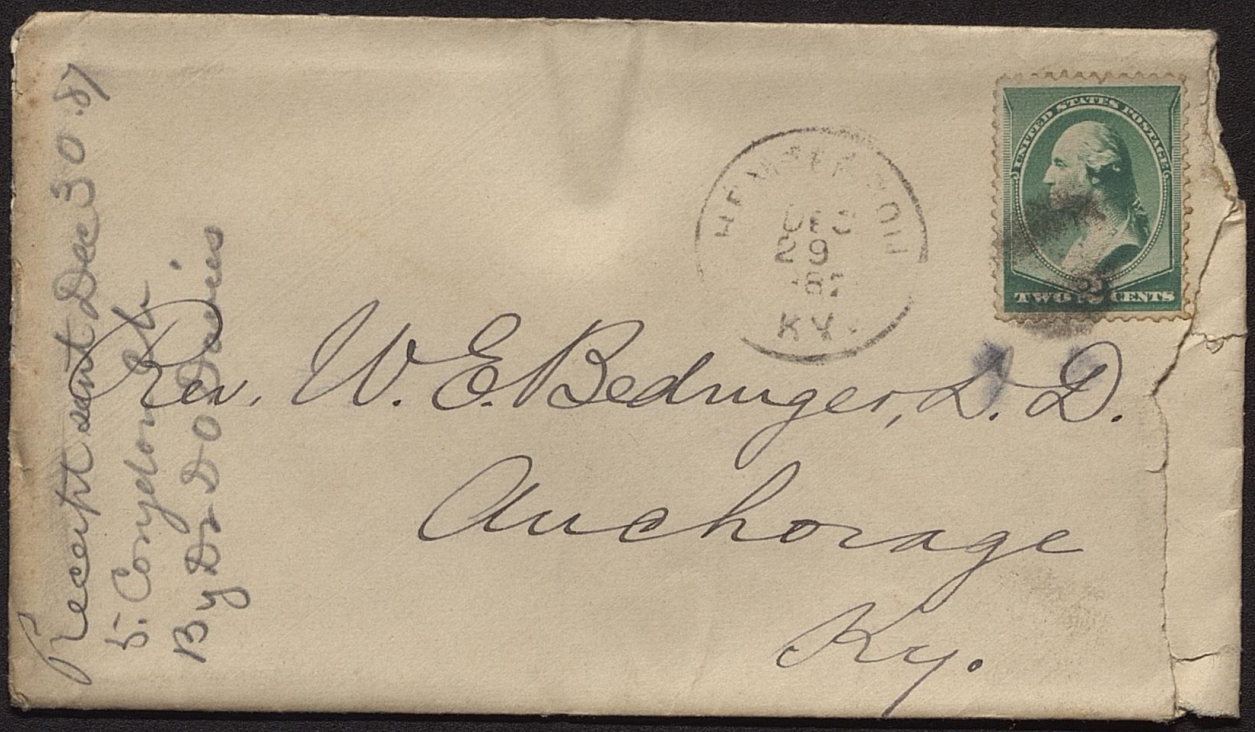
I inclose my check for $5.00 handed me by Dr. John Dorsey of the Corydon Church. It is his contribution, but is probably intended for the Church apportionment. Perhaps it may be best to credit it "from the Corydon Church by Dr. John Dorsey". This will meet the whole case.

I wrote Dr. Witherspoon recently about the importance of supplying the vacant fields in this County and Union, which your Son and Mr. Hagan lately occupied. Can you not recommend some good men? Ridgewood needs a Pastor and the condition of things is very promising there. So of Morganfield. Indeed all the Churches (six of them) need preaching. Two of them do not promise much. Do what you can for these vacant and needy Churches.

Wishing you with all my heart a Happy New Year

I am Yours Ever Most Truly

D. O. Davies


Receipt sent Dec 30 87
S. Coyle
By Dr Davis
HENDERSON
DEC
29
87
KY.
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
TWO CENTS
Rev. W. E. Bedinger, D. D.
Anchorage
Ky.

Dear Bro. Bedinger:

Yours of 8th came yesterday. I wrote forthwith to Duncan to "make arrangements for our entertainment" which he will no doubt do.

Should this weather continue, it would be hardly worth while to begin a meeting at Sturgis. A good meeting, under way, would not be much hurt perhaps by the weather; but to start one there in rain and mud might prove as hard a job as to elect a Democratic President this year. We will hope for fair days.

The man who will with the Spirit's help, bring about the "consecration of our peoples' wealth to the Master's use" will do a grand work. I get a little discouraged at times, on this as on other lines of practical piety. I often wish I could force a throne with the Lord for the tithe. Were our wealth tithed, all the treasuries of the Lord would be overflowing.

I shall be glad to give you any aid in my power.— Express card.

Henderson, Ky.
Nov. 10-88.

Yours Very Truly
D. O. Davies

UNITED STATES

POSTAL CARD

ONE CENT

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE

HENDERSON
NOV. 10
1893
KY.

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

Copy.

Henderson, Ky, Dec. 3rd 88.

Dear Bro. Duncan:

I am sorry that you are disappointed at the money part of your work under our Com^tee. I reckon there was a feeling like this: The salary of our Evangelists should not be less than $800^00 a year. This is little enough. I told the Com^tee you were getting $500^00 from Marion; and we thought "the field" was good for $100^00 at the very least - if properly worked. And so the appropriation was made.

It seems to me I suggested - did I not? - that you get "the field" - Caseyville, Fredonia, Sturgis, &c. - in any way you should deem best, to contribute towards your salary for the past service. I think you are mistaken about getting nothing. I know Br. Morton expects the field to do something. For myself, I should take the fact that a church would do nothing (having some ability) as proof that they did not wish preaching at all, or did not want the man for whose support they refused to contribute. And as a member of the Com^tee I should feel obliged to make short work of it. If a few months' help did not lead them to do better and to join in raising the salary, I should vote for cutting off all supplies, after due notice. N.B. we aid the churches, or "the fields" - not the Evangelists.

Have you tried to get the churches to contribute? Have you arranged for a Com^tee to canvass the Sturgis field? Have you done what you could?

You say you think the amount given "poor pay" for half your time. Well, my dear Bro. this is what your brethren have been finding all along the line. "Poor pay" is the rule - so far as dollars are concerned. The other pay is sure, and far better. We would all agree with you most heartily that "one half of my time, and also the fifth Sunday ought to be worth more than" the small allowance made by the Com^tee. We are often distressed that we cannot make larger appropriations.

I agree with you that there ought to be a settled understanding; and I respectfully repeat my suggestion that you learn definitely, in whatever way you think best, how much "the field" will yield towards your support. The sooner this is done, the better. It is unfortunate all round that it has not been done heretofore.

I also agree with you that the late date of the Sturgis meeting makes against it in more ways than one. Should very bad weather come, it would hardly be worth while to begin. Bad weather might not seriously hurt a good meeting, well under way. It could go on though rain and mud. But to start a meeting there in mud and rain might be a very different thing. Still let us hope for the best - that our evangelists will have a good meeting at Sturgis - when they get there. I reckon you received my postal, and have made arrangements for entertaining them. 'Tis a great pity to have lost all the fine days gone.

I will forward your letter to the Chairman. He and our Sub. Com^tee will give it due consideration. If you wish to add anything, you might write to the Chairman yourself. - For myself, I think $100^{00} or $150^{00} a small amount to be raised in the field.

Wishing you a "good meeting" - when it comes, and praying God to bless you and your work,

I am, my dear Brother Duncan,

Yours Most Truly in Christ

D. O. Davies

P. S. I will send a copy of this, with your letter, to the Com^tee.

D.

In Confidence for the Sub-Com^tee

Dear Bro. Bedinger:

I send you a letter from Bro Duncan, with a copy of my reply.

I have not yet been able to get to Marion. From other points, reports are not favorable. I fear Bro. Duncan is not the man for that field. The Marion Church is too important to let die, or even languish, from lack of suitable food — or, better put, for want of a suitable undershepherd. I will try to visit, or to hear from, Marion soon.

The judgment and feeling about Duncan's preaching is the more important, as all speak well of him personally. My own impression of him personally are decidedly pleasant and favorable. I never heard him preach. But it must be a pretty "poor preach" that such favorable personal regards cannot tolerate, if not enjoy.

Of course, we must go slow in whatever we do, if we do anything. Duncan's feelings and interests, both, must be guarded as much as possible. On the other hand, we must not let the cause in that "field," and Marion Church in particular seriously suffer from any unsuitableness or inefficiency any where.

H. X. Morton intimated to me, not obscurely, that they would probably not wish to make a permanent arrangement with Bro. Duncan. Did you and Dr. Witherspoon know the sort of preacher he is, when you sent him down? If my present impressions as to his preaching are confirmed, I would not send him, or recommend him, to any field any where.

I wish Miley were in that field, both for *its* and *his* sake. He is a capital fellow. I do not think he will stay long at Ridgewood. But we will not borrow trouble.

I think you may settle it in your mind that Duncan is *not* settled. Of course, if Marion should call him for half his time, Caseyville and the other points might make a virtue of necessity and take him. I am sure they would not take "*to*" him.

I have an impression the Marionites think *we* sent Duncan to them &c. Well, I will try to get the true state of case "the true inwardness" – and let you know soon.

Of course, I write all this to you, as chairman, and for the Sub. Com*tee*. confidentially.

Yours very truly
D. O. Davies

Dec. 3d 88.


HENDERSON
DEC
KY.
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
TWO CENTS
Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.
Anchorage
Ky.

Henderson, Ky.
Sept. 22d 1888

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

I think the best thing I can do in the case is to send you Mr. Duncan's letter. It tells the whole story. You can determine what amount to send him better than any other. He has not done much, I judge, but he has spent the time he names at work there — even if it was poor work.

Our Treas. probably sent you $250.00 We will send more as soon as we get it in hand. It may be as well not to make any public acknowledgment till all be paid — if we get it to you before Synod.

Unless something unforeseen occur, you will see me at the next meeting of the Com.tee. Matters of more than ordinary importance will come before us.

I hear Dr. Guerrant is in Owensboro, assisting Bro. Molloy. No special results up to time my informant left, yesterday A.M., one week after meeting began.

We all join in kind regards. Please present me kindly to Miss ~~Martin~~ Beck, with warm congratulations.

Yours Very Truly

D. O. Davies

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

I send you Bro. D.'s letter, as he requests. I, too, hope you and the Com^tee will be able to understand it. I confess there are some parts of it not very clear to me - especially the talk about "Kind Spirit" &c. Nor do I think there was anything in my letter to justify such a remark.

I thought, and still think, he has not been laboring at Fredonia for some time. I understood (from Bro. Spencer) that the people there could not stand his preaching and literally "froze him out."

Indeed, I find, on inquiry, that while all like him personally and speak well of his diligence in visiting, &c. the opinion is almost, if not quite, universal that his preaching will no do. A. K. Morton of Caseyville said his people did not want him - though if he remained in charge of the field, they'd try to get on with him.

Bro. Spencer (L. O. of Princeton) thought it was very much the same way at Marion. Such I know to be the view of some of our 2d Church people and of the Morganfield Church, at both of which Churches he has preached. I never heard him, nor have any of my people, so far as I know.

Bro. Spencer said, ~~that~~ Bro. D. needs is a thorough training at Union Sem. for two or three years: that his preaching is very poor indeed, but he does not seem to know it. He thinks it is very fine. I give substance of Bro. Spencer's statement. And of course give it all to you and to the Sub-Com^tee in confidence.

My judgment is (1) For the present he might stay there. Perhaps he can "hold the fort". For advance work he is not fitted. (2) We ought to get a good-faith, good-preacher for that field as soon as possible. It is too important for us to allow even negative harm, if we can help it.

Yours in Christ,
D. O. Davies

Dec. 15-88.

Dec 15, 1888

HENDERSON
DEC
15
1888
KY

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

Anchorage

Ky.

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

Your favor came Saturday, too late for an immediate reply. Your check inclosed made me feel a little uncomfortable. I have not asked for my "expenses" lately. I have been making my annual contribution all the same; and it occurred to me that, as I always gave what I thought right, in proportion, it is not right to add my expenses in making "official trips". Hence my call on you.

I will do all I can to get the full amount. I fear the additional 80+ cannot be compassed. I did think I should be glad to get the $300 — We have give about one-third of our contributing force (certainly of large contributors) to the 2d Church. It tells, when we go to take large collections. Hope it will come out all right. Will get our Treas. to send as soon as he can. — All join in regards.

Yours very Truly
D. D. Davis

9-17-88.

P. S. I think our town is hurt in more ways than one - financially. I know our church is. In addition to the 1/3 spoken of above, several of our liberal contributors have been crippled, so that they give almost nothing now. - The year threatens to be a hard one on us. I am pleased to think the causes are local. It would be sad to have such a state of things at all general. D.O.D.

Henderson, Ky.
Aug. 6th 1888

Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.
Anchorage, Ky.
Dear Bro. B.

Mr. W. H. Miley is pastor of Ridgewood Church and is in charge of Boydon and Uniontown churches. He is doing a good work - a diligent consecrated and acceptable preacher, a modest and agreeable man. Everybody is pleased, so far as I know.

Bro. Miley wishes to visit Virginia in a few weeks on very important business. His brother expects to be married early in Sept. and W. H. naturally wishes to be there. If I do not err, his brother's brother also expects to be married at, or about, the same time. His going will depend on your ability to let him have the 1st quarter's salary soon.

I do hope you can do so without serious inconvenience. It is a case of necessity. Perhaps you could add a part or all of the 2d quarter's salary also. If you can, please do so. I know his funds are low - very low. The cost of luxuries is always great; and this trip with its incidentals will be expensive. Once they are on the field and at work, their outgo (of money) need not be large.

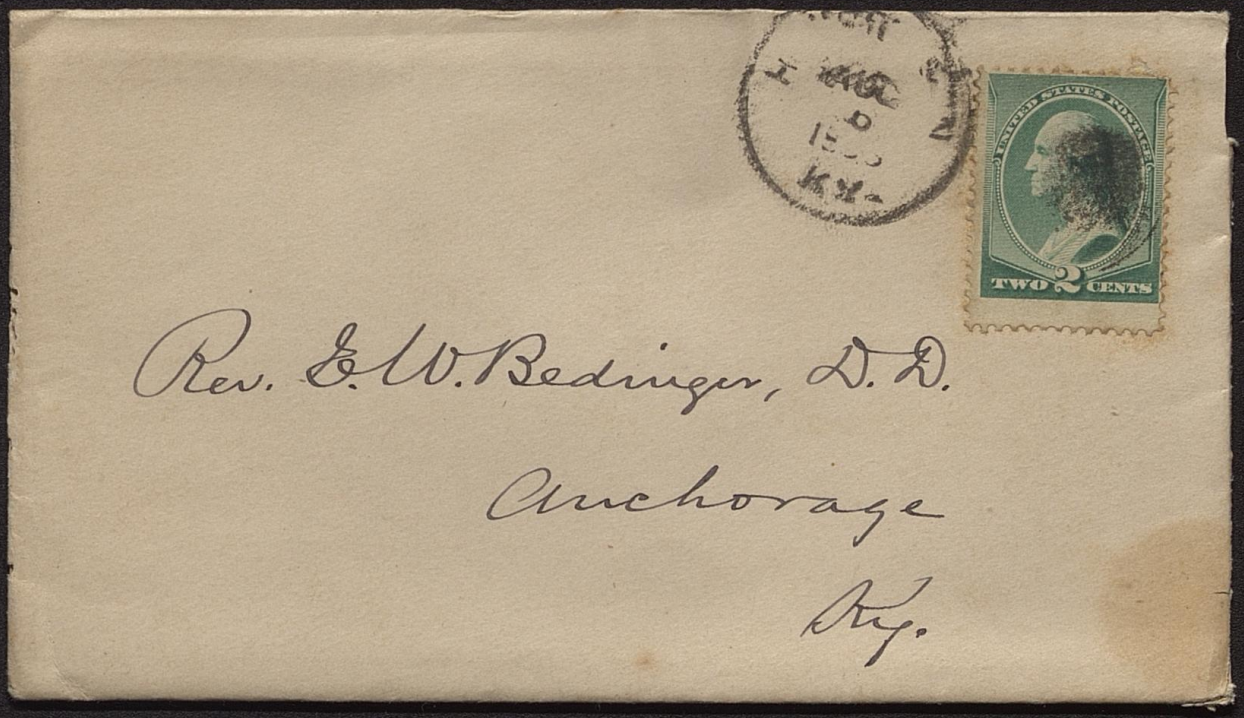
I commend the case to your personal and official "bowels of mercies." Strain a point, if necessary, both of law and of cash, to accommodate this candidate for the cares and joys of the wedded lot.

I think he wishes to start for Va. about the last of this month. An early response will relieve suspense. You have known how it is yourself! Let us do what we can to make easy the path of the groom that is soon to be. His children may yet bless you for it!

I would write to Dr. Witherspoon also, but think it probable that like other metropolitans, he is off on a summer tour. Happy they who can breathe the mountain air, or drink in old Neptune's salt breezes at such a time as this! I "crack" the Tenth Word in regard to them. It has been a sort of Sophia down here. I am sorry to see that the sinners of Louisville and vicinity have been getting a little scorching - by way of warning, perhaps! Well, blessed are they who have all their scorching in this world. We have been getting some of ours - running through all the degrees, hot, hotter, hottest. If any more, we shall need a hyper-anfractatic and elongated thermometer. If indeed flesh and blood can stand any greater heat. We all join in kindest regards - that is, what is left of us!

Yours ever truly,

D. V. Davies


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

KY

H. - Dec 3 - P.M.

Dear Dr. B.

Since my return from Fla. (Saturday A.M.) I have been under pressure. Jones of 25 ult. escaped me somehow till this moment. Have answered most of its points. - Think the plan you propose about the best we can do "pro hac vice". - Between us all, we can work the field. I have already given Miley the encouragement you suggest. He will go to Marion. He remains with us. - No collection taken. Too soon after last years. Will see to it in due time. - Sorry Frank leaves us. I like him and his way of work.

Yours ever truly

D. O. Davies

UNITED STATES

POSTAL CARD.

ONE CENT

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

DEC 3 1889

DEC 4 1889

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

Anchorage, Ky.

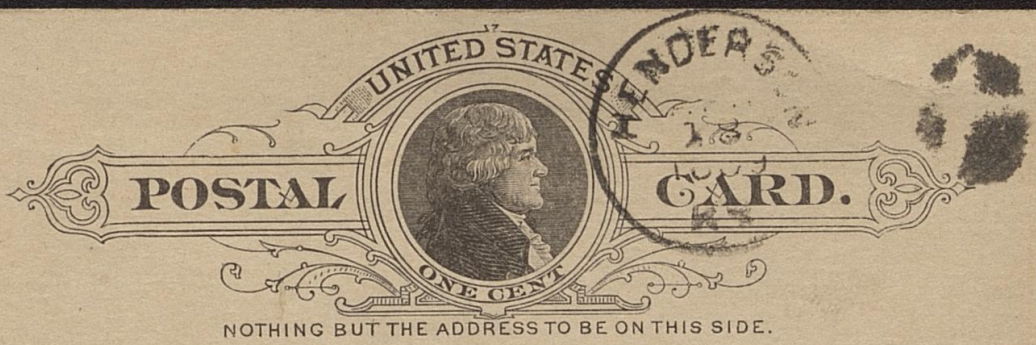
Henderson, Ky. 4-17-'89

Dear Doctor:

Am but days home from Florida. Hence failure of reply to your letter anent visiting our Church as Chairman.

So far as heard from our officers are of one mind that such a visit, for the object in view, would not be a success at this time. I reckon from what is told me by many that we are in the "hardest times" known here for years. I am sorry to be compelled to say this. Yours very truly

D. O. Davies



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

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

Anchorage, Ky.

Henderson, Ky. 5-9-89.

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

Yes, I fear we have lost a fine opportunity at Sturgis. It was a very promising opening. Others entered, and we are shut out. And so needlessly. Everything had been arranged. The Com^tee had "advised": the time had been selected: an explicit promise had been made; and we counted on a good meeting within a few weeks of the last meeting of Synod. Then a pause. After an unexplained delay, I was surprised to receive (through you, I think) a request from Bro. Evans to secure homes for himself and his "helper" for a meeting at Sturgis. There it ended. That was the last of it so far as I know - until now. Yes, I fear we have lost a very fine opportunity at Sturgis; and with it perhaps much more. An irreparable loss.

I am very sorry to learn of the present and prospective condition of the treasury. It is sad - though not unnatural, perhaps. The falling off began with individual contributors. As the Churches had felt the impulse of their large gifts, they might also be expected to feel the influence of their smaller gifts. Poor human nature!

I do not think any special gifts of size can be obtained here. Shall be glad to find myself mistaken. They took Am. Coll^n (at set time) while I was in Ala. Fear it fell short. - Indeed, as I told you, we are in a bad way financially; and it grows worse every day.

Yours very truly D. D. Davis

May 9, 1889

HENDERSON
MAY
9
1889

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

Anchorage, Ky.

Henderson, Ky.
Oct. 30-1889

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

In reply to yours of 28th inst. would say: My information is to the effect that Mr. McNair, of College St. Church, visited Paducah by request, and after examining the whole field, advised the disaffected to take no steps towards organizing a Northern Church. The information is direct and, I think, reliable. So, between what you hear and what I hear we may take it as certain there will be no steps towards such a Church organization soon. Still it may be well for us to "prevent" the whole thing. I am sure this is a case where "prevention" = getting ahead of 'em — is better than cure.

Our Moderator is not Miley, but Ruling Elder D. B. Blue of Spring Grove Church.

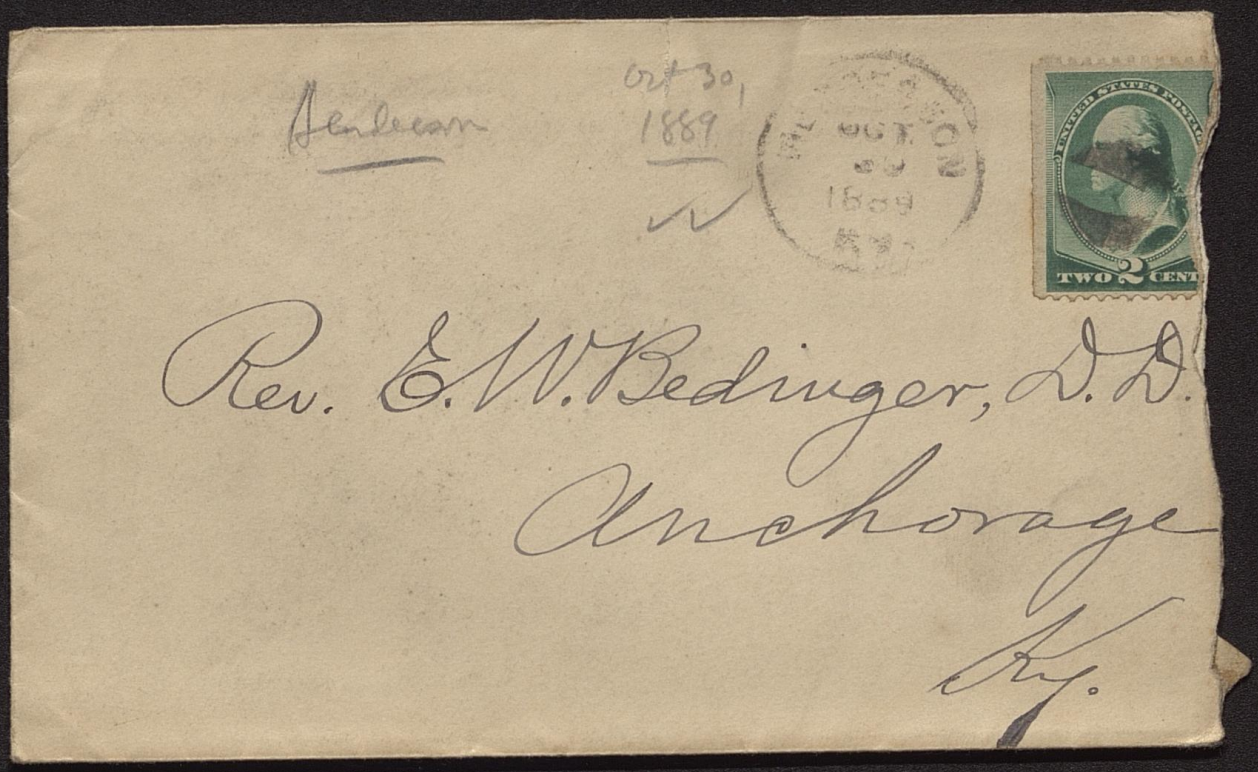
If we start a 2d Ch. at P. Frank would be a capital man for the work.

Allow me to suggest that you give a week to Pad. Pres. just so soon as you can. Run down and look into the three scenes - Paducah, Marion and Clinton-Fulton. Such a visit will pay - especially in view of this last complication.

Glad you are free to devote yourself to the work. May the Lord bless you in it richly

Yours in Christ

D. O. Darin


American
Oct 30, 1889
OCT 30 1889
TWO CENTS
Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.
Anchorage
Ky.

Corydon Ky.
May 30th 89

Rev. D. O. Davis.

Dear Sir & Bro.

During the past year I have not received the support from the churches, that I expected, Ridgewood having paid only a little over half what they promised. So that my actual salary has been less than $300.00 & I have been continually embarrassed & discouraged. Ridgewood will make a from

ise of something more this year, possibly something near $900.00 + now if I stay in the field will the Committee make me the same allowance ($400) regardless of this fair promise? Should this people succeed in their effort to raise $900 my salary would then be something larger than I was promised last year - though not ~~overly~~ two large then, as I would have to rent & furnish a home - but should they fail as last year & in years past then!!!

But I am anxious to make an earnest effort to build

a church at Spottsville
before I leave the field -
& get the churches on a bet-
ter foundation - Please
write me at once what the
com. will do -

Hastily & fraternally

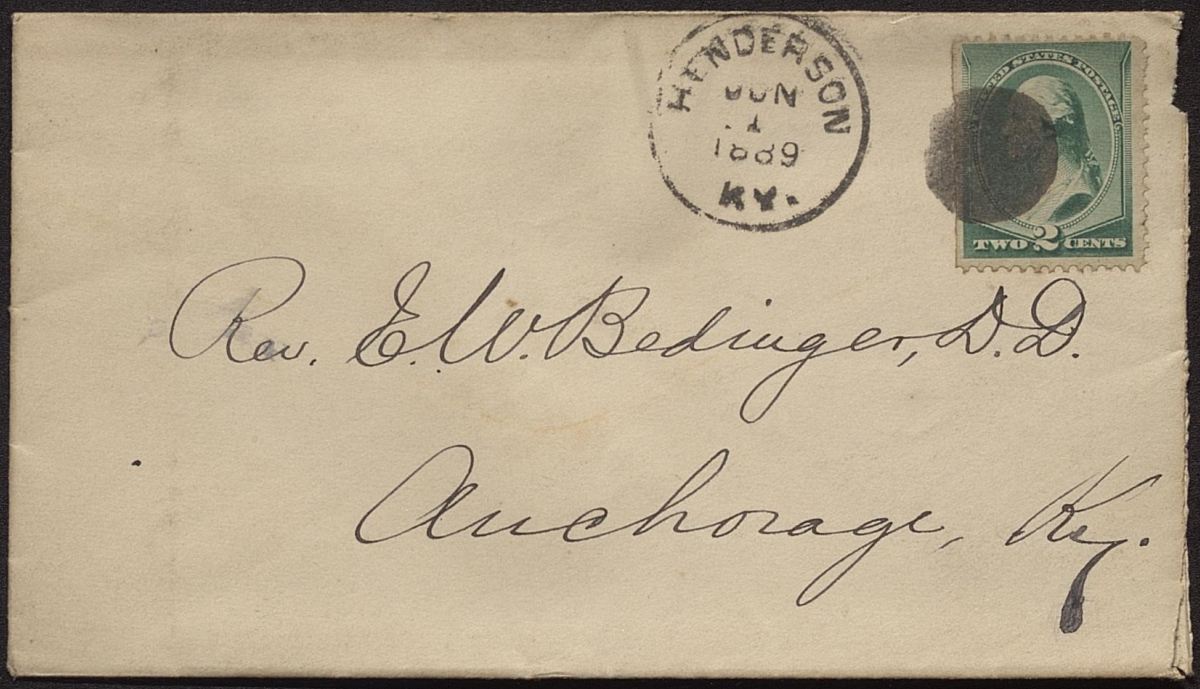
W. H. Wiley.

Henderson, Ky.
May 31-1889

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

I send you a letter just received from Bro. Miley. Perhaps you can understand it better than I can. Of course, one thing is clear: His wish to arrange for a sure (and possibly larger) income in the future. What does the Sub-Ex. Com^tee say to that? What will the whole Com^tee say to it?

I replied kindly - that whatever might be uncertain, it might be safely assumed that the Com^tee would do the best it could with due regard to the claims of the whole work - in disbursing the funds committed to its care - with a decided sympathy for the laborer in the field whose salary is never too large. Yours truly D. O. Darius


HENDERSON
JUN 1 1889
KY.
TWO CENTS
Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.
Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Dr. Bedinger:

Yours of 22d with cheque just to hand. Thanks.

Remember, please, the Clinton letter was not meant for "Bro. Bedinger's" eyes. Not even for mine. It might be well for "Bro Bedinger" to visit Clinton and reclaim the unbelieving to larger and stronger faith. So the Lord dealt with Thomas. Your statement of the facts would of course remove most of the unpleasant impression from their mind, so far as you are concerned; and your personal presence would be a help and do good in a much neglected field - besides giving you a better knowledge of their condition and needs.

I am clear that you ought to make an early visit to Clinton. Tell me to detail Brother Nelson Thursday night. When you visit Clinton, it might be convenient to include Clinton and Fulton in the same trip. He comes you can make this trip the better. Perhaps those people down there have some cause of complaint — not against you personally. I would. May be well to try for a full to their wounded feelings. Unless there has been a change — I think I have no information — I am there. Some division in the Brotherhood. Possibly there has been a change. I remember you talk of it. Will hope you a visit, if I have anything definite about the matter.

By the way, that Clinton letter was not written to me. It was addressed to Bro. Spencer who forwarded it to me. I do not now remember whether or not this was shown on the face of the letter. A visit with some of your earnest sermons and one of your good talks will make it all right, I am sure. They will come to have faith in Bro. Bedinger.

In haste — Yours truly always

D. O. Davis

Henderson, Ky., Oct. 23-89.

Oct 23, 1889

HENDERSON
OCT
24
1889
KY.

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

Dr Davis ack sept 7 oct