

Memphis Tenn

5./3./85

Bro W. L. Powell.

I have been impressed that I am called of God, as a missionary for Christ, for the last month that Mexico the field for me. I have been struggling four years on ^{this} all-absorbing question. The call to the ministry. I am taking a Commercial Course, in this city it will take me about two months to finish. I do not think my God approves of such a course owing to my restlessness and disquietude. I am troubled through the day and even till my eyes are closed in sleep. I make this statement to you, in

order that you may give me some
advice; I know you are capable of
doing so, as you were citizen of
Geneva before you went as a
messenger for Christ, I feel like
the work of saving souls is one
of the grandest, noblest and high-
est callings in this life I have
not been happy for some time
I have come to ~~the~~ conclusion
that, there are so many who do not
care to go into the benighted por-
tions of ^{the} land and disseminate
the Word of truth. I learn through
the Baptist that more laborers are
needed, in your field. I desire you
to write me at an early date
your views in regard to this matter
Do not mention it to any of your
Brethren until you are informed for
certain that I am coming
Oh Sirs If I do not come to you

Standiford Hotel,
Louisville, Ky, 11, 7, '87.

Rev. W. G. Powell,
Sattillo, Mex.

Dear Bro.;

I have just read your letters in the F. M. Journal, which only add fuel to flames. I am sure there are so many of our young men who are better qualified both mentally and physically for foreign work than myself. But they don't seem inclined to go.

I have been inclined to Mexico for two or three years, but did not settle the question in my own mind until last spring. I have so far not made my intentions public. This is my third year at The Sem. I have lost sometime by sickness and otherwise, hence,

this will be a hard year for me.
I however to complete the full
course here next May. I had
purposed going then to Newton
and spending a year under Dr.
Hoey. But how can I while the
cries for help are so loud. My
heart burns for Mexico. I don't know
what to do. I came near writing
to Dr. Tupper last June, but I shrink
from publicity. Besides it is not
necessary to make application to
the Board until near the close
of the session even if I should
enter the field next summer or
fall. What must I do? Being a
young man and comparatively a
stranger, I suppose references will
be require. I am quite intimate
with Bro. J. B. Gambrell of whose
family I was a member for four
years while a student at Miss. College.

After graduating there I spent a
year in the study of Anglo-Saxon
and Eng. literature
under Prof. J. S. Johnson, Oxford, Miss.
I refer you or Dr. Tupper to either
one of the above brethren.

May the good Lord make plain
~~the~~ path of duty and give
us strength to walk there in.
Pray for me, won't you? May
God bless you in the work. I
would not add one feather to
the great burden of your life,
but should you find leisure
please write me. Fraternal
greetings to brethren Fuente & Mc.
Leomack. Whatever be the character
of your advice, please do not
make the matter public yet
awhile. With an anxious - a heavy
heart I am fraternally,
J. G. Chastain.

J. B. G.

The subject to come before our missionary society
in Jan. is Mexico.

Standiford Hotel,
Louisville, Ky., 12, 2, '89.

Rev. W. D. Powell,
Saltillo, Mex.

Dear Bro.:

Your very kind letter was rec'd some days ago and duly appreciated. Tho' I haven't it now in hand I shall try to recall some of your questions and reply accordingly. It pains me to hear of Fuentes's fall. However I do not deny myself the pleasure of hoping it is only temporary. I roomed with him here year before last, and considered his conduct unexceptionable. I wrote him a letter after the receipt of yours in which I tried to encourage him.

You enquire about my

education, health, &c. Modesty renders it difficult to talk about ourselves, but as this correspondence is private, I may be pardoned for speaking freely to you.

I was reared in Itawamba Co., Miss., forty miles south of Juka on or near the Ala. line. I left the farm and went away to school at the age of nineteen. After five years' hard work I was graduated with degree of A. B., taking the first honors of the class and delivering the valedictory address.

Financial straits forced ^{upon me} the necessity of doing my own cooking for four years. So by the time I had gotten through I had worked up a pretty good case of indigestion. This does not trouble me now; of course I try to be regular in my habits as all students

should. During the epidemic in the Sem. last year thirty students were down at once, I was one of the number. I was sick ten days at the opening of this session, but I was enabled to cleanse my system of some of the malaria that I got in Miss. bottom where I spent the summer. My health now is good.

I was pastor of two or three churches while I was at Clinton, Miss. Last session I served two. During the summer I was missionary in Yellobusha-Orford Assn., west of Grenada. Fifty five people were added to the churches where I preached. The good a man does is not always to be estimated by the numbers rec'd, yet I freely confess that I am not a successful evangelist in the popular

acceptation of that term.

Having followed a student's life for the past eight ^{years}, this of course driving me to diligence, I find it requires an effort on my part to go out a mingle with the world. So if I ever become a good "mixer" it must in some measure be cultivated.

I am glad to say I have a great love for children, and have little trouble to win them. There are many other men who are better qualified for and adapted to the foreign field than myself. And if I must stand up and be measured by Dr. Duppe's high ideal I shall never go. I am no genius. Learning is acquired by hard work. In college mathematics was my forte, not language. I graduated here in Greek and Hebrew last session, yet I don't consider myself

a linguist. Am reading Latin Theology now, and getting along moderately well. The book is rather large in size, and we take three to four pages at a lesson. However, this is not hard Latin. I don't feel inclined to write to Dr. Tupper yet awhile. I have said very little to anyone, and nothing to the Profs. here about my intentions because my plans are not yet matured. It is hard for me to get rid of the idea that I should spend a year at Newton Theo. Sem. I have weighed the matter long, and prayed over it most earnestly. If I ever expect to go now (next session) is the time. I try to have no will in the matter. As Prof. M. J. Martin said when he went to Tex. hoping to reclaim the health of his consumptive wife, "Anywhere for Christ and with Christ."

Very many students spend four years in taking the full course here. It is not to be expected that the three years man will be as thorough; why not ~~not~~ let him spend the fourth at some other institution? But pardon me I don't mean to argue a case which some time ago was referred to a higher court. Only this caution, let us not be hasty in reaching important conclusions. But now finally I wish to say My heart yearns for Mex. I purpose (D.V.) to live and die among that people.

I congratulate you on the accession of Miss Florence Doty to your Mission. My acquaintance with her is limited having met her only ^{once} ~~once~~ but pleasantly. Of the details on any point in this letter have been apparently to manute, please pardon. Pray for me. Write at your leisure. God bless you,
J. G. Chastain.

Standiford Hotel,
Louisville, Ky., 1,30, '88.

Rev. W. D. Powell,
Saltillo Mex.

My dear Bro.:-

Yours to hand some time ago, and would have been answered but for the press of examinations. We have had but little sickness among the students this session, and every thing moves smoothly; the students, who number near 150, are doing good work.

Bro. J. H. Eager was with us last week, and we enjoyed his talks very much. Our Society meets Feb. 12th and the topic for consideration is Italian missions. These meetings are pleasant and profitable. We hope to have you visit us in May. Bro. Moseley will go before the Board at Richmond soon for appointment to Mex. I suppose

he has apprised you of his intentions. Bro. Barker, one of our best men, seeks appointment to S. Amer.

Moody & Sankey are doing a great work among us. I have never seen such crowds of people. The tabernacle, whose seating capacity is 5000, was packed yesterday 3 P.M. with women only, and last night with men. At each meeting more than 1000 were turned away for lack of room. The meeting will close next Sunday.

I enjoy the F.M. Journal & especially the letters from Mex. Do you think there is hope of Fuentes's reformation? I hope he is on friendly terms with our Missionaries? I hear very little about Truscaro.

We all feel sad over the death of Dr. Mell. This will be a great loss to us. Drs. Manley & Broadus are not very well, but

are still able to attend their classes. We are much pleased with Dr. Kerfoot

By special request ^{of the students}, Dr. Boyce preached his great sermon on the three parables, viz., the lost sheep, lost coins, & (prodigal) lost son, yesterday at Chestnut St. Ch.

He seems to be in fine health, is not teaching this session.

I am glad to see that Dr. J. A. Hack is hereafter to be associated with Bro. Gambrell in editing the Record. He is favorably known in Miss.

But I must close. Praying the Lord's richest blessings upon you, & hoping to hear from you occasionally, I am

Yours in X

J. G. Chastain.

Parker House,

SCHOOL STREET, CORNER OF TREMONT.

Boston, June 26, 1888.

Rev. W. D. Powell,
Saltillo, Mex.

Dear Bro.:

I have been thinking ever since I left Richmond I should write you, but constant travel has prevented. Of course you have learned of the appointments. I regret Bro. Boman's withdrawal, as he would have been a strong factor in our Mexican forces. Tho' he does not dismiss the matter entirely, his indefinite postponement is but little better. Hope you are sustained by heavenly grace in carrying forward the great work which presses so heavily

upon you. I shall be only too glad when I am privileged to share your burdens in the great struggle. My heart is there even now. I think my vacation's rest will be very helpful to me. I enjoyed my stay of ten days in & around N. Y. city. Have attended the commencements at Vassar College, Brown Univ., and the closing exercises at Harvard come off to-morrow. I purpose going the last of this week to Northfield, Mass., where Moody's Bible school opens June 30th & continues about ten days. Dr. Broadus and other prominent divines will be there to lecture.

I shall be glad of any suggestions you may give me. You spoke of our

Parker House,

SCHOOL STREET, CORNER OF TREMONT.

Boston, 188

bringing a bowl and pitcher, how much bed clothing should we bring? I suppose, however, different members of the Board at Richmond are informed on the leading points. I purpose spending a week or two there on my return south, and shall have ample opportunity to consult the brethren. I suppose our company will reach Saltillo about Oct. 1st. Shall we remain there two or three months to acquire the language, or disperse to our respective fields at once? But I must not tax you with questions.

Please write me at Richmond, Va.,
in care of Rev. S. G. Clopton.

May the good Lord keep you and
guide you; may He shower His
richest blessings upon you.

Hoping to join you in due
time, I am,

Truly,

J. G. Chastain.

P.S. June 28. Dear Bro. P.:

Leaving Boston
this morning I came to Northfield to-
day. This is the home of Moody &
Sankey whom I have met since
my arrival. I have ordered
some mail (papers, &c.,) sent
to Saltville. May I trouble you
to take charge of these for me
until I come. It is very cold
here. I have been cold all day
even with my overcoat on.

God bless you. Chastain.

Matamoras, 4, 25, '92.

Dear Bro. Powell:

I have just rec'd a letter from Reinaldo saying that we promised to sign a paper ~~for~~ allowing him to redeem the house within one year. That was spoken of in the outset, but when the trade was made, I did not understand that it was included. What do you have to say about it? Gilberto has not yet come.

El Sr. Pallares has been here two or three weeks; has attended my meetings & taken some part. I am pleased with him. He is about 45 years old, has a wife & 3 little children; he is a kind of a notary public by profession. I am rather pleased with him.

He says he joined the Presbyterians before he knew anything about the Baptists, indeed, before they came to his part of the country - Michoacan - & that he had worked with the Methodists.

He says he believes our doctrines, & tho' he does not wish to be called a preacher, that he is interested in the work. He was formerly a school teacher & is well informed & I suppose very well educated. He is a good deal above an average, is a man of fine sense & personal pride. I send to you a letter which he brought me from Kimball. If his character is all right, I think he will make a good worker. I asked him for references. He said every body in Morelia from the Gov. down knew him. That is his town. I have not told him so, yet I would be opposed to employing him until he is baptized. I think there is where we made a mistake with Jose M. Garza. Pallares expresses a willingness to go to the State of Veracruz. You can find out about him in Morelia. He wishes to know on what conditions you will employ him, the work, the pay, for how long a time, &c., &c. How ^{much} will you pay to help him move, &c. I have tried to tell you all. Please reply at your earliest convenience, otherwise he may leave here.

Mrs. Chastain & the ^{boy} ~~buff~~ are doing very well. I hope to be in the saddle as soon as practicable. I am still in favor of moving to Dr. Arroyo. Just as soon as you get the decision of the Board at Atlanta please advise me.

If I make some improvements at Dr. Arroyo, I may not be able to

pay you any more for two or
three months.

Wife joins me in much love to you
& sister Powell. We hope you
the greatest success in the work.

Very much love to the brethren at
Atlanta.

I am Truly,

J. G. Chastain

Dr. Arroyo, 12, 7, '92.

Dear Bro. Powell:

I rec'd your card some days ago. We watch with much interest every reference in the papers to you & your work, and greatly rejoice at your success. We are all up but none of us well.

Dec. 12. I must now try to finish your letter. Last week was the great Cath. feast here, & we improved the opportunity by preaching every night for 8 nights, & had some grand meetings & distributed a great deal of literature.

I am rapidly improving—am nearly myself again. I wish to leave, in Jan., for San Rafael & Calcaná, to be gone several weeks.

I understand that the Junta Directiva of Coahuila Asso. at Saltillo have taken an appeal from the decision of the whole Mexican ^{mission} at Zacatecas relative to the removal of Porfirio to this place. I hope the Board will recognize & sustain the action of the Mexican Mission, & that Porfirio will move to Dr. Arroyo. You know the exceeding importance of my visiting regularly the ranches; & yet I regard it unwise to leave Dr. Arroyo one half or two thirds of the time giving the Quakers opportunity to come in & gobble up the whole thing. I need a good man here during my absence. But enough on this line.

In my letter to you at Belton two months ago, I wrote you, you remember, that my \$300 proposition would hold good only until Jan. 1, 1893. If the brethren do not raise

the money by Jan. 1, '93, then the original proposition is withdrawn, but I then offer another:

If the denomination will repair the house, I will give them a deed to it. I think it will cost \$400 to repair it. I am not willing to undertake it for less; I will take that much.

Rudd told me at Lacatecas that he thought his cost about between \$250⁰⁰ & \$300. He now writes me that he paid \$363⁰⁰/₁₀₀. I based my calculations on his first statement of course.

When I took sick in Oct. every thing stopped here. I did not preach a sermon for seven weeks. I have had no colporter since the last of Sept. Can't I be allowed to employ another Jan. 1, '93? When do you purpose going to

Miss.? & how long will you
spend in that state?

Taber has closed his school
of little girls here. Can any
arrangements be made to pay
(fr. \$15 to \$25 pr. mo.) a young
lady to teach these dozen girls?
Such a move would greatly
help our work here, giving to
it permanence & stability.

Nearly all the brethren have a
lady helper from U.S., I ask only
for a Mexican as there is a
special need for it here, I think
I should have it. The school
is already organized - nothing to
do but take hold & move on.

You will confer a special kindness
to answer this letter in detail, & you
will do me a greater favor to get
me the lady (Mex.) teacher. Lillian is
nearly sick - threatened with rheuma-
tism. She joins me in much love to you
& to sister Powell & the children through
you. May the good Lord bless you in my
prayer.
Truly,
J. F. Chastain

MISION BAUTISTA,

J. G. CHASTAIN, SUPERINTENDENTE.

Doctor ~~Amos~~ ^{Amos} Matamoros, Mexico, Dec. 21, 1892.

Dear Bro. Powell:

Moseley wrote me that he was expecting you to pass ^{on the} down, 23rd. I am so anxious to see you that I sent out to the ranch, and brought in my horse to go to Matamoros to-day & on to Saltillo to-morrow. But knowing the uncertain of being able to meet you, I declined the trip. I wrote you two or three weeks ago, to Toluca, & fearing you may not get the letter, I shall here repeat some things.

You have perhaps learned that there is lately some opposition, among the Mexican brethren, to Porfirio's leaving Galeana. In your centennial work, Bro. Powell, you no doubt keep prominent before the people the idea that the field is the world. You have not gone to U.S. to work for Mexican missions any more than missions in China.

In the same way, generally speaking, that same broad spirit should be exercised about all the fields in Mex. I trust I will be pardoned for saying that such has not been the case. I took a new field & no man in Mex has had less native help than myself. I don't say this in the way of complaint, but to point out what I consider a mistake or an oversight. You know that I have a large field, & hence, am expected to do a great deal of riding. Here is Taber with two or three native helpers, & as many schools, at work all around me, yet I am expected to spend much of my time away from the Matahuata district up about Galeana. The point I am coming to is this: Taber has suspend-closed his school here. Now is the time, the opportunity, for us. Nothing to do but put your teacher to work. The school is already organized. The people are clamoring. I have gone around &

taken up a subscription which amounts to perhaps six or seven dollars per month. What I want to know is, woud the mission allow me to employ one of Moseley's graduates to come here, teach, play the organ, & help wife in her woman's meeting, her visiting, &c, help her keep up public meetings when I am away? It will cost only \$15 or 20.⁰⁰ pr. month. Moseley said it was not put in the estimate. Have we not employed many a Mexican preacher during this year for whom no allowance was made in the estimate? Bro. Powell, we must have the teacher, or lose ground here. Please, Bro. P., help me in this matter. It is now quite probable that Porfirio will not come to Dr. H. this (next) year. Give me the teacher & I will try to be contented.

We have had some glorious meetings lately, the largest indoor crowds ever have ever had. I baptized one this week.

I wrote you that my first proposition about the house would hold good only until Jan 1, '93.

Should the brethren fail to make the \$300, I then offer the house to the denomination if they will repair it, which will cost nearly or quite \$400.

Please write me. I am praying for you almost daily.
Love up.

Chastain

MISION BAUTISTA,

J. G. CHASTAIN, SUPERINTENDENTE.

Doctor Arroyo,
Matuhualt, Mexico, Feb. 2 1893.

Rev. W. D. Powell;

Your kind letter to hand. We read with pleasure what we find in the papers about you and your work, but your letters always contain a peculiar ^{pleasure} and interest for us. Your words always have their full force with us, because we know you are our friend, and are interested in us and our work.

We regretted to learn that sister Powell was not very well. The papers speak of the extremely cold weather there. It is delightful here, of course. I am disappointed and almost grieved, if I may say it, that the S.S. Committee or Board should ever have tried to divert you from your Mexican work. I should not have thought it of them, I confess. I need not say that your peremptory refusal to accept gave us pleasure. You will not think hard of me for saying that

there are other men in U.S. who can run the S.S. work about as well as you, while I don't hesitate to say that no living man can fill your place in Mexico.

I went with Gerónimo about 80 miles out E. last week. The travel, eating & sleeping, I think, were the ~~most~~ ^{the} severest missionary experience I have ever passed through, but, after all, we had a good trip for the cause. Gerónimo is developing wonderfully. He is more enthusiastic and efficient than ever before. Lucio is in delicate health, & has not been so punctual in the meetings lately. (His wife, Pomposita, cannot wait many more days.) I am thinking about employing Reinaldo to sell Bibles & help me in general. The cause here is booming. I have never had such large congregations & seen such constant growing interest before since I came to Mexico. Flavia has 17 on her roll, but she averages daily only about 16. She plays the organ &

helps wife ⁱⁿ visiting, ladies' aid soc, &c. She is greatly helping us. After talking with Moseley, I employed her with the hope that we may be able to get \$18 pr. mo. of her salary from surplus mission funds. I hope you will help us in putting the measure through; otherwise, of course, I shall have to pay it myself. If we should unexpectedly have opportunity to employ even two (or three or a half a doz) male Mexicans, we would do so, & find money to pay them. I don't see why we may not employ one female where she is needed & can be useful to the cause.

Did you ever get the two letters I wrote you to Tohica?

The money has not been raised or promised for the Dr. Arroyo's house. I am not certain that \$300⁰⁰ will be enough to repair it. If the denomination will repair it they may have it. This offer shall hold good until May 1, '93. If this time is allowed to expire, I never expect to renew the offer.

from the Lord bless your family, 89 Buchanan
I have been in Texas ever since last Sept. I have
found me in much love to you & your family
Henry Watkins & both in S. D. get Humboldt off
I know you can put it through.

Why not then authorize me to go
on with the repairs which have been
stopped for want of funds. Please
write me at once, saying you will ac-
cept that, & let me go on with the
work. This corner room is packed near-
ly every meeting, & if the congregations
continue to increase, that room will
be too small. You should put in
Lamps & benches, but I don't ask
that. You repair the house only.

I have just rec'd a letter from
Hamilton asking me to employ two
colporters. I purpose attending the
N. Leon Asso. which meets at Cadavita
in March. I think of going through
by Riecus, Galeana & Montemorales,
there leaving my horse & taking the
train. Our little Effie has been
sick for several weeks. She is very
frail, has fevers caused, I think,
from indigestion. Our baby boy is nine
months old, & is a monster, large & stout.
I suppose you have heard that Tom's
married Paula Barocio in Dec. I
have just had a card from Eliseo. He says

to school. He may go back to school. He is waiting for you to return that he may go back to school.

MISION BAUTISTA,

J. G. CHASTAIN, SUPERINTENDENTE.

Doctor Arroyo,
Matlabala, Mexico, Feb. 6, 1893.

Dr. W. D. Powell,
Louisville, Ky.

My Dear Bro.:

Tho' I wrote you only a few days ago, I have in mind another matter about which I wish to consult you.

Owing to the great need of a better knowledge of our doctrines among all classes of Mexicans, but especially among our own members & native ministers, it has occurred to me to publish (edit) a book the outline of which I herewith enclose for your criticism & general suggestions.

Doctrinas Biblicas.

1. Love of God (or some other devotional subj. which he may substitute) McCormick.
2. Inspiration of the Scriptures, Wilson.
3. The Bible the only Rule of faith and Practice, Pablo Barocio.
4. Effects of Adam's Sin, Goldsmith.

5. Interbiblical History, Rudd.
6. Christ the fulfillment of Prophecy, ^{I. N. Steelman}
7. The Atonement of Christ, A. J. Steelman.
8. Regeneration essential to salvation, Watkins
9. Baptismal Regeneration unscriptural, Powell.
10. Infant Baptism unscriptural, Cardenas.
11. Immersion the only mode of Script. bap^m, ^{H. Kimball}
12. The Lord's Supper, Chastain.
13. Ch. government democratic, A. J. Diaz, ^{Cuba}
14. Election, Moseley.
15. Final preservation of the saints, M. G. Perrine, ^{Texas}
16. (Subject not yet determined) Westrup.
17. Christian Doctrines Illustrated. (using the life of Anita Mayberry as a basis). By W. D. Powell.

In case I decide to undertake the work, I wish all the manuscripts delivered to me by July 1, '93. That I may have time to copy them, & put them in due form before I go to U. S. in Sept. I wish the articles to average about 10 pages of foolscap written in ordinary hands; each bro. being requested to furnish me at the same time a cabinet size picture of himself.

I obligate myself to publish the book putting in a steel engraving of each writer free of charge. But that I may be able to bring out the book, I shall ask each writer to lend me \$15⁰⁰, U. S. coin, for three or four months, the same to be repaid, in whole or in part, by a number of copies of the book, which I pledge myself to sell at the lowest figures.

Rudd is the only man I have written to about the matter. I likewise come to you for advice, for two reasons: (1) I have confidence in your judgment, & (2) in your frankness. I am sure that you will tell me freely what you think. Is the book needful? is the scheme practicable? Should the work be undertaken? If so, do you think I can put it through? The borrador that I send you is not iron-clad. What do you think about it? May be some of these men should exchange subjects, or some of the subjects should be dropped

I wish the book put into a good store
like up possible, & get the A. B. Pub. Soc.
to publish.

and others substituted, may be some
of these men should be dropped, &
others substituted. Please tell me what
you think. Should I put in Dan-
iels of San Antonio? Of course, we
want the book to sell that it
may do all the good possible.
I think a succinct biography of
Anita (say 10 or 15 pages foolscap)
would be a fitting close to the book.
I should wish you to show wherein
she in her character & every day
life was an embodiment of the
Christian doctrines. Lillian cried
like a baby when she heard of her
death. She says Anita was the truest,
most patient, unselfish person
she ever saw; that Anita was al-
ways at work for other people, &
always put herself last.

We ^{we need a larger house.} are booming here in Dr. Arroyo.
I think of going to Matuhuala to-
morrow, & to the N. L. Assn. via
Galana in Feb. Anxiously awaiting
your reply, I am—
Fratly, J. C. Chestnut.

MISION BAUTISTA,

J. G. CHASTAIN, SUPERINTENDENTE.

Doctor Arroyo,
Matamoros, Mexico, Feb. 25, 1893.

Dear Bro. Powell:

Your note from Darlington just rec'd, & I hasten to write, not because I have anything important to say, but owing to our great interest in you & your work—we pray for you regularly, almost daily—. I find real pleasure in writing often tho' it be but a few lines. The first question I shall propound to you in this letter is, where do you wish me to go to work next? We are soon going to finish up (!) here in Dr. Arroyo, & you know we like to make our plans ahead. For six weeks—ever since we opened the school—our meetings have been constantly crowded, & frequently overflowing, tho' additional benches & chairs have been brought in. We must enlarge the house at the earliest moment. I cant tell how Flavia will "pan out" in the end, but, so far, she is a grand success. She has twenty students enrolled, & still they come.

Dora Fisher is very much worse than ever before. One or two more days will perhaps be her last.

We are much in need of a large Church bell. Just as soon as you can get a little breathing spell, see if some of our news papers will not give to the centennial fund the bell to be sent to the Dr. Arroyo Church. I will pay freight & duties. News papers come into possession of bells, Organs, &c. by advertising. I don't want a "rattle trap," but a large church bell. I hope it may suit you to bring this in as a part of your Centennial work.

I hope you brethren will, at the earliest moment, instruct me to go forward with the repairs of the Ch. here. Otherwise I shall not be able to finish it before I leave for U.S. in Sept. You know how slowly these people work. Rudd is very anxious about it, & agrees to stand for \$100,00 of the money. He thinks \$300,000 will repair it. I don't ask for laps, or benches, you repair the house & you may have it.

It is whispered that A. J. Steelman is going to resign & return to U.S. in May next, & that Sloan is to succeed

him in Mexico city. How is that high? Sloan is now at Monterrey, & I have sent him subjects on which to prepare two discourses for our Theol. Inst. to come with the Nuevo Leon Assn. March 10-14.

I purpose leaving here next Thursday the 2nd for Galeana & Montermorelos, to return via San Rafael, after the Assn.

Mose writes me that they are driving ahead on the S. Rafael house, & hope to complete it in March. Mose is about well, I think. With plenty of exercise & prudence he will have no more trouble.

In answer to his repeated summons, Rudd went to Saltillo last week to consult with Mose something about the Inst. I am not informed what. As Miss Barton has not come, it may have been relative to securing additional teachers. Rudd says the Inst. is doing well.

He questions the advisability of undertaking to publish the book - Las Doctrinas Biblicas - at least for some time to come, owing to the heavy expense it would incur. What would 16 or 18 steel engravings cost?

What would 18 pictures like those
in Dr. Zupper's book on F. Miss. cost?
As the Bap. B. Con., at Louisville, are
perhaps not prepared to print
Spanish Literature, we would better
apply to A. B. P. Soc. What terms do
you think you could get with them
to print say 1,000 copies, the book
to be perhaps the size & make up of
Broadus vol. of Sermons? I am not
ready to abandon the enterprise, yet
we must not be too hasty about it.
Our plans should be matured & the work
done right, or not at all.

Porfino is at Galeana. He promised to
come & be here during my absence - two
or three weeks - & I have written to him
to come on, but don't much expect him.
Gilberto is at S. R. & wants to go to work,
but Hamilton says he does not wish to
employ him until he hears from you.
He ^(Hamilton) complains that "Moseley will not
take interest in the work & the men ~~which~~
that he will not answer his letters." We
are all well. Lillian joins me in much love
to you & sister Powell. May the dear Lord
bles you. We are becoming ^{very} ~~very~~ ^{hungry} to see you.
Truly,
H. Chastain

Miller's wife is dangerously sick at Tacatecas of Tlaxcala. May the Lord spare her.

Truly,
H. Chastain

Dr. Arroyo, N.L., 2, 28, '93.

Dear Bro. Powell:

I suppose you will conclude that I have very little to do, as I write to you about twice a-week. I herewith send you \$128, ⁶⁷/₁₀₀ U.S. currency. This is to go, of course, on my debt to you. I am growing restlessly anxious to know what you brethren are going to do about the D.A. church house. It may take two or three months to get the material after I order it, & the difficulty will be, I shall not have time to repair the house before I go to U.S. in Sept. (Provided

The Board let me go. I wrote to Dr. Supper as soon as I got home fr. Zacatecas, perhaps Oct. 6 '92, & tho' I have not rec'd any reply, I am sure he will write by its taking him so long.

Little Don died last Sunday 1.30 A.M. I purpose going to Matchuala to-morrow to spend two or three days with the family. I am making my arrangements to go (Dr.) to Montemorelos next week, horseback of course. Don't go off, now, & have a cry because you are not here to take a horse & go with me. I know it is hard on you, yet you must bear it. I am going alone, & will have the most of my fun in those mountains beyond Galeana & in crossing the branch beyond Rayones. I shall

have all the fun by myself.

Our meetings here in Dr. A. & constantly overflowing, & all our members are very ani-
mados. The brethren remember you with pleasure, & frequently ask me about you. We shall be delighted to have you visit us when you return to Mexico. You can't imagine how much we wish to see you.

Tho' we are all, in general, ^{healthy} we are suffering with severe colds. We are in the drought, ah, the dust, the dust!!

By the way, it is stated on good authority that the R.R. fr. Matchuala will reach Dr. A. certainly within the next year.

Please remember us most kindly to sister Powell when you write

or see her. Where will Annie
spend her vacation? Have
you seen Miss Cooke? & has
she gotten married? What about
the Missouri young lady that
was coming to Mexico?

Why didn't Miss Barton go to
Saltillo to teach?

Please write me & tell us
all about yourself & your
work. May the Dear Lord
bless you.

Fratly,

J. G. Chastain

P.S.

Please acknowledge the
receipt of this draft. C

MISION BAUTISTA,

J. G. CHASTAIN, SUPERINTENDENTE.

Doctor Arroyo,
~~Mexico~~ Mexico, Feb. 9, 1897.

My Dear Bro. Powell:

Yours of the 5 & 6 rec'd
yesterday & to-day respectively.

I have thought a great deal
about the recent action of the Brethren
in Mexico, & it has filled my heart
with sorrow & grief. When your let-
ter came this P.M., I had sat down to
answer that of yesterday. I told wife
that I was going to suggest to you
to refer the whole matter to the Board,
giving them a clear statement of the
case. I am not sure that I should
have accompanied this with my
resignation; yet, as you say, that will
leave the Board free to act; & whether
or not they accept your resignation, this
step on your part can but help you
in the eyes of the Board, showing them
your noble spirit in the matter, while
at the same time it will (or should) si-
lence those who seem disposed to talk
against you. So, in my judgment,

Dr. Arroyo, Apr. 25, 1898.

Rev. W. D. Powell,
Toluca, Mexico.

My dear brother: I think it is due us both that I make some explanations to you. I think my bearing toward you in the past is sufficient to prove my friendship for you. After spending nearly a month with M.C. in Nov. I went to see you & yours purely on a friendly visit. When the Bd. Com. came down last June I stood by Powell. When the recent meeting was appointed at Saltillo, I contended that you should be present & have the privilege of replying. I telegraphed you to meet me in Laredo "si es conveniente" in order that I might have a long talk with you before meeting the other brethren. I stopped at Laredo to wait for you, Wednesday P.M. But as in your last letter to me you said you were sick, & also that you hoped to visit bedral soon; & as I learned in passing Saltillo that you were to visit there & also Laredo the last of the week, & as my Conductor told me, on Thursday morning (when I was writing a telegram to your Conductor to know if you were on his train, that I might still wait for you), I say, my Conductor told me that your train was six hours late, tho' it was due only about four hours before the P.M.

Dewey '1
Sampson 02
Schley 022

should leave for the South, I decided that as I got no reply to my telegram it must not have reached you. I have a recent letter ~~letter~~ from Harvey which now lies open before me. In it he says, "Brother Powell did not get your telegram." But Mrs. Chastain says you told her that you received it and answered it. It grieves me to think that after doing all I possibly could for you, that still you should censure me for not waiting for you. Bro. Rudd had asked me, in a letter, before I left home & again as I passed Saltillo, to go with him to San Rafael. And knowing that you were expected at Saltillo I thought you would be there on our return. You may be hurt with me, but I am still your friend.

Wife & I have decided to take little Judson to Va. for treatment. We may get there for the Convention. I should like to hear from you. Please address me here. If we should not get off, I will receive the letter at once. Should we go, it can be forwarded.

With true Christian friendship
for you & your family,
Truly
J. G. Chastain.

Deanes' Station, Va., June 8, 1898.

Rev. W. D. Powell
Toluca, Mexico.

My dear Bro.: I now proceed to answer your letter rec'd during the conv. It seems that there is a difference of opinion about the object of my visit to the U.S. I have just rec'd a letter from Reinaldo Martinez, at Dr. Arroyo, in which he says, "Las gentes ^{agrup.} dicen que Ud. se fue porque lo llamaron para que fuere a la guerra, y que a nosotros los protestantes mexicanos nos van a llevar tambien a defender nuestra patria E. U." In your letter of May 1, you say, "It was thought in Saltillo that you & Mrs. C. would go to Virginia to work against me." There is about as much sense & truth in one of these above suppositions as in the other. I came to Va. expressly to have my child treated. I believe you will accept that as the truth. But if you should be doubtful, just go & ask Dr. Bibb why I came. The fact of the business is, I was not appointed to go to Richmond until it was already known that I had decided to come to the States any way on account of the child, & then it was repeated time and again "We want you to go to Richmond to represent the other side." McCormick was regarded as the most radical & active man on the case, & I the most conservative, having taken the least part of any. When I appeared before the Bd. the other day, I told them that I went to the recent mission meeting in Saltillo because one of my friends was under grave charges, & I wished to know the truth in the case. I told them farther that I had come before them not to condemn or defend any man, but to tell, as a witness, what little I knew about the case. At the close of my second interview when I was about to tell them good-by, I said to them, "What I have said & done in this case was not to serve or please man, but God" I tried to rise above personal

feeling in the ^{matter,} & Dr. Willingham told me on two distinct occasions that the Bd was much pleased with the spirit I had manifested.

In executing the small part assigned me in the case, I may have estranged from me some members of the Bd or Mission, if so, this may be considered my misfortune; yet I have the approval of my own conscience which should be worth more to any man than the most cordial esteem of many friends.

Secrecy is a commodity in which I seldom deal even in my most private letters. I am a man of frankness. You are at liberty to show this letter to the Bd & ask them every thing I told them about you. Some of my testimony & opinions were in your favor as the Bd will tell you, while others were against you.

For example, what you have done recently in Saltillo to excite the Mexicans against the American teachers I regard as the greatest mistake of your life & so told the Bd. If I find in future that I am mistaken about this, I will gladly revise my opinion.

I am glad Anita did not send me the letter as it may have been based on hearsay & many current reports are like the two mentioned in the beginning of this letter.

Now, my brother, I have finished. From the above brief letter you can get a good idea of what I have done & where I stand. We are all fallible. I greatly need & desire the prayers of my brethren.

With Christian regards to you & yours,

Fratly,

J. G. Chastain