AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,

29, LOMBARD BLOCK,

CHICAGO, Nov 25 68

John O. Stevenson

Port Lavaca Tex

Dear Bro

We enclose with this a copy of a circular note which has been addressed to each of the churches interested in your support for the current year. These are the churches at

Winnebago. Port Byron and Stillman Valley (Hale PO) Ill

While this modification of the system will relieve you from considerable labor, it may possibly also diminish the sense of *direct* communication, not only on your part but on that of the church. The latter effect may be rendered inconsiderable by a little special endeavor

to make your letters the more direct in style, with frequent reminders that you will be glad to receive responses from the pastor or the Secretary of the church committee.

As a whole, the reports last year were admirable, and resulted in *doubling* the interest of Northern friends in your work. They will seldom respond directly to you, as the thirsty earth never gives audible thanks for the showers that freshen it; but our eyes see as prompt and gladdening growths of blade and flower in the fields upon which your fresh words fall, as your eyes trace after the most welcome summer rain. "Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward."

Now that you have but a single letter to write, and as some delay must occur in transcribing at the office, two hints are to be well noted:

1. The letter is to be written on the 25th of each month.

2. *No other duty*, except in a rare crisis, *is to delay it for a day.*

The receipt of each letter at the office will be immediately acknowledged. If such acknowledgment is delayed, oblige us by calling our attention to the fact.

With assurance of high esteem and kindest regards,

Your brother and servant,

JACOB R. SHIPHERD,

Secretary