

A Letter of Henry Boehm



Editor's Note: the following letter is the only original Boehm letter in the possession of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Historical Society, in its collection housed at old St. George's, Philadelphia. Written during the period when Boehm was traveling with Bishop Francis Asbury, the letter covers one side of a page; on the other side is an original letter of Asbury, the text of which is printed in Elmer T. Clark's *Journals and Letters of Francis Asbury*, 3 vols. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1958), 3:570. Boehm and Asbury were in Baltimore preparing to convene the Baltimore Conference, which opened the next day (March 20). Both letters were sent to the Rev. James Mitchell (1777-1859), who

was then serving in Quebec, and a member of the New York Conference. In 1812, Mitchell returned to the United States and the Philadelphia Conference, where he had begun his ministry. His family lived in Soudersburg, Lancaster County, and it was there that he (and his brother William) had been called into ministry. Mitchell later studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and became a practicing physician in Philadelphia, and active at the Union ME Church, retaining his name on the Conference rolls, but never again serving as an active itinerant. The letter's envelope is addressed to "The Rev. James Mitchal [sic], Quebec, Lower Canada." It is printed here for the first time.

Baltimore, 19 March 1811

Very dear brother

May the pleasure of the Lord prosper in and by you. I saw your brother W[illia]m at the Western Conference. He was in health and has had success in the ministry – his appointment is in the Michigan Territory. We passed through Dauphin & Lancaster Counties so quick that I received very little information relative to the state of things. However, I am inclined to think your mother, and friends, were well.

As it respects the state of religion, great prospects open in the West, increase 1,500. In the South upwards of 2,000; the work is going on in Charleston gloriously, and many other parts of the South. We had a great time at the last Virginia Conf[erence] in Raleigh, about 50 converted and perhaps more awakened. Some of the rich came with the poor to the feet of Christ. There is a good work at this time in this town, particularly at the Point, [where] about 100 have been added in a few weeks.

My health is as usual. The Lord bless you. Amen.

H. Boehm