

In another article in the paper the plans for the delegates attending the Presbyterian General Assembly in Portland, Oregon was described. The Methodists had hoped that the train schedule would permit the Presbyterians to have a stop-over in Omaha long enough to meet with them. But none of their plans worked, and the meeting was never held. In a telegram sent to the Methodists it said, "The General Assembly of the Presby. Church in session at Portland, Oregon, receives with much pleasure your fraternal greetings, sent through the Honorable Elliot F. Shedherd. See Ephesians 4:4-6". It was signed Rev. William C. Young, Presbytery of Transylvania, Moderator. On the last day of the Conference a "vote of thanks" was extended to the Editor of the paper.

The "home base" for Gray during the Arkansas period was confusing. He regularly attended the annual meetings of the Arkansas Conference, but the minutes list his office as Chicago, although a December letter notes that his office is changed to Cincinnati, Ohio. At the same time his wife, Sarah, lives in Evanston, Illinois. During the seven month period from August 1891 to March 1892 he made business trips to a dozen states---Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, North & South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska. Apparently all his traveling was done by railroad (in the middle of this period he passed his 57th birthday). In a number of areas he could have used the Inter-Urban trains, but he doesn't say so. In an August letter to a Mr. Williams he wrote that they accidentally picked up each others valises at St. Louis. Gray chides Williams on his foolishness in sending Gray's valise on to Chicago "via Sedalia". Gray then wrote that he had engaged a detective to forward the bag to Eureka Springs, Arkansas in "care of Governor Clayton". In another letter (November) he wrote to a friend in Little Rock that he had again forgotten his valise.

In March 1892 Gray wrote to an Isaac Boyes (probably from his wife's family) of Metamora, Illinois about selling some land that Gray owned. This was the town that Gray was appointed "pastor" in 1860 when he was received into the Central Illinois Conference as a new minister. In his letter to Boyes he told of an extended trip through the East that he expected to take shortly. The letter ended with the words, "you want to now plan to be present at the dedication of the World's Fair in the first of October. It will be a great event & you ought not any of you to miss it". Two months earlier he had written to a woman in Oregon about her coming "east for the world's fair".

The World's Fair that Gray referred to was the Columbian Exposition. But it didn't open in October, but the following summer. At a meeting in New York City to decide the site of the fair the delegates from Chicago had apparently presented such an overblown performance that they were called "windy". It gave rise to the title of "windy city" to Chicago. The Fair was nicknamed the "white city", though it represented only one extreme of the economic tetter-totter. The other end was weighted down by the great majority of the working-class of Chicago. They had been trapped by one of the worst depressions of the century. During the latter part of the 19th century large numbers of peoples immigrated from Europe to Chicago seeking better work, and better life for themselves and their families. They became the work force for the heavy industries: steel mills, railroads, stock yards, & slaughter houses. They also became the menial laborers, the wagon drivers, carriers, & lifters---in fact, anything that needed to be pushed, pulled, lifted, cleared, emptied or filled, raised or lowered; the immigrants did it. They also opened the shops, markets, brewries, & bakeries which supplied services or goods. Many of the people coming here possessed skills from the "old country", but here in Chicago they needed work, while those who did work labored under conditions that lead to feelings of discontent and anger.