

Arkansas Cherokees.

LETTER FROM MR. WASHBURN, DATED AT DWIGHT, JAN. 2d, 1832.

Religious Meetings and Additions to the Church.

ABOUT a year ago, as stated at p. 320 of the last volume, an unusual attention to religious instruction became visible among this portion of the Cherokees, which has been continued, and has already resulted in the hopeful conversion of many souls.

Since the last communication from us relative to the progress of religion, it has pleased the God of grace to continue the influences of his Spirit among this people. As the fruits of this revival, we have received nine to the fellowship of the church. Five others now stand propounded who are expected to unite with the church at the next communion. Five more will be examined as candidates next Monday. These last are all young females in our school. At this time there are in our schools and in the different neighborhoods a considerable number who are subjects of conviction. Of some of these we indulge hope that they are born from above. A considerable number, how many I am not able to say, have united with the Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians in the adjacent white settlements.

In July last we held a three-days' meeting in one neighborhood and a two-days' meeting at this place, and another two-days' meeting in another neighborhood. These were all most solemn and interesting seasons. Between fifty and sixty in the three places professed to be anxiously seeking their salvation. All of these, with the exception of three, are still inquiring or indulging hope. Three have drawn back, probably to perdition. On the second Sabbath in November we held another three-days' meeting here. In many respects it was the most solemn and joyful season I have ever witnessed in the Cherokee nation. Thirty-four appeared as anxious inquirers.

In some parts of the nation the seriousness is perhaps declining. In others it continues and increases. At this place and in the near neighborhood the work of the Spirit is evidently continued and is extending. Christians are awake, prayerful, and joyful; and sinners, one after another, are becoming anxious. I have never known the religious state of the mission family in all respects so encouraging as at the present time. We trust that the special, unwrought prayer of faith is offered up by many hearts; and we know that this kind of prayer "availeth much." We trust the friends of missions will unite with us in thanksgiving

to God for this work of his grace, small indeed, in comparison with the revivals by which he is displaying his glory in many parts of our land, but great in itself and great in comparison with any thing before known in this dark region. We also trust they will unite with us in fervent and believing prayer, that the work may continue and spread and become great in every respect. It is the only influence by which this people can be saved from ruin.

The Schools.

Our schools are in a very interesting state. In the female school there are seven over whom we rejoice as the young disciples of our Lord. Several others are deeply serious, and we hope not far from the kingdom of God. In the boys' school we do yet express a hope of having been traced, but several of them are in a state of great concern. We do hope mercy is a store for them. Both divisions of the school are making satisfactory improvement in various branches of a useful education, and are forming habits which will tend to their own good and the improvement of the people. We have a very interesting male school, composed mostly of the children of the mission family. There are a few Cherokee children in it. The plan of the school is substantially the same, as of the other schools in our cities, and the improvement made is such as to justify the high estimation in which these institutions for education and cultivation have been held by the world good every where. We hope the Holy Spirit is moving upon the hearts of these little ones; and we would earnestly solicit the prayers of our Christian friends, that our little babes may indeed be born in the fold of the Good Shepherd, take to his arms and carried in his bosom. The establishment of this school has relieved us of much anxiety respecting our children while they are young, and we hope it will be of permanent benefit to them.

Interesting Cases of Conversion.

The letter from which these extracts are taken was addressed to Mr. Cornelius, the Secretary of the Board, who, it will be remembered, was the author of a small biographical sketch entitled the Osage Captive. The little girl, who is the subject of the narrative, was met by him while travelling as an agent of the Board, at Caney Creek in the northern part of the Chickasaw nation, and was then taken from a war expedition west of the Mississippi to the old Cherokee nation.

To you, my dear Sir, the following narrative will not be without interest. For I am sure you will not forget "Caney Creek" nor the little girl you once had there. Your small

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An indelible impression of the warrior group here met, and of the horrid memorials of their success—the "Little Osage Captive" and the scalps of her murdered parents! Two of that party have, we trust, become lovers of peace with all men, a lesson they have learned of the meek and holy Jesus of Peace. They are fruits of the revival we have enjoyed, and are now members of our church. One of them is the individual who "could speak a little English," and who acted as your interpreter. The other is the leader of the band, and the very person who went to his bag and held up the scalps, saying in answer to the question, "Where are her parents?" "Here they are." I have often conversed with him respecting the affair of Caney Creek. He deplored the untimely death of little Lydia; and would now, if qualified, go as a herald of salvation to the poor benighted Osages. He is a man of much enterprise and activity, and his influence in the nation is considerable. We hope, by the divine blessing, he will do much good among his people. His wife is also a member of our church, and, if not two, of their children is decidedly pious.

Among the young female converts of our school is an Osage captive, now about twelve or fifteen years old, whose history is interesting. She was captured in the year 1811, and remained in this nation, with her mother, till the autumn of 1822, when she was given to a white man of the territory, who promised to educate her and treat her as his own daughter. This man soon sold her to another, who immediately carried her down the river, intending to sell her for a slave to the sugar planters of Louisiana. This fact being known to a Mr. Miller, he offered a liberal reward for the rescue of the captive. The kidnappers pursued and overtaken a short distance, but the little girl was taken up by a Mr. Natchez. He, however, effected her removal to the governor, who kept her till the next spring, 1823, and then gave her to the care of the late Rev. Dr. Palmer, of this mission, on his way to New Orleans. Here she has been educated. Her parents, it is supposed, are still alive at the time of her capture. They do not know that she has any relations left in their country, and they have never wished to return to them. She is a girl of good sense, has acquired useful habits and talents. She now gives us most abundant evidence of unfeigned piety, and the promise of future usefulness. The appearance of the mysterious grace of heaven has been spectators of that grace, and we had seen her parents fall into the hands of the slave-trader, and herself a captive. We could have seen no other person so devoted towards her. Had we not seen her into slavery and hurrying her to the land of perpetual groans and we should have judged that only

evil was intended against her. She meant all she suffered for this way that she knew no other to this Christian age when his purpose was revealed called out of darkness and citizen with saints and household of faith. Had she and she remained with her would never in this life have than to be a hewer of wood of water, and would have light of life. What hath To him be all the glory.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM DR. PALMER, DATED AT DWIGHT, JAN. 13TH, 1832.

Interest Manifested in

As has been remarked of this was intended that the school, should become a boarding-school, should be by the Cherokees themselves. hitherto done in a good measure. The number of scholars which both parents and children seems to be increasing.

Our school I think is increasing. After the August vacation that we would not have more than or fifteen boarders. The most school was opened again with a diately pressed with entreaties ber of boarders, including the girls, amounts to 25. They are willing to furnish the necessary provisions. One man said, "than willing, I am ten times the provisions, if you will let them." In the school I saw many who have renounced vicious habits, and came to a determination to lead a new and gain a useful education. boarders, numbers come to from home, making altogether

Though our family is so large often astonished to see how easy we get along. Our little and the Cherokees, furnish with an abundant supply of provisions, though but two of us to maintain sorts and sizes of children, enabled thus far to keep good hired man does all the work, except what is accomplished by boys, and in the domestic economy family Mrs. P., with the help girls of the school, goes through commonly with ease, except laid by with sickness. One Cherokee Christian friend, seeing Mrs. P.'s health kindly sent a to assist her through the winter expense Mrs. P. had refused