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Houghton Mifflin



Janet Klausner

Tues. July 18

Dear Duane -

Hope this is just what
you need. Take care.

Janet

Lamont Lib, Microtext

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ABC 18.3.1 U.6 Vol 10 [Reel 744]

Item 279, letter Feb 2, 1839
from A.E. Blunt to David Green (4 pp)

C. H. Hays Creek, Kentucky, 2nd 1839

Rev. Dr. James Gaines., Very Dear Sir -

Missionary Board,
Montgomery, Nov. 1st, 1839
I am sorry to see that I shall have to return so soon -
I feel that I have given ^{countless} thanks to God for his manifold pro-
visions which has enabled me, & permitted me, once more to enter-
on my dear family - Mr. Fremont's detachment left the old nation
Dec 19th consisting of 250 Cherokees. We passed slowly traversing such
distances as would suit the company's convenience for forced marches
from 10 to 15 miles a day, save on common roads.

In Tennessee & particularly near Nashville we found some com-
patriots to the Cherokees, who were ready with open arms, & willing
minds to assist in clothing the destitutes, feeding, ^{by} hunger, & relieving
& administering to the wants of the sick. Some of the Cherokees can
testify to the kind attention paid to some of the sick, by a hospita-
lity entertainment. These cases however were rare. On the other
hand the majority paid but little attention - except to gaze
at them as they passed, & although some could command their
services, they would seemingly rather the Cherokees suffering
should be augmented, than give them a little firewood to
cook their food, & keep them from suffering during the cold
& frosty nights - The people in Ky. were almost universally
friends to the afflicted People. We cannot account for this
otherwise, the great Statesman of Ky. has been a warm
friend to the Cherokees - On our way through Tennessee Ky. &
Ill. we suffered more for the want of food; in fact in doing
we were made sick on account of bad water - We arrived
on the Banks of the Mississippi River, on the 9th of Dec - here we
found Mr. Jones with part of his detachment not yet enough
Mr. Brushyhead with the whole of his, & with Mr. Fremont
we crossed quite a space - On account of the ice we did not
go across the river until the 1st of Jan'y. While we were on the river the
weather was extremely cold with snow, & we were much more often
over than we should have been, had we been trudging

on the 25th of Dec I was taken sick with bilious fever & frequent dysenteric discharges, accompanied with much pain. My disease being sent up high in my bowels soon became alarming. I had an abscess gotten & broke on the left side which made me case doubtful, it however broke inwardly & passed off. I still occupied my camp until the 1st of Janv when the companion I concluded for the sake of the attention of our physician (whose still I esteemed) to cross when I should be attended by him for 3 or 4 days while the retinue were receiving some supplies. I got into a pleasant family where I had every attention which I could expect & in a few days the Dr left me, leaving medicine with special directions, considering there with prop... care I should soon be able to get out. but I was sick & high unto death but Dr. Bush, Mr. May, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. went the house the moment of his return. His name alone be pronounced & may be enable to console thyself more conveniently to him -

I cannot describe my feelings in a stranger land & far from Christian friends wth. whom I might converse. The situation of my family too in a house of strangers & those almost ^{said} of the best fed & the item can be associate with their removal ^{the} tends not a little to increase my anxiety. These feelings however did of short duration, when I saw all I hast to resign all into the hands of him who was all to heal the sick, to provide for the widow & fatherless children, & oversee all things, to work for his own glory & the good of his children. The Physician of the United Monk did not think it safe for me to go on for fear of relapses, I concluded to return so soon as my health would permit. My strength improved to such a degree that I set out on my long home on the 11th not riding as my strength would allow, resting on the subbotto & reached home on the 15th at evening finding my family in sound health. The last meeting the Doctor - of a father & husband in this over pleasant, but now a house of contention & disharmony in the opinion - It was quite trying to the Foremen to proceed with one who

^{2d} How much this dear people need the prayers & sympathies of the children of God - how much the lambs of the Jacobs flock need to be upheld by the young Missionaries & Christians of every land. Many who have entered in good purpose, may, in time of temptation & trial fall away & wound the cause of their Redeemer, & give occasion for the enemy to blaspheme. We do not now conjecture what the situation of the Charch will be a year hence - If we are allowed to judge, it appears there is much danger how their political difficulties will be settled among themselves I have often heard expressions by the way which leads me to fear as to what may take place. It is well known I suppose that Mr. Bell, of what is called the Ridge party commanded a detachment of about 500. These the Officers of Government were disposed to favor, I think more generally than the other. They left the Nation quite cheerfull, & comfortable as to clothing & means of conveyance. Their company being small, they will be able to travel farther in a day, & will most probably reach the Nation west much sooner than the other companies. They can make the best selections for location, or reside with some of their friends, where they will be able to raise something for their support next season - The greater part of the other party will not arrive in time to do any thing toward supporting their families, they must dwell in tents a part of the year. Must depend wholly on the Government for support, not only the first but the second also. This inequality of numbers & situations, I fear will operate against the harmony of the Nation. I have sometimes heard it said, had we gone with Ridge we should got more clothes shoes &c & gone in warm weather, but more we see what we get by uniting for Ross. It should be remembered however that there are expressions from the lowest class of the church. Yet it may have a quiet bearing on their failure. It is true some have suffered by the way for the want of clothes. While some have sold theirs for Whisky

It is truly melancholy to contrast this situation with what it was
6 or 8 years ago - too many have given themselves up to wickedness
to determine & to deplore, the sole influence of the other man
should there be any resistance in the west, (or as I venture to imagine)

should my attempt be made to take the lines of the treaty West. The lines
of the higher offices of the other party will be forfeited also. Nothing of
this kind do I think will take place. ~~but~~ escape it by the most
deceitful party & of their ^{own} accord. The respectable part ~~of~~ of the
different parties will never attempt ~~any~~ thing of the kind, nor
for a moment give countenance to ~~any~~ ~~of~~ the ~~bad~~ all -
as it regards the ^{poor} Indians labor at the West, you will permit me
to make a few remarks. The same as I said to him when we
parted in M.O. tho' I was too weak to say but little. I told him
I had a plan for him, the same I intended to state to the
Committee should I live to use my pen. I said to him that
owing to the situation of his people next summer, the old men
being scattered & as it were having none to guide them. I thought
it would be his duty to locate his family somewhere so soon as he
could, & rise as an itinerating preacher through that part of
the Nation where most of the original settlers collected the
scattered bands, comforting the distressed & preaching salvation
through Christ to the perishing. Should he spend his time in this
way or at least two thirds of it. he would have greatly the
advantage of any other man, being able to speak to his peo-
ple in their own language. Another reason why world given is,
other Ministers of other denominations will expect them
short in collecting as many as they are from others.
Brother in order to Steele their numbers, Note that I don't
wish to proselyte or countenance it in others, still I
think & have reasons to believe this will be the case -

I will with Mr. Garrison up to the 1st of Oct. since which time
is his been constantly employed in labor for his People -
With regard to ourselves you will allow us to say - Accept our
Sincere thanks with those of your fellow laborers in the Kingdom
of Christ, & also to your Committee for their kind indulgence
& merciful treatment paid to the trials & troubles which we have

Made them since we have been under your direction among
this people - The education past years of our race have been the
support we have spent, & we presume can well spend should
our time be spared. Our attachment to the ^{cherished} is strong
& I think we can truly say has been increased during their

Many trials - Their pressing request that ~~we~~ we should accom-
pany ~~them~~ with our family to the west, often affects us to tears.

When we think of their situation - we find on the one
hand much to urge us on, while on the other many
hindrances appear to us against such a step -

The Committee are well acquainted with the situation
of my family, so that it seems unnecessary to advert to
any particularly to that again - The Principal objections
which we would bring against accompanying the Indians
are these - first - Mrs Blunts health health is such that she is
not able to attend to the labors of her family but in part
& it is more than probable her health will never greatly
improve - My own Constitution is much impeded by
sickness & labor - Our three children these character
are more forming, & in our minds, the greatest, owing
to their mother's state & the strong ties to which they are
addicted - Our children must mix with them & learn their
habits, & soon be connected with them by ties which cannot
be broken - Should the Committee think best to send lab-
orers like ourselves to the west, others might be found
who would perhaps be less expensive & who for a few years
would not be subject to the same trials -

There are however inducements presented to our minds
which urge us to accompany them - We are better acquainted
with them & they with ^{us} than they would be with strangers,
& even they settled as they appeared to be a few years ago
we would gladly spend the remainder of our days with them
& do what we could -

& leave the sick, as he was obliged to do, for he had looked for my assistance through the journey & he felt much cast down when we parted. With all the privations in such a town, with my sickness connected. I rejoice that I was permitted to accompany the shanties thus far on their trying journey. & I shall have been peculiarly qualified if my health had permitted my continuing with them through - The health of the detachment as far as the Ni River could not be said to be good - In the forenoon, there has been 30 deaths & 15 births - Mr. Bushheads 25. & Mr. Jones' have lost upwards of 50, I cannot speak particularly of the others - About 25 miles east of the Ni River by Mr. Hellerbrund's, Mr. Hicks & Mr. Jays' detachment, here I saw Mr. & Mrs. Buttrick & many others with whom I was acquainted & for whom I could deeply sympathize in their distress - Mr. Buttrick's health was poor. He looked quite full.

Mrs. B. have enjoyed good health - These three detachments amount to about 4000 - The weather at this time is warm & the ground so moistened with rain, that the wagons frequently sink to the axle in mud - Unless the weather should change they can't travel more than 6 or 7 miles a day - I consider the shanties have the most trying parts of their journey yet to perform. The spring season coming on, with rain, & warm weather will greatly prolong their travel & distress - & we may safely conclude the time most detachments will scarcely reach their homes in the west until March or April - Since I reached home I have learned Mr. Neff has purchased a Steam Boat & proceeded down the river in order to facilitate their journey if it should ^{afford} best to change their mode of traveling. I behold with melancholy sensations the trying situation of this people next summer - Without the interposition of divine Providence. I think we may calculate from 3 to 4000 will fall victims to the ravages of death by this removal - at least I think 2000 have already gone to their grave. & the future we cannot tell - 2nd sheet

We ask your prayers that we may be guides in the paths
of duty, & all our steps directed in that way which shall
be for the Glory of God & the promotion of His cause -
I have learned nothing from Dr. Butler, I wished to come
I am in full health, but shall try to visit Mrs. Butler this
week & under her own guidance wish she may never -
They will make arrangements I suppose to go west this
Spring - There has been an unexpected change in affairs
here since I left home - The Board I think will realize
but little for the present right of the Mission Indians. Still
& hope we shall be able to keep out of protected law
suit, or in any way incur debt upon the Board or
injure the cause of Missions

I have bargained away this place for a small sum
securing the buildings & a garden spot until next
autumn if it should seem best for us to continue here
... long -

Feb 21st I feel quite well to day & I have been
under the necessity of writing at intervals -
your favors of Oct 23^d & Dec 7th were duly received

With kindest regards to all your
fellow laborers in the Missⁿ
Rooms, I am ever Sir
yours sincerely

A. B. Blodget

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Janet Klausner

Tues. July 18

Dear Duane -

Hope this is just what
you need. Take care.

Janet

Benton's Creek Feby 2nd 1839

The Brown Guards., Regt No 10.

Missionary Woods)

(Boston Mass.)

I am well & a little
surprised to see State papers my letter tell home so soon -
I feel that I have given ^{count of} thanks to God for his merciful provi-
sions which has spared me, & permitted me, once more to enter
on my dear family - Mr Fremont's attachment left the Old Nation
the 19th consisting of 950 Chasseurs. He professed slavery traveling such
distances as would save the company's provisions for four or five days.
From 7 to 15 Miles a day, sent down from snow banks.

In Tennessee & particularly near Nashville we found some very
friendly to the slaves, who were ready with open arms, & a willing
minded to assist in clothing the destitute, feeding ^{the} hungry, & relieving
& administering to the wants of the sick. Some of the churches even
testify to the kind attention paid to some of the sick, by a hospital-
ity entertainment. These cases however were rare. On the other
hand the majority paid but little attention - except to give
at them as they passed, & although some could command ^{more} than
sand, they would seemingly rather the slaves suffering
should be augmented, than give them a little firewood to
cook their food, & keep them from suffering during the cold
& frosty nights - The people in Ky. were almost universally
friendly to the afflicted People. We cannot account for this
other than, the great Statesman of Ky. has been a dear
friend to the slaves - On our way through Tennessee Ky &
Ill. we suffered more for the want of food; & - few instances
we were made sick on account of bad water - We arrived
on the Banks of the Mississippi River, on the 9th of Dec - Here we
found Mr. Jones with part of his detachment not yet up
Mr. Bushyhead with the whole of his, & with Mr Fremont.
we coaled quite a space - On account of the ice we did not
go up the river until the 1st of Feby. While we were on the river the
weather was extremely cold with snow, & we were much more often
over than we should have been, had we been traveling.

On the 25th of Dec I was taken sick with bilious fever & frequent - dysenteric discharges, accompanied with much pain. My disease being sent up high in my bowels soon became alarming. I have an abscess gotten & broke on the left side which made my case doubtful, it however broke immediately & passed off - I still occupied my Camp until the 1st of Jan when the company I commanded for the sake of the attention of our physician (whose skill I esteem) to cross where I should be attended by him for 3 or 4 days while the detachment were receiving some supplies. I got into a pleasant family where I received every attention which I could expect. & in a few days the Dr left me having medicine with special directions, considering that with proper care I should soon be able to get out - truly I had sick a high unto death at the time both here & in the 2 days since arrived. We know the bounds of the grace. His name alone be praised & may I be enabled to render myself more consecrated to him - I cannot describe my feelings in a stranger land & far from Christian friends with whom I might communicate. The situation of my family too in a time of change & trouble almost ^{reduced} to bankruptcy - no other idea can be associated with their removal except ^{the} God's hand for not a little to increase my anxiety. These feelings however were of short duration, when I saw all I hast to resign all into the hands of him who was able to heal the sick, to provide for the widow & fatherless children, & since all things to work for ^{you}, his own glory & the good of his children. The physician of the Detachment does not think it safe for me to go on for fear of collapse, I would rather return so soon as my health would admit - My strength improved to such a degree that I set out on my way home on the 11th & riding on my strength would allow resting on the Sabbath & reached home on the 12th at evening finding my family in usual health. The house having the spirit - of a father & husband in this once pleasant, but now a house of contentions & wranglings in the afternoon - It was quite trying to Mr. Freeman to please with me

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pain. My disease
came alarming.
which made my
sly & paid off -
my when the compa-
sation of our physio-
- I should be atte-
ndment were resi-
t family where I stand
days. The Dr left
us, considering them
out - but I have sick
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be prisoners & may
try to him -

the house & for poor
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almost ^{said} ~~rested~~ ^{of the} Charles
village London
feelings however was
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be for me to go on
as soon as they health
in a degree that I
ring as my strength
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the health. But much
This once pleasant
in the afternoon -
and visitors who

¹²⁰ How much this dear people are the friends & sympathizers of the children
of God - how much the lambs of the Jacobs flock need to be
upheld by the young Missions & Christians of any kind - Many
who have entered a good mission, May, in time of temptation
& trials fall away & wound the cause of their Religion, & give
occasion for the enemy to blaspheme - We can not now conjecture
what the situation of the Cherokees will be a year hence - If
we are allowed to judge, it appears there is much danger
that their political difficulties will be settled among themselves
I have often heard expressions by the way which leads me to fear
as to what may take place - It is well known I suppose that
Mr Bell, of what is called the Ridge party conducted a detachment
of about 300 - These the Officers of Government were disposed
to favor, I think more generally than the others. They left the
Nation quite cheerful, & comfortable as to clothing & means
of conveyance - Their company being small, they will be
able to travel further in a day, & will most probably
reach the Nation east ^{as} much sooner ^{as} the other companies -
They can make the best selections for location, or reside with
some of their friends, where they will be able to raise
something for their support next season - The greater
part of the other party will not arrive in time to do any
thing toward supporting their families, they must dwell in
tents a part of the year, Must depend wholly on the
Government for support, not only the first but the second
also. This inequality of numbers & situations, I fear will
operate against the harmony of the Nation. I have sometimes
heard it said, had we gone with Ridge we should got more
clothes shoes &c & gone in warm weather, but now we see
what we get by waiting for Ross. It should be remembered
however that there are expressions from the lowest class of the
Cherokees, yet it may have a great bearing on their future
destiny - It is time some time offered by the way for the want
of clothes. While some have sold theirs for whisky

It is truly melancholy to contrast this situation with what it was
6 or 8 years ago - too many have given themselves up to vice & up
to despatching & condoning, the sole influence of the other man
Should there be any disturbance at the west, (or as I venture to imagine)
should any attempt be made to take the lives of the truly Men. The lives
of the higher officers of the other party will be forfeited also. Nothing of
this kind do I think will take place, ~~but~~ except it be by the most
degenerate party, & of their ^{own} accord. The respectable part of the
different parties will never attempt any thing of the kind, nor
for a moment give countenance to any ~~thing~~ of the ^{kind} But all -

As it regards Mr. Freeman's labors at the west, you will permit me
to make a few remarks. The same as I said to him when we
parted in M.D. Tho' I was too weak to say but little, I told him
I had a plan for him, the same I intended to state to the
Committee should I live to use my pen - I said to him that
regarding to the situation of his people next summer, the old master
being scattered & us were having none to guide them. I thought
it would be his duty to locate his family somewhere as soon as he
could, & rise as an itinerating preacher through that part of
the Nation where most of the original settlers, collecting the
scattered bands, comforting the distressed & preaching salvation
through Christ to the perishing. Should he spend this time in this
way or at least two thirds of it. He would have greatly the
advantage of any other man, being able to speak to his peo-
ple in their own language. Another reason ^{why} I would give is,
that Ministers of other denominations will expect them-
selves in collecting as many as they can from other
branches in order to swell their numbers. Not that I would
wish to proselyte or convert them it is others, still I
think I have reasons to believe this will be the case -

Calling with Mr. Freeman up to the 1st of Oct. since which time
he has constantly employed in labor for his people -

With regard to business you will share it to say - Accept an
enclosed check with best of your fellow laborers in the Missionary
Bonds, & also the War Committee, for their kind indulgence.
A resolution of kindred pain to the trials & troubles which we have

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Made their visit & we have been under your directions among
this people - The vacation past year of our lives have been this
support we have spent, & we presume our health spend should
our lives be spared - Our attachment to the Shakers is strong
& I think we can best say has been increased during their

many trials - Their pressing request that we should accom-
pany them with our family to the west, often affects us to tears
When we think of their situation - we find on the one
hand much to urge us on, while on the other many
things present which appears to us against such a step -

The Committee - are well acquainted with the situa-
tion of my family, so that it seems unnecessary to advert to
any particularly to that again - The Principal objections
which we would bring against accompanying the Shakers
are these - first - Mrs Blounts health health is such that she is
not able to attend to the labors of her family but in part
& it is more than probable her health will soon greatly
improve - My own Constitution is much impeded by
sickness & labor - Our three children whose characters
are more forming, is in our minds, the greatest, owing
to their unsettled state & the many sins to which they are
addicted - Our children must mix with them & learn their
habits, & soon be connected with them by ties which cannot
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orers like ourselves to the west, others might be found
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There are however inducements presented to our minds
which urge us to accompany them - We are better acquainted
with them & they with us, than they would be with strangers,
as even they little as they appeared to be a few years ago
we would gladly spend the remainder of our days with them
& do what we could -

& leave the sick, or he was obliged to do, for he had looked for my assistance through the journey & he felt much cast down when we parted. With all the privations in such a town, with my sickness connected. I rejoice that I was permitted to accompany the Shakers thus far on their trying journey. & I shall have been peculiarly qualified if my health had permitted my continuing with them through - The health of the detachment as far as the Mi River could not be said to be good - In the forenoon, there have been 30 deaths & 15 births. Mr. Bushheads 35 & Mr. Jones has lost upwards of 50. I cannot speak particularly of the others - About 25 miles east of the Mi River by Mr. Holtenbrund, Mr. Hicks & Mrs. joyful detachment, here I saw Mr & Mrs. Butrick & many others with whom I was acquainted & for whom I could deeply sympathise in their distress - Mr. Butricks health was poor. He looked quite failing. Mrs. B. had enjoyed good health - These three detachments amount to about 4000 - The weather at this time was warm & the ground so moistened with rain, that the wagons frequently sank to the axle in mud - Unless the weather should change they could not travel more than 6 or 7 miles a day - I consider the Shakers have the most trying parts of their journey yet to perform. The spring season coming on, with rain, & warmer weather will greatly prolong their travel & distress - & we may safely conclude the hindmost detachment will scarcely reach their homes in the west until March or April - Since I reached home I have learned Mr. Rags has purchased a Steam Boat & proceeded down the river in order to facilitate their journey if it should ^{afford} to change their mode of traveling. I behold with melancholy sensations the trying situation of this people next summer - Without the interposition of divine Providence I think we may calculate from 3 to 4000 will fall victims to the ravages of death by this means - at least I think 2000 have already gone to their genius. & the future we cannot tell - 2nd sheet

We ask your prayers that we may be guiden in the paths
of duty, & all our steps made in that way which shall
be for the Glory of God & the promotion of His cause -
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I am in fable health, but shall try to visit Mrs. Butler this
week & render her my assistance which she may need.
They will make arrangements I suppose to go west this
Spring - There has been an unexpexted change in affairs
here since I left home. The Board I think will realize
but little for the occupant right of the Mission Indians. Still
I hope we shall be able to keep out of protracted law
suits, or in any way incur debt upon the Board or
injures the cause of Missions.

I have begun a new this place for a small sum
receiving the buildings & a garden spot until next
autumn if it should seem best for us to continue here
as long -

Feb 15th I feel quite unable to do any, & I have been
under the necessity of writing at intervals -
your favrs of Oct 23^d & Dec 7th were duly received
With brother regards to all your
fellow laborers in the Missn
Boro, I am ever in
yours sincerely
A.B. Tolson