

Ex. Doc. No. 1.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO

THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS,

AT

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION

OF

THE THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

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DECEMBER 5, 1848.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the whole House on the state of the Union, and 15,000 extra copies, with the accompanying documents, ordered to be printed.

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WASHINGTON:

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1848

the rudiments of vocal music, and a good proportion read plain sacred music with fluency. In their attention to instruction, there is a steady and manifest improvement, which is very gratifying to those who have the charge of them; and, with the blessing of God upon our labors, we can but cherish high hopes for the future usefulness of these youth."

The boys have been required to labor from two to four hours in each day; and, on Saturdays, they have labored one-half of the day, and the other half has been considered their own time. Many of them have labored during their play hours, for which they have been compensated. The money they have thus received has been voluntarily devoted to charitable purposes. On the whole, we feel that the members of this school have manifested a *desire* for improvement, which has been a great satisfaction to us, and, I trust, gratifying to their friends. It has been an object with us to cultivate, as far as possible, their social feelings, and our efforts have been crowned with a good degree of success. The boys have manifested a *willingness* to labor, and enter into all the plans we have adopted for their improvement. We can but hope that our labors will prove a lasting benefit to those who are placed under our care.

Respectfully, yours,

CHARLES-C. COPELAND.

Colonel S. M. RUTHERFORD,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Choctaw nation.*

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No. 11—I.

GOOD WATER, July 7, 1848.

I take this opportunity to forward the annual report of this station and school for the year ending July 7, 1848. Some other things, also, in connexion with our labors here, perhaps, will interest you. And, in the first place, we would recognize the hand of a kind Providence by which our lives have been preserved. And, with the exception of one or two individuals, we have had tolerably good health through the year. Miss Belden has suffered from illness; but she has been able to teach through the year, with the exception of three weeks. I have suffered, since the meeting of presbytery in April, from inflammation of the eyes. This is the second letter that I have attempted to write, and this puts me in misery; and this is my apology for not writing you before. A great part of the time I have not been able to read in family worship. The scholars have all suffered from this disease during the winter; they have lost more than a month of study hours in this term; and it has broken the regularity of classes, which is so desirable for the steady progress of a school.

We have had our full number of boarders, viz: forty-four, through the year, with the exception of one, for eight weeks, at

the commencement of the term. There were but four changes made in scholars. The four new ones did not understand the English, or know the A B C's; changes like this are not calculated to increase the immediate interest of a school, or decrease the labors of the teachers. But we think, and those who have visited the schools think, that greater improvement has been made this term than at any former one. The whole number who have attended during the year is fifty-nine—forty-four boarders and fifteen day scholars.

Miss L. C. Downer had under her charge 33, and Miss C. M. Belden, 25.

The Bible has been the text book in both schools. Connected with the day school, we have had an interesting Sabbath school. This arrangement I consider of vital importance to the welfare of youth. Their studies have been Union Questions, vol. 1st, Emerson's Evangelical Primer, containing doctrinal and historical truth, and the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. It is surprising to see how much knowledge may be obtained in forty Sabbaths, under faithful and judicious teachers. The knowledge of what we are to be and to do is an important branch of science. In the Sabbath school, I am happy to say, our scholars have made good progress. In the domestic duties of the family the children are required to take part, and for this purpose are divided into companies, each company taking its turn in rotation. Thirteen have learned to cut and fit dresses; forty-two can card and spin cotton; nine can weave. Forty yards have been woven by them this term. The filling for the above has been spun by the smaller girls. Some attention has also been paid to ornamental needle work.

The people generally are waking up to the subject of education and general improvement. In three different places Saturday and Sabbath schools have been commenced. The expense of these schools is raised by individual subscriptions. The whole number of learners is between seventy and eighty. The man of thirty or thirty-five years is seen sitting with the little child of seven or eight, learning to read their own language. Many of this people are determined to learn something; if they cannot learn the English they will learn their own language. The effects of these schools have so far been good. Their minds have been turned off from their former habits and customs, which have often prevented their making good crops. Another good effect is, these schools tend to instruct and elevate the mind. From twenty years close observation on the habits and manners of this people, I can truly say that the "ball stick and the violin" have done very little towards civilizing or Christianizing them. But, on the other hand, I am happy to say that schools and the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ has done much. I would not deny this or any other people of their pastimes, but I would recommend those which would elevate them. The Choctaws have this proverb now among themselves: "We begin to improve just in proportion as we give heed to the preaching of the gospel."

The prospects before us as a mission are still encouraging.

This church covers an area of ten or twelve miles in breadth to about forty in length. Within these bounds we have four places where religious meetings are held almost every Sabbath. At three of these places we have houses to meet in; at one we meet in the open air. At three of these places the attendance on preaching has been increasing during the year. Since my report of last July, eighty-two persons have been received into this church, as the fruits of a continued revival of religion. No extra means or measures have been used to arouse or awaken excitement. The truths of the gospel have been exhibited in a plain and simple manner before the mind. These truths, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, are like "the fire and the hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces."

Only let truth affect a man savingly and there will be improvement internally and externally, personally and relatively, at home and abroad, in his family and out of it.

With much respect, I remain truly yours,

E. HOTCHKEN,

*Sup't. of Koonsher female seminary.*

Colonel RUTHERFORD,  
*Agent for the Choctaws.*

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No. 12.

CHEROKEE AGENCY, October 10, 1848.

SIR: In accordance with the regulations of the Indian Department, I have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report of the present condition of the Cherokee tribe west of the Mississippi river.

General good health prevails throughout the nation; but few cases of sickness, common to the country heretofore, have made their appearance within the last year.

The Cherokees are in a prosperous condition, so far as agricultural pursuits are concerned, many of them have large and extensive farms under good fences and well cultivated; all classes indeed have used great industry the present year, and, although their crops will be to some extent cut short on account of the drought, there will be an abundance raised for home consumption and to spare. The most of them have ample stocks of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, &c., and I am happy to say that the difficulties that for some years past seemed to separate them into parties seems to have subsided. They are now seldom mentioned by any. Should they, as I trust they will, forget the past, and once more become united as a people, they are, with the advantages they possess, destined in a very short time to become an enlightened and intelligent people.

I visited Tahlaquah, the seat of government, a few days since. Their committee and council were in session; peace and good order prevailed to an extent not very common in legislative bodies, and I hesitate not to say that, if the different parties were again united