

21st of May, with his family, in the Banian, capt. Smith, for Constantinople, by way of Smyrna.

"The disposition, which the Prudential Committee propose to make of our number," he says, "appears wise and judicious."—"I had commenced the revision of Carabet's translation of the Old Testament by the Hebrew. I shall take with me what he has completed, and pursue the revision at Constantinople."—"I feel," he adds, "and sometimes very deeply, that if I am ever to make sacrifices for Him, who has done and suffered so much for us, I have no time to lose. I must be up and doing. The night cometh—it will come certainly—it may come suddenly."

After the preceding was in type, a letter was received from Mr. Goodell, dated Smyrna, May 31st, stating his arrival in that place on the 29th.

We passed—he says—near the island of Tenos. As the sea was very smooth, I went on shore, though it was about midnight, and saw Mrs. Hill a few minutes. All the brethren had been gone several weeks at Athens, but were expected back to Tenos every hour. I have learnt at this place [Smyrna,] that Mr. King has opened a school at Athens, containing a hundred children, that he was about opening another, and that all the three families were making arrangements to remove to that city.

We find much alarm here on account of the plague, several cases of which have recently occurred. Mr. Brewer's schools are in consequence suspended. I have been on shore two or three times, and have been kindly received by all our friends who are in the place; but our intercourse is much interrupted in consequence of the plague.

Mr. Goodell expected to sail the next day, in the Banian, for Constantinople.

The letter was addressed to Mr. Evarts, who had, some days before, been removed to his everlasting rest; and proceeds as follows:

We trust, dear Sir, that your health has been benefitted by your voyage, and that your life will long be preserved. For ourselves, we feel thankful that we were permitted to enjoy so long a season of quiet and comfort at Malta, for our own good and the good of our children; and we feel thankful that we have health and spirits and opportunity again to go forth to these dark regions beyond. The Lord make us faithful and useful, and give us such refreshings as you are enjoying in America.

#### RETURN OF MESSRS. SMITH AND DWIGHT.

It is with no ordinary interest, that intelligence is now communicated of the safe return of Messrs. Smith and Dwight to Constantinople, from their long and important, but hazardous tour among the Armenians of the Caucasian regions. Just about a year had elapsed since they left Constantinople on their way to the east. Their return was on the 25th of May.—The following letter has been received from Mr. Smith, written the day after his arrival.

My dear brother—As the post is leaving for Smyrna, I seize a moment to inform you of our safe arrival at this place, knowing that you will participate in the extreme pleasure we feel in finding ourselves again so near our friends. We left Tebreez, in Persia, on the 8th of April, and have come by way of Bayazid, Erzeroomi, and Trebizonde; and have the greatest reason to be thankful to God, that we have been preserved through so long a journey, attended, as it has been, by so many exposures to rain, and snow, and the inhospitality of the Kurds, who inhabit a part of the region through which we passed.

We were prevented from returning by way of Syria, according to our original design, by the disturbed state of the pashalic of Bagdad, through which we should have been obliged to pass. We had contemplated that part of our journey with much interest, from the hope of visiting a large body of Nestorians in the vicinity of Mosul. But we obtained very satisfactory information, while in Persia, that a great part of them, together with the patriarch of El Koosh, have been for many years united to the papal church. We are, therefore, the less disappointed in not having been able to complete our design, though very sorry to receive so bad a piece of intelligence.

Before leaving Tebreez, we made a very interesting visit to a body of Nestorians in the province of Roomia, and had interviews with four of their bishops. The result of this visit, as well as of our inquiries among the Arminians, we hope to lay before the Committee soon after our arrival at Malta.

### Cherokees.

#### FURTHER PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE MISSIONARIES.

THE statements contained in the last number, respecting the oppressive treatment, to which the missionaries among the Cherokees are at this time subjected, brought the history of the case down to the arrest of Mr. Thompson, on the 23d of June, and the departure of Dr. Butler

for the head quarters of the Georgia guard, to surrender himself a prisoner, according to his promise. This history, presenting scenes altogether unlike any thing ever before witnessed in this country, or, it is believed, in any other protestant country, will now be resumed.

Mr. Thompson, writing under date of July 1st, after having mentioned the circumstances of his arrest, June 23d, as given by Miss Fuller, at p. 253, proceeds—

I was conducted on foot to the house of major Dawson, where colonel Nelson had lodged during the night, about two and a half miles distant from the mission. When I arrived I inquired as to the ground of my arrest. His reply was, "I have found you here, and that is a sufficient ground." I requested the privilege of riding my own horse to head quarters, assigning as a particular reason, a degree of indisposition which I had felt for more than a week. He replied that he should treat me as a prisoner, and that when I became fatigued with walking, I might ride in the baggage wagon. The day was spent at major Dawson's. During the whole of which I was closely guarded. At night major D. became security for my appearance the next morning, which favor relieved me from lying in chains, as I suppose, during the night.

July. 24. At eight o'clock this morning we commenced our march for head quarters, distant fifty miles. Two others, one white man and one Cherokee, were fellow prisoners with me. We were put under the command of a corporal and four privates. At first I was compelled to walk about six miles, and during the day nearly as far besides. Care was always taken to have the prisoners seen walking, when coming to, and leaving stopping places. But there was little to choose between walking and riding. For when in the wagon we had for our seats cooking vessels, sacks of bacon and meal, saddle-bags, blankets, &c., of which the greater part, as well as the sides of the wagon, were besmeared with grease and filth. For companions I had the three species of the human family, black, red, and white. They indulged freely in the use of whiskey; while oaths and cursing, and language which cannot be named by me, pained my ear almost incessantly.

A little before sunset we arrived at our lodging place for the night. Owing to the fatigue of the day, and having been somewhat unwell before, by this time I was greatly afflicted with a pain in my head, which was attended with considerable fever. Very soon, notwithstanding, chains were produced, and the prisoners directed to sit together. As I was indisposed, I requested the privilege of lying down before the chains were put on me. My request

was granted and the woman of the house kindly furnished me with a good bed. The chain was attached to my right ankle, and extended to one which confined the other prisoners together. After a few minutes col. Nelson, who had taken a different route, rode up, and gave orders, as I presume, to release me from chains on account of my ill health. At a late hour I obtained some rest, and in the morning felt somewhat better.

25. When we commenced our march this morning, the prisoners were ordered into the baggage wagon. We had twenty-two miles to ride. Both our driver and road were literally rough, and our passage consequently rough.

At two o'clock, P. M., we came in sight of the camp. The prisoners were directed to walk, and the guard to march in close order. Before the wagon rode two of the guard; immediately behind were the prisoners; while the remaining part of the company brought up the rear. As we approached the camp, the massy gates leading into the yard were opened by the sentinel within, and with all due formality the wagon, prisoners, and guard moved onward, passing in front of the quarters of col. Sanford, col. Nelson, and those of all the privates, when we found ourselves at the jail. A halt was made. The door was unlocked; and with peculiar emphasis it was said to the prisoners, "This is your house." We entered. The door was locked, and I began to survey the mansion to which I had been conducted with so much military display. But soon a messenger at the door turns the key and announces that col. Sandford wished to see me at his quarters. With him I had a few moments conversation, and he then said that I was at liberty to go where I pleased. No intimation was given either that I would be detained there, or delivered over to the civil authority. No particular inquiries were made as to the fact, whether my residence had been legally removed. A few complaints merely were made as to the freedom which I had used in conversation with certain Georgians, and some general denunciation of missionaries.

Thus I had been dragged fifty miles from the place appointed for preaching, and set at liberty 90 miles from my family, with the privilege of going where I pleased. I might walk home, or hire a horse, or resort to any other course which I might choose. Not the least apology was given for putting me to all this inconvenience. I am not disposed to comment upon a transaction so strange. You have the facts before you. The object was unquestionably to put me to inconvenience and trouble. But what has Georgia gained? I have conceded no point to which I held before. Col. Nelson, when I was first arrested, told me that I could not be permitted to itinerate in Georgia. I was glad

to hear this, because here is the ground on which I am willing to meet him. And I am determined to disregard all prohibitions, so far as this point is concerned. I can look at this; free from all extraneous considerations, and feel that the opposition which I here meet is persecution against the church.

Dr. Butler left Haweis on the 8th of June, as was intimated at p. 252. Under date of June 20th, he gives the following account of his arrival at the head quarters of the guard, and his interview with the commander.

I arrived at head quarters on Friday, the first. Col. Sanford told me I might have considered the letters I received as absolving me from the promise made by me when previously arrested. I told him I did not consider them so, for there was no reference made in them to my former arrest, and that I was under a moral obligation to fulfil my engagement. He said there was no need of descending to so metaphysical points; but that he was glad to see me so scrupulous, and that he would also be glad to see me equally scrupulous on other points. He was highly displeased with the course some missionaries were taking. He accused missionaries and Christians as being guilty of nearly all the evils existing in the world; and called them political fire-brands, who were sending their baneful influence through the United States. He said, also, that they were engaged in a systematic plan to unite church and state; and many other things equally ridiculous. I expected for an hour, whilst engaged in conversation, that he would order me to be arrested, as the ten days allowed for my removal had already expired. Indeed he once said, "As you are here you may as well stay." Very well, sir, I replied, it will be just as you say. He endeavored for some time to induce me to promise to remove my family from the disputed territory; but I told him positively that I would make no such engagement. He enquired particularly respecting Mrs. Butler's health; and, if asked, would probably say, that it was on her account, and through kindness to me, and in hopes that I would finally consent to remove, that he suffered me to return home. The permission was, however, voluntary in him. I did not request it.

In the course of his conversation with me, col. Sanford said that the missionaries could make such arrangements as they pleased for their families, but that if they continued where they were, he would shortly turn them and their effects into the highway, and put very different families into their dwellings; and added, that it would probably be better for missionaries and Christians to wander in the mountains and caves of the earth, clad in sheep-skins and goat-skins, as they did of old; and that

this would probably produce an increase of piety. He told me that if I did not get out of the way, he would arrest me again in a few days. With our present feelings, Mr. Worcester and myself, and our families, will remain until removed by force, unless we receive different advice from the Committee. Should my family be turned out of the house, they will be comfortably accommodated at the nearest neighbors until they can be removed to some other station. When arrested, I shall doubtless have to walk eighty or an hundred miles, and perhaps shall be hand-cuffed, or have a chain around my neck.

It is impossible not to remark on the extreme want of dignity, which characterised the language and conduct of the commander of the guard at this interview. If Dr. Butler had incurred the penalty of the law, why did not the officer arrest him, without adding insult and abuse to the terror of imprisonment? If he was unwilling to pursue rigorously the course marked out by the law, and wished to advise him as a friend to change his course and avoid the penalty, why did he not do it, in a serious and manly manner, without villifying Christians and missionaries?

Mr. Worcester was arrested on the 7th of July, as is learned from letters of that date. Dr. Butler was arrested by the same party as was also Mr. Trott and Mr. M'Leod, of the Methodist mission, all of whom were carried to the head quarters of the guard. Mr. M'Leod, it is understood, was subsequently released.

These transactions present a new scene in the history of the United States. It yet remains to be seen in what light our citizens will view it, and what feelings they will express. Heretofore, when they have seen men seized, tried, convicted, and imprisoned, they have seen them to be the intemperate and profane, the fraudulent, riotous, and frequenters of the haunts of dissipation and crime; they have seen them taken for their deeds of dishonesty and outrage, and made to bear the penalty of the law, with the full approbation of the whole intelligent and virtuous part of the community. Now they witness a new scene. They behold men of highly cultivated minds, men of irreproachable moral and religious character, citizens pursuing lawful occupations in a peaceable manner, charged with no crime but that of being found occupying their own houses and lands, where they had gone with the express approbation of the government of the United States; Christian ministers, entirely unimpeached, who would be admitted to every pulpit of their own denomination throughout the United States;—such men our citizens now see dragged from their schools,

their pulpits, and their ministrations at the Lord's table, chained one to another, like felons of the first order, and hurried before a criminal court and to prison. Our citizens have been accustomed to see offenders against the laws arrested by civil officers, acting in obedience to the warrant of a civil magistrate; but now they see armed soldiers, without any civil precept, scouring the country, arresting whom they please, detaining them as long as they please, and releasing them when and where they please. Our citizens have been accustomed to see persons that were under arrest, especially before their condemnation, treated with great humanity, subjected to no unnecessary confinement or hardship, borne down with no insult or abuse; but now they see those who make no attempt to resist or escape, loaded with irons, forced to travel great distances on foot, vilified, reproached, and threatened by their captors. Such scenes as these are strange and unexpected in this country. They are so strange, that, perhaps, our citizens cannot believe that they exist. But they are actually witnessed at the present time; and the missionaries which the churches have sent forth to the uncivilized, are the sufferers. They bring fresh to mind the prosecution and imprisonment of the nonconformists in the days of Charles, and the cruel vexations experienced by the Waldenses under the duke of Savoy.

## Choctaws.

EXTRACTS FROM A COMMUNICATION FROM MR. KINGSBURY, DATED APRIL 6, 1831.

*Petition of the Choctaws for Missionaries to accompany them to their New Country.*

THE circumstances under which the following petition of col. Folsom, and many of the people of his district, was drawn up and presented, are stated below.

We had an interesting meeting at Mayhew on Saturday, Sabbath, and Monday, the 19th, 20th, and 21st of March. Col. Folsom was present, and more than 200 of the natives, old and young. The forenoon of Saturday was occupied in the examination of the schools. The evidence of improvement exhibited by the scholars appeared to give universal satisfaction. The afternoon of Saturday and the Sabbath were devoted to religious exercises. The holy sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered, and one person was admitted to the fellowship of the church on examination.

During the meeting, an address to the missionaries was drawn up by col. Fol-

som, on behalf of the members of the church, and signed by the leading members present. At the close of this meeting, col. Folsom delivered a talk to the missionaries, in which he spoke more at large on the topics mentioned in the written address. He requested that at least one or two missionaries might go with them to their new home.

This talk was replied to by myself. I brought into view the present situation of the mission, its embarrassments, and what it was that had occasioned them. I also stated our attachment to the Choctaws, and that wherever they might go, they would have our best wishes; and I gave it as my opinion, that one or two missionaries would be permitted to accompany them.

It seemed desirable, that the little flock that has been gathered into the fold of Christ should have some ground of hope that they would not be entirely deserted by the under shepherds. The thought of this would greatly add to their other afflictions. The members of the church generally, and many others, never appeared more affectionate, or more sensible of the benefits they have received from the missionaries, than at the present time. I trust that the Committee, notwithstanding all discouragements, will not abandon this people in their present perilous and distressing situation. On whomsoever else the blame of disinheriting them may fall, the common people are clear; they have ever been opposed to a removal.

The petition, or address, was made at a time of very great trial. Although the Choctaw chiefs had agreed to certain articles of a treaty, under the impression that they must leave their present country, or submit to the laws of the state of Mississippi, and all the consequent evils; yet it was a prevailing opinion, almost universal among the common people, that the treaty would not be ratified. They knew that the great mass of the Choctaws were opposed to selling their country; that their wishes had not been consulted; and that the assent of many who were regarded as having agreed to the treaty, had been obtained by misrepresentation and deception. They knew, also, that they owned their country, and had a right, by solemn treaties, as well as by immemorial possession and usage, to hold it independent and unmoled, under laws of their own making, and rulers of their own choosing. They could not, therefore, believe that those, from whom they had been accustomed to look for just and kind treatment, would do any thing so unjust and oppressive, as to approve and bind upon them a treaty, which took their country from them without their consent. They could not realize