

***Missionary Herald, XXVII (October 1831), pp. 332-334.***

CHEROKEES.

Additions to the Church at Creekpath.

Under date of Aug. 15th, Mr. Potter writes—

We have not, at any time since our residence here, been so highly favored in spiritual things, as during the last twelve months. Within that time six persons have united with the church, four of whom are members of the school. One or two others, we hope, have chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from them. George Whitfield appears well, and would rejoice to unite with the church; but considering his youth, it was thought best for him to wait a season.

A very interesting three days' meeting closed yesterday. It was well attended and was a time of deep solemnity. I hope impressions were made by the Holy Spirit, which will produce fruits to the glory of God the Father. We feel much encouraged and would praise God for his goodness to the children of men.

The church here has also been deeply afflicted by the death of Dempsy Fields, who died three days after Mr. Evarts. No doubt they had a very unexpected and happy meeting in their Father's house.

Correspondence relative to the Arrest of the Missionaries.

Mr. Worcester's account of the second arrest of himself and Dr. Butler, and of the treatment which they received from the Georgia Guard, while on the way to the head quarters, was inserted at p. 299. It was also stated that they were set at liberty, upon giving bonds to appear at the next session of the superior court of the state. The state of Mrs. Worcester's health, she being then, and having been many months entirely confined to her bed, unable to be removed to another place without the greatest hazard of her life, and having no suitable person to attend upon her, rendered it very desirable for Mr. W. to reside at New Echota while his trial was pending; or at least till the health of his wife should be so far restored as to admit of her being removed. Still, as strict orders had been given by the governor to have the missionaries arrested forthwith, if they should return to their stations, and to repeat the arrests as often as they should be found in the Cherokee nation, he knew that he could render little service to his family, and should be constantly exposed to be dragged from his home to prison, and from prison to court, by a guard from whom he could expect no mercy, unless there should be some understanding that, owing to the afflicted condition of his family, the orders would not be rigorously enforced in his case.

E. W. Chester, Esq., who had been counsel for Mr. Worcester before the court, knowing the circumstances of the case, wrote, at his own suggestion, the following letter to col. Sanford, the agent of Georgia.

Lawrenceville, July 25, 1831.

Col. John W. A. Sanford,

Dear Sir—Of the proceedings and their result, in relation to the missionaries you will have heard before this reaches you. I have now an appeal to make to your kindness and humanity. You are acquainted with the circumstances of Mrs. Worcester, and aware that at present her removal is impracticable. So soon as she can be removed, it is the intention of Mr. Worcester to leave the chartered limits of Georgia with his family. He is already under sufficient bonds for his appearance at court, and I take it upon myself to say that he will appear to answer to any complaints already entered, or which may be hereafter alleged against him. And I will further say, that if you wish any bond or security to answer for his appearance to answer to the complaint of residing in the nation from this time till such time as will admit of the removal of his family, that it shall be given. Under these circumstances and with these assurances, I have to solicit that he may not be torn from his family in their present situation, but suffered to remain with them, holding himself, as before suggested, amenable to the laws fore such continuance. I am persuaded that you will not deem this request an unreasonable one, and that a compliance wjth it will be alike consistent with what you may conceive to be your duty, and with your feelings. Will you have the goodness to put into the hands of the bearer, Mr. Thompson, an answer to this, directed either to myself or to Mr. Worcester.

I shall regard a compliance with this request as a particular favor to myself, as well as to the parties more deeply concerned.

Your obedient servant,  
Elisha. W. Chester.

To this Mr. Worcester appended a note, stating that he concurred in the letter written by Mr. Chester, and would hold himself responsible as there proposed. The letter was delivered to col. Sanford at Camp Gilmer, the headquarters of the guard, and elicited the following in reply. The words included in brackets were inserted by Mr. Worcester for the purpose of rendering the meaning more obvious.

Scudder's, July 26th, 1831.

Sir—In answer to the letter of E. W. Chester, Esq., written it seems at your instance, I will briefly remark that I do not consider myself vested with any power whatever to dispense with the laws of the state. If they operate harshly upon you, the fault is exclusively your own. If they tear you from your family when sickness renders your personal services necessary, blame none but yourself for the separation. You know full well Sir, that you could have remained in peace with them, and administered to their necessities, had you been disposed to demean yourself uprightly as a citizen of the state. There is nothing in her statues [statutes] requiring him [you] to neglect his [your] family in their distress; on the contrary proper punishment if does, [you do.] Of the indisposition of Mrs. W. I have frequently heard; her case appears a protracted one. I regret her sufferings. I rejoice to hear the prospect of her recovery. But not until very recently have you thought proper to assign her indisposition as the reason, of your remaining improperly within our territory. Believing now that it is a mere subterfuge, by which you may be permitted to continue, undisturbed, your nefarious machinations, your request cannot be granted. Your misconduct may be the misfortune of your family;—neither sorrow nor sympathy, for their situation, can impede the course of justice. The object of my station is to prevent, not to permit

transgressions of the law. I should myself, therefore, be guilty of a dereliction of duty, were I to allow you to become farther criminal.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. W. A. Sanford.

Rev. Samuel A. Worcester.

To this Mr. Worcester subsequently replied—

Brainerd, Aug. 4th, 1831.

Col. J. W. A. Sanford,

Sir—Before the receipt of yours of July 26th, I had been blaming myself that I did not, in expressing my concurrence in Mr. Chester's letter, state explicitly, for fear of misapprehension, that my intention to remove my family, related simply to the time during which ray trial is pending. I did not mean to give any intimation relating or extending to any subsequent period. Whatever of obligation, however, that letter might be supposed, by way of promise, to imply, that obligation is cancelled by your answer.

You remark that not until recently have I urged the indisposition of Mrs. Worcester as the reason of my continued residence at New Echota. I hope I have not been understood to imply that such was the reason, until since I have been bound over to answer at court for such residence. Not until then has it been the reason; for although my circumstances were indeed such that I could not have removed if I would, yet I never had a wish to conceal the truth, that I should not have thought it my duty to do" so, if it had been in my power. I believed that I ought not to yield my right of residence, until it could be fairly tested before judicial tribunals. But when, by my arrest, and being bound for my appearance at court, the question was brought into a train for adjudication, I considered it as not expedient, if it could be avoided, to expose myself to repeated arrests. With this view I expressed to Mr. Chester my intention of removing, if practicable, while the cause was pending, and concurred in the request which he voluntarily offered to make in my behalf.

As to the nefarious machinations of which you accuse me, supposing that no other things can be intended than those intimated by his excellency governor Gilmer in his letter to me, I deem it sufficient, in reply, to refer you to my answer to him, a copy of which is in your possession.

I am respectfully,  
S. A. Worcester.

Third Arrest of Mr. Worcester.

Under date of Aug. 18th, Miss Fuller, who is residing in the family of Mr. Worcester at New Echota, during his absence, gives the following account of the death of Mr. Worcester's infant child. The affliction was rendered peculiarly distressing by the fact that Mr. W. could not be present to mingle his sorrows with those of his family, or to afford the needed support and consolation in the hour of sickness

and anxiety, or when death entered his dwelling, or when the body of the infant sufferer was committed to the grave.

Mr. Worcester's family have just been visited by a new affliction. On Sabbath last, the 14th inst., after an illness of one week, their infant daughter expired. Her disorder was a complaint of the bowels, occasioned, as we believe, by teething. She was just four weeks old. Her father was sent for immediately after her death, but in consequence of being at Candy's Creek, did not reach home until Tuesday night. Few parents are placed in situations where they can fully realize the feelings of Mr. and Mrs. Worcester under this bereavement; but they are consoled by the blessed promise, "All things shall work together for good to them that love God."

On Wednesday night, when most of the family had retired to bed, one of the Georgia guard came to the house in disguise, and seeing Mr. Worcester through a window, spoke to him in a low tone of voice, and requested him to come there. Mr. W. immediately went to the door, when this same disguised, unarmed soldier, said he had come as his friend, to give him notice that he must look out, for the guard would be here about to-morrow night. Mr. W. inquired his name, in reply he said, "I live over here for to-night." By this time an armed soldier was seen advancing and Mr. W. was soon made prisoner. He was taken to Mr. Tarvin's, the only place of resort in this neighborhood for the guard and their prisoners. Miss Sawyer and I immediately started for the same place, intending to know, if possible, before we slept, what further awaited Mr. Worcester. We took a nearer way than the guard, and arrived first. But they soon came up. On their arrival Mr. W. said to col. Nelson that he felt bound to state the circumstances under which he was at home. The colonel, with a haughty air, replied, "The circumstances can be stated at court, Sir, we cannot hear them;" and then turned his back towards Mr. W. and began talking with his men, as if refusing to listen to any thing further. Mr. W. then begged the indulgence of speaking a few words, to which the colonel assented. Mr. W. then remarked that on last Monday evening, being fifty-two miles from home, he was apprized of the death of his youngest daughter; that on Tuesday he started for home, but was calculating to start in the morning for Brainerd. He then told him, he could retain him or not, as he thought proper. After inquiring when the child died, the colonel told him, that, if such were the circumstances of the case, he might consider himself released. "We wish," said he, "not to oppress, but to execute the laws of Georgia."

I can assure you, we all returned home pretty soon, rejoicing that Mr. W. was once more released from a company of cruel men, who had before, besides chaining and imprisoning him, offered every indignity in words, which our language is capable of expressing. To the Lord be the praise, for he hath disappointed the devices of the enemy. These repeated shocks are peculiarly trying to Mrs. W. in her feeble state of health. There is one mighty to sustain.