

## American Board of Foreign Missions.

### THE IMPRISONED MISSIONARIES.

*Letters from Mr. Worcester and Dr. Butler.*

A letter from Mr. Worcester was inserted in the last number, p. 363, giving an account of the trial of himself and Dr. Butler. It was also stated that these two men, citizens of other states, had been thrown into the penitentiary of Georgia, and doomed to hard labor for four years, for no other crime than that of being found guilty of prosecuting their labors as teachers and missionaries, within that part of the Cherokee country over which the state of Georgia has recently extended her jurisdiction.

A letter of Mr. Worcester, written in the penitentiary, and dated the 6th of October, has been published in the Journal of Humanity, from which the following is taken.

I need not tell you any thing respecting my coming here, as you have doubtless seen accounts of it. You know that Dr. Butler is with me. Whether Providence will provide a way for our release before our time expires, we know not. We have applied to the Supreme court of the United States, and expect a hearing next winter, but whether the decision will be in our favor, and whether it will be executed if it is, remains for futurity to disclose. You know how to appreciate the motives which have brought us here. We are happy. We enjoy I trust that light of God's countenance which can make man rejoice in affliction. Whatever the result may be as to earthly things, we hope to realize the fulfilment of that precious promise, all things shall work together for good to them that love God.

I preached Sabbath before last to about twenty-six prisoners confined in the same room with me, and last Sabbath in a room to which about sixty had access. I hope for similar opportunities hereafter. Dr. Butler and I sleep in different rooms, and have worship in each every night. Whether any good will follow remains with God. To human view, it is a discouraging task to preach to men who, as the inmates of a penitentiary may of course be expected to be, are corrupt and corrupting one another. But God can bless the effort if he will.

A letter has recently been received from Dr. Butler, dated Georgia penitentiary, October 16th, which is given below.

On the 15th of last month, as you have already learned, I was brought to trial, and the next day sentenced to four years imprisonment in this place, at hard labor. I arrived here on the 23d. Since that time my health has generally been as good as I commonly enjoy. I have been able to labor every day, and hope I may continue to be, during my time of service. It would be a great trial to be afflicted with sickness here.

I have formerly been told, there was no need of my going to the penitentiary; that it was easy for me to avoid it, if I would; and some have even told me so since I have been here; others, I have been informed, have said the same. I would by no means compare myself with any of those mentioned below; but you will doubtless understand my meaning. Nebemiah might have gone into the temple, if he would. Shadrach and his companions might have worshipped the image of Babylon, if they would. Daniel might have ceased to pray for a season, if he would.—But not to pursue this train of thought farther—they could not conscientiously comply with these requirements. Others in similar circumstances could not conscientiously comply with other requirements. However easy it might appear to others, I could not conscientiously comply with requirements which would have kept me from this confinement. And now, dear Sir, I have to say that, through the goodness of God, I have yet had enough to support me; I have had even more than I anticipated. And I am led firmly to believe that any man contending for the rights of conscience and the liberty of spreading the gospel, will always find strength given him from above. Whilst in confinement I have many happy hours; some of the happiest of my life. I am also convinced, "that nothing is to be feared where the love of the Father is found; nothing is painful where the love of Christ is exhibited; nothing is sorrowful where the Holy Ghost distills its heavenly rejoicings."

Though I am in apparent distress, I am not cast down; though I am troubled, I am not forsaken; and though my body is imprisoned, my soul is at full liberty.—O this precious liberty of soul! it is of more value than liberty of body, than the society of the nearest and dearest friends; yea, it is of more value than life itself; the enjoyment of rubies and all the riches of the world are not to be compared with it. Here I find communion with God more precious than in any other place; for here it is the source of all my enjoyment. Being cut off from the various enjoyments of life, why is it not reasonable that there should be great additional enjoyment in God; even that enjoyment which will fill up the vacancy occasioned by the privations of other enjoyments. I hope I am now and shall ever be thankful for the enjoyments of this place. I have religious books to read. I am confined by night in a building with fifty-eight others; we occupy two rooms connected together by a pair of stairs. I have worship every evening, when I read in the Bible, exhort, and sing, before prayer. Sometimes I am occupied for hours in answering questions on religious subjects. There are two or three of our number I have some hopes are really pious; though their fruits must decide their true state. Several have solemnly resolved to renounce their profaneness and other acts of wickedness.

It is not too much to say, there is a religious feeling manifested by a number of prisoners. I hope we may be instrumental of good to these unfortunate convicts. I think we have generally their respect and confidence; and their acts of wickedness they studiously endeavor to conceal from us. Here I find the infidel, the uni-

versalist, and, strange as it may seem, the self-righteous. One man came to me the other day, after I had had conversation with him, and he had acknowledged his wickedness, and said, "I have one favor to ask of you; I have resolved to plead with God for forgiveness, and pray until I die; and I wish you to pray for me, as vile, wicked and wretched a creature as perhaps ever lived; your prayers may be of great service to me." A few days since my family was well, and the school in operation. Mr. Ross and Mr. Lavender had written to Mrs. Butler that they would supply her with any thing she needed. Mrs. Butler and the family were in good spirits, and things in operation as usual at the station.

It is understood from a gentleman who recently visited these brethren, and conversed with them, and saw the room of one of them, that the yard of the penitentiary, enclosed by a high wall, contains about five acres; that the number of prisoners is now about one hundred; that Mr. Worcester and Dr. Butler are confined at night in separate rooms, each having twenty-eight or thirty others with him; that they are clad in a shirt and trousers of coarse cotton, having the initials of their names, and the term of imprisonment painted in large characters on the breast, and that when the cold season arrives, they will be provided with a jacket in addition; that a blanket is furnished them for a bed and covering at night; that their food is coarse, but sufficient in quantity and wholesome; that Mr. Worcester is employed principally in a shop as a mechanic, and Dr. Butler in turning a lathe wheel; that they receive as kind treatment from the keepers as could be expected; and that they are cheerful and happy.

#### *Prayer for the Imprisoned Missionaries.*

These brethren are again commended to the sympathies and prayers of the friends of missions. It is for conscience sake that they are in this state of confinement and bond-service. The work which they were doing, and for continuance in which they have been arrested, tried, condemned, stigmatized as malefactors, and ignominiously thrown into a public penitentiary, was not *their* work peculiarly. It was the work of preaching the gospel to the ignorant and destitute—a work which Christ has charged ministers and churches generally to take care to have performed. In the Providence of God it has fallen to the lot of these brethren to occupy the post of danger, such a post as no one supposed could be found in this age, and especially in this Christian land. They are the representatives and agents of the churches, were doing their work, and are suffering, as it were, in their stead. It is no more than right,

then, that they should be supported by the sympathy and prayers of their brethren in the ministry, and of all the churches. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. Although their situation in prison may not be one of the extremest hardship and suffering, yet surely it is no trifling thing for free citizens and honest men, men of Christian sensibility, to be publicly tried and sentenced as criminals, to have their names entered on the records of the court and held up before this community as criminals. It is no trifling thing to be torn from their churches and their work as ministers of the gospel and teachers, to be separated from their wives and children, excluded from all social enjoyments and religious society, and shut up with felons in a gloomly and loathsome prison, at servile labor, under task-masters, for four years. It is for free citizens of this nation, against whom no crime is alleged except that of residing in the Cherokee nation—it is for members of Christian churches in good standing, who would be admitted to the Lord's table by every church of the same denomination in the United States—it is for ministers of the gospel of unimpeachable character, that the sympathies and prayers of all the friends of missions are requested. Ministers and churches should make the case their own.

At their late annual meeting the Board adopted the following resolution, which was inserted in the last number of this work, viz.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the churches to make the present condition and trials of the suffering and imprisoned missionaries of the Board the subject of special prayer to almighty God, and particularly at the monthly concert on the first Munday in December next, that this dark dispensation, may be overruled for the extension of the gospel and the ultimate prosperity of the missionary cause.

It is to be hoped that prayer on this subject has not been suspended in any of the churches till this time, and that it will not cease with this monthly concert, or be limited to similar occasions. There should be public prayer on the Sabbath, and daily prayer in the family, and in the closet, that the Head of the Church will preserve the lives and health of these brethren in bonds; that he will give them strength to bear the hardships that may come upon them; that he will comfort them with his presence and the consolations of his grace; that during this scene of trial he will enable them to exercise and exhibit the spirit of their divine Master before their keepers and the prisoners; that he will make them useful to the unhappy men by whom they are surrounded; that he will protect and comfort their families in this time of bereavement;

that he will give to our rulers and judges wisdom and firmness to pursue the course of justice and humanity; that he will cause a correct public sentiment on this subject to prevail among the people of this nation, and will excite them to great vigilance to discern and resist every invasion of our free institutions, and every violation of the national faith; and that in his overruling Providence he will cause this distressing event to promote the ultimate well-being of this nation and the Indians, and the advancement of his own kingdom in the world.

ORDINATION OF MISSIONARIES.

Messrs. Asher Wright and David B. Lyman were ordained as missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at Hanover, N. H. October 12th. The former has proceeded to join the Seneca mission, in the state of New York; and the latter is destined to the Sandwich Islands. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. President Lord.

Messrs. William P. Alexander, of Kentucky, and William M. Thomson, of Ohio, were ordained by the presbytery of Cincinnati, at an adjourned meeting held in that city, Oct. 12th. The sermon was preached by the Rev. John Thomson. Mr. Alexander is destined to the Sandwich Islands, and Mr. Thomson to Syria.

Messrs. Harvey R. Hitchcock and Lorenzo Lyons, appointed missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to the Sandwich Islands, were ordained by the Cayuga presbytery, N. Y., on the 20th of September. Rev. Josiah Hopkins, of Auburn, preached the sermon, and Rev. Timothy Stow, of Elbridge, gave the charge.

Mr. Richard Armstrong and Mr. Cochran Forbes were ordained as missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. on the 27th of November, at Baltimore, by the presbyteries of Baltimore and Philadelphia. The Rev. Joshua T. Russell preached the sermon, the Rev. Dr. Green made the ordaining prayer, and the Rev. Dr. McAuley gave the charge. Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Forbes are destined to the Sandwich Islands.

Mr. William Gottlieb Schaffler was ordained, Nov. 14th, in Park-street church, Boston, as a missionary to the Jews of Turkey. Sermon by Professor Stuart of Andover, from Rom. xi, 25—31. Dr. Jenks gave the charge, and the Rev. William Adams, of Brighton, gave the fellowship of the churches. Mr. Schaffler is under the direction of the Board, but receives his support from the Ladies' Jews Society of Boston and Vicinity. He embarks immediately for France, expecting to spend three or four months in attendance on the public lectures at Paris, before going to Constantinople.

No less than nineteen persons, male and female, were present on this occasion, who had received appointments from the Prudential Committee to go on foreign missions, and nearly all of them were on the point of embarkation.

We regret being obliged to say, that the artist has not been able to complete the portrait of Mr. Everts in time for this number. It will be inserted in the number for January.

FORMATION OF ASSOCIATIONS.

**MASSACHUSETTS.** *Norfolk co.* Dorchester, Village church. Gent. Asso. Rev. D. Sanford, Pres. Dea. S. Robinson, V. Pres. James Clapp, Sec. and Treas. 2 coll.—Lad. Asso. Mrs. D. Sanford, Pres. Mrs. S. Robinson, V. Pres. Mrs. J. Clap, Sec. Mrs. J. Porter, Treas. 1 coll. Sept. 8.

*Martha's Vineyard.* Edgarton. Lad. Asso. Mrs. Grace Martyn, Pres. Miss Clarissa Coffin, Sec. Mrs. Alice Coffin, Treas.—Juvenile Asso. Rev. J. H. Martyn, Pres. Miss Harriet Ripley, Sec. and Treas.

**VERMONT.** *Addison co.* New Haven. Gent. and Lad. Asso. Solomon Brown, Pres. Rodman Chapman, V. Pres. Martin Cowles, Sec. Rev. Joel Flisk, Treas.

Donations

FROM OCTOBER 16TH, TO NOVEMBER 15TH, INCLUSIVE.

I. AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

<i>Brookfield asso.</i> Ms. A. Newell, Tr.	700 00
<i>Cheshire co.</i> N. H., C. H. Jaquith, Tr.	
Alstead, 1st par. La. cent so.	16 74
Fitzwilliam, Gent. 33,13; la. 40;	73 13
Gilsum, A. Howard,	5 00
Keene, Gent. 28,38; la. 36,84;	
mon. con. 23,99;	89 21
Nelson, Gent. 44,06; la. 16,03; C.	
Rose, 3,32;	63 41
New Alstead, Gent. 12; la. 13;	
la. cent so. 10,74;	35 74
Roxbury, A friend,	1 50
Walpole, Gent. and la. 14,15;	
mon. con. 2,60;	16 75
Winchester, Gent. 11,03; la.	
12,55; mon. con. 5,44; a friend,	
50c.;	29 52—325 00
<i>Essex co.</i> Ms. J. Adams, Tr.	
Gloucester, 1st par. La.	17 87
<i>Essex co.</i> N. J., T. Frelinghuysen,	
Tr.	438 87
<i>Fairfield co.</i> West, Ct. M. Marvin,	
Tr.	
Darien, Gent. and la.	50 00
Norfield, Gent. 8,50; la. 14,32;	22 82
North Canaan, Gent. 16,75; la.	
37,62; mon. con. 40,61;	94 98
North Greenwich, Gent. 24; la.	
24; mon. con. 37,33; a female,	
25c.	85 58
North Stamford, Gent. and la.	16 48
Norwalk, Gent. 85,65; la. 58,51;	144 16
Stamford, Gent. and la.	34 42
Stanwick, Gent. 29,32; la. 16,89;	46 21
West Greenwich, La.	39 10—533 75
<i>Farmington and vic.</i> Ct. M.	
Cowles, Tr.	
Avon, 1st so. Gent. 24; la. 13,83;	37 83
2d so. Gent. 16,64; la. 20,30;	36 94
Bristol, Gent. 118,41; la. 52,25;	170 66
Burlington, Gent. 38,09; la. 20,17;	58 26
Farmington, Gent. 155,49; la.	
165,05;	320 54
Southington, Gent. 113,50; la.	
78,50;	192 00—816 23
<i>Hampden co.</i> Ms. S. Warriner, Tr.	
Blandford, Gent. 49,19; la. for	
the Blandford school in Bom-	
bay, 60,13; mon. con. 14,04;	123 36
Chester, Gent. 13,53; la. 34,34;	
mon. con. 15;	62 87
Chirkopee Factory, Mon. con.	13 80
East Granville, Gent. 7,35; la.	
8,92;	16 27
Feeding Hills, La. 5,88; mon.	
con. 2,20;	8 08
Longmeadow, Gent. 35; la. 40;	75 00
E. par. Gent. 3,75; la. 7,19;	
mon. con. 4,65;	15 50