

LETTERS AND CONVERSATIONS

ON THE

CHEROKEE MISSION.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF

*Conversations on the Bombay Mission.*

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REVISED BY THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

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SECOND EDITION.

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BOSTON:  
MASSACHUSETTS SABBATH SCHOOL SOCIETY  
Depository, No. 24, Cornhill.

1833.

from the words, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth."

*Delia.* Did David Brdwn recover after that attack of bleeding at the lungs?

*Cornelia.* No, from that time he continued to languish, but was happy in his Savior until the time of his departure which happened near the time of the death of Mrs. Fernal and Mrs. Butler. I have often thought it was a merciful dispensation that removed this young man before the nation was involved in those political troubles that have since caused so much grief to the pious Cherokees and all who truly love their nation.

*Jerome.* Cousin, I think you had better let us know about these troubles to which you so feelingly allude.

*Cornelia.* I will send you the Missionary Heralds for the years 1831, 1832, and the two first numbers for this year, 1833, for it was during this period that the missionaries were hindered, and the Cherokees disturbed and distressed by the arrest of some of the missionaries and their subsequent imprisonment in the *penitentiary* of Georgia.

*Jerome.* But you have not told us why they were arrested. I have never heard of ministers of the Gospel being sent to prison in this country; what had they done?

*Cornelia.* They refused to take the oath of allegiance to Georgia, and obtain a license from the governor of that state to live and labor with those Cherokees living within the chartered limits of that state.

*Delia.* Did the public suffer these good men to be shut up in prison?

*Cornelia.* Not without an effort to have them liberated. Their case was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States by writ of error. This court declared the laws of Georgia under which the missionaries were arrested to be repugnant to the constitution. And the missionaries were ordered by this court to be released immediately, but they remained in confinement more than a year and a half.

*Delia.* What were the names of the missionaries thus cruelly treated?

*Cornelia.* The Rev. Mr. Worcester of New Echota and Doctor Butler of Haweis. Much of this distressing time four of the stations were almost entirely neglected, and white traders brought ardent spirits and sold to as many of the Cherokees as they could tempt to purchase and drink. You must read over the Heralds I shall send you, and you will find out a great deal more than I shall have time to communicate before I return home.

Those missionaries who were stationed beyond the limits of Georgia redoubled their diligence in preaching, and in preparing tracts and a new edition of a Hymn Book. The schools already in operation were sustained as far as practicable. When Mr. Proctor the teacher at Carmel was driven from his school, he obtained permission to open a school in the Amohee district, where there was a large settlement. The people manifested uncommon eagerness for a school, and made great despatch in erecting the necessary buildings, so that the first week Mr. Proctor had thirty scholars who boarded with their parents. Those who could obtain money, bought school books for their children at the store in the vicinity, and the rest paid Mr. Proctor for them in corn, chickens and other articles they could spare, so that a large school was raised with very little expense to the Board.

Before the missionaries were driven from Carmel, Hightower, Haweis and New Echota by the Georgia Guard, Temperance Societies, and other associations for the promotion of religion, morals, learning and benevolence had been formed among them, and were in a flourishing condition. The members of these and other churches in the nation have generally walked worthy of their profession, and many

of them would be considered bright and shining lights in any of our churches, but in that dark land they shone with peculiar lustre. A very good meeting-house was built by the nation at Haweis in 1831, but a fire broke out in some of the neighboring forests and spread till it consumed this building, and I presume others beside.

*Delia.* How many belong to the Mission churches, cousin?

*Cornelia.* About two hundred and thirty, exclusive of the mission families. In 1831, there were eight churches.

*Jerome.* What proportion of the people have received an education?

*Cornelia.* I cannot tell, but more than three hundred Cherokees have received an education equal to the correct transaction of the business of common life, and as many as three hundred more have been taught to read and write English; but some of these have gone to the Arkansas country.

At some of the Cherokee school examinations, the girls have appeared well in grammar and geography, and some of the specimens of needle-work produced on these occasions have been very beautiful. A minister after attending an examination at Creek-Path, wrote to a friend, "I wish that all who feel indifferent or

opposed to missions had been present. Their ill-founded prejudices must surely have vanished in view of such an interesting spectacle." The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Potter, with Miss Sargent and Miss Nash continue to occupy that station. The Brainerd station has been rebuilt, and a large school is now in operation.

*Delia.* Who are the missionaries there at present?

*Cornelia.* Mr. Ellsworth is teacher and superintendent of secular concerns. Mr. Vail and Mr. Blount are farmers and mechanics, Mr. Parker is the miller: all these have wives, and Miss Sargent is the school-mistress.

The Rev. Mr. Chamberlin, resides at Willstown, Mr. Ellis is the farmer, and here Mrs. Hoyt the widow of the Rev. Arel Hoyt continues to dwell with her daughter Mrs. Chamberlain. Mr. Huss, a native preacher also resides here. The females in Mr. Chamberlin's church have formed a benevolent society, and the blacks in his neighborhood have been brought under Christian instruction, and have united to form a society auxiliary to the Colonization Society. The missionaries of late devote much time to preaching in various parts of the nation, and they have endeavored to preserve the churches from being

scattered and destroyed in the confusion and political disturbances of the day.

*Jerome.* What has been concluded upon by the government with regard to the Indians?

*Cornelia.* I am not able to inform you correctly, but I believe they wish to have the Cherokees move over the river, and join their brethren of the Arkansas. Some have already gone, and as soon as they vacate a house and plantation white men move in and occupy them. I have just heard of the release of Mr. Worcester and Dr. Butler, from the Georgia States Prison, but have no means of knowing the course they will pursue.

*Delia.* Was not the whole country indignant at the treatment of these gentleman?

*Cornelia.* All good people sympathized with them, their families and the Cherokees, and much prayer was made for them. The missionaries themselves bore the trials they were called to endure with great meekness, and christian heroism, and felt sustained by the approbation of the American Board of missions, under whose patronage they had labored to rescue the Indians from temporal and eternal misery; and more than all by the approving smiles of Jehovah. Resolutions were passed by a number of ecclesi-

astical bodies expressive of approbation of their conduct and confidence in the wisdom and uprightness of their course. But to know how much was felt and expressed on the occasion you must look over the religious and political periodicals of those times, and you will then be able to form a more correct estimate of the characters of these gentlemen, and the cause they so warmly espoused; and also the motives that actuated the opposers of the Mission, and those who arrested the missionaries.

If my parents do not call for me too soon, I intend to give you a little history of the Mission that followed the Cherokees who emigrated to the Arkansas Territory.

*Delia.* Do let us all go to the bower and have one more pleasant meeting there. If we have tea early, will there not be time to hear it before dark?

*Cornelia.* Perhaps there will be. We will now sing the Jubilee song. Come, you must all help.

“ Hark the song of jubilee,  
 Loud as mighty thunders roar,  
 Or the fulness of the sea,  
 When it breaks upon the shore:  
 Hallelujah; for the Lord,  
 God omnipotent, shall reign;  
 Hallelujah! let the word  
 Echo round the earth and main.

“ Hallelujah ! hark ! the sound,  
From the depth unto the skies,  
Wakes above, beneath, aronnd,  
All creation's harmonies:—  
See Jehovah's banner furl'd,  
Sheath'd his sword: he speaks:—'tis done;  
And the kingdoms of this world  
Are the kingdoms of his Son.

“ He shall reign from pole to pole  
With illimitable sway:  
He shall reign, when like a scroll,  
Yonder heaven's have pass'd away:  
Then the end,—beneath his rod,  
Man's last enemy shall fall;  
Hallelujah ! Christ in God,  
God in Christ, is all in all.”