

MEMOIRS
OF
HENRY OBOOKIAH,

A NATIVE OF OWHYHEE,

AND A MEMBER OF

THE FOREIGN MISSION SCHOOL;

WHO DIED AT CORNWALL, CONN. FEB. 17, 1818.
AGED 26 YEARS.

REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

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AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

PHILADELPHIA:

No. 146 CHESNUT STREET.

1830.

“ At this time Mr. M. wished me to go and live with the Rev. Mr. Harvey, of Goshen. This was pleasing to me, and I went to live with Mr. H. and studied geography and mathematics. And a part of the time was trying to translate a few verses of the Scriptures into my own language; and in making a kind of spelling-book; taking the English alphabet, and giving different names and different sounds—(for this language was not written language.)

In a letter from Andover, communicating the preceding facts, it is observed, "Mr. A. the steward, says, Henry was very inquisitive, and could never be satisfied until he saw the whole of a subject. This was peculiarly observable during an eclipse of the sun, concerning which he asked many troublesome questions: and also with regard to many kinds of public business; particularly the mode of levying, collecting, and appropriating taxes.

"He was seen one morning very early with a rule measuring the College buildings and fences. He was asked why he did it. He smiled, and said, 'So that I shall know

how to build when I go back to Owhy-
hee.'

"When he heard a word," said Mr. A. "which he did not understand or could not speak, it was his constant habit to ask me 'How you *spell*? How you *spell*?' When I told him he never forgot."

Henry now began to maintain a correspondence with his absent friends: a practice in which he seemed to take unusual pleasure through the whole of his future life.

The two following letters, written at Andover, are taken from the "Narrative of Heathen Youth." "They were exactly copied from the original with a few corrections in the punctuation."

"ANDOVER, Dec. 15, 1812.

"*Dear Christian Friend,*

"I improve this opportunity to write to you. And I saw your beloved book which you sent by Mr. G. and that I very much thank you for it. I am great joy to God to give me such a good friend in this land where we hear the words of God—God is kind to us and to the other—that is to every body else. God will carry through his work for us.

"I do not know what will God do with my poor soul. I shall go before God and also both Christ.

“We must all try to get forward where God wishes us to do. God is able to save sinners if we have some feeling in him. Is very great thing to have hope in him, and do all the Christian graces. I hope the Lord will send the gospel to the heathen land where the words of the Saviour never yet had been. Poor people worship the wood and stone and shark, and almost every thing their gods; the Bible is not there, and Heaven and Hell they do not know about. I yet in this country and no father and no mother. But God is friend if I will do his will and not my own will.”