

A
REPORT
TO THE
SECRETARY OF WAR
OF THE UNITED STATES,
ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

COMPRISING A NARRATIVE OF A TOUR
PERFORMED

IN THE SUMMER OF 1820, UNDER A COMMISSION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING, FOR
THE USE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE ACTUAL STATE OF
THE INDIAN TRIBES IN OUR COUNTRY:

ILLUSTRATED BY A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES; ORNAMENTED BY A
CORRECT PORTRAIT OF A PAWNEE INDIAN.

BY THE REV. JEDIDIAH MORSE, D. D.

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in New-Haven

Amos Louis Demille-Fougereux.
18 Septem NEW-HAVEN: *1842.*

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1822.

Letter of Elias Boudinot, to Baron de Champagne.

Foreign Mission School, Cornwall, (Con.) Jan. 8, 1821.*

"HONORED AND RESPECTED SIR,

"Having been requested by my beloved teacher, Mr. Daggett, I
have the pleasure of writing to you; and in the name of my fel-
low students, to thank you for your benevolent donation of 100
ducats. We feel thankful to the Giver of every good and perfect
gift, that we are not destitute of Christian friends, who are willing
to give their property for our sustenance, while receiving an ed-
ucation in this charitable institution. We are here, far from our
native countries, brought here by the kind providence of God;
and blessed be his name, that he has given us friends to support

us, and to instruct us in human knowledge, but especially in that science, which treats about the immortal soul, and the only way to everlasting felicity. While we are looking with grateful hearts to the Christian people of the United States, we are gratified to think, that we have a kind benefactor in Switzerland.

“ My honored Sir, we have nothing in this world with which we can reward you, for your act of benevolence. Only we return you our grateful thanks. But I hope the Lord will reward you, and make you the instrument of good to many souls. May he yet grant you prosperous, peaceful, and useful days of your remaining life, and a crown of glory in the life to come. May your prayers be answered for this school; that numbers here may be trained up, who shall go into the vineyard of the Lord, and be faithful laborers in bringing many unto Christ, who are now sitting in darkness. Our school promises extensive good. Here are numbers, we hope, who are willing to be employed in the work of the Lord.

“ We need the prayers of all christian people, and we are truly encouraged to think, that we are remembered by the christians of Europe, as well as of America. You will likely, Sir, wish to know from what nation I came. I am a Cherokee, from a nation of Indians living in the southern part of the United States. There are eight of us here from that nation. Six out of eight profess to be the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. I came to this school more than two years ago; and, if it is the will of God, I expect to leave it in about one or two years. I feel sometimes an ardent desire to return to my countrymen and to teach them the way of salvation. Pray for me, that my faith fail not, and that I may not finally prove insincere. That we may meet in the kingdom which is eternal in the heavens, is the wish of your unworthy and unknown young friend.”

The following letter is from the mother of Elias Boudinot, who is a member of the Cornwall School, dictated by her to the writer of it, in Jan. 1821.

“DEAR SON,

“When you shall have finished your education, I shall rejoice,
just as if I had got the education. I hope the Lord will have mer-
cy on me, that I may find the good way. As you have found the
Savior before me, I will take your advice, and listen to your talk.
I am in hopes that the Lord, in his mercy, will turn my heart;
and that I may find the dear Savior. I will not get discouraged.
I will still try.”

SUSANNAH.”

Cornwall, (Conn.) March 18, 1821.

"HONORED SIR,

"Agreeable to the request of my Instructor, I take the pleasure of addressing your Excellency: and consider myself particularly honored, in having the privilege of writing to a man, whom we, the Indians, call "Father."

"I am happy to understand that Doct. Morse is about to visit the seat of government, to exhibit to you, his report, relative to the Indians, whom he has visited. We their sons, who have the advantages of instruction in this seminary, hope that it may meet your cordial approbation, and that assistance may be proffered to the long-neglected and despised people.

"In reading the histories of the various kingdoms, which have risen to an exalted pitch, since the creation of the world, we behold the wonder! which the sword, and the wheels of revolving ages have swept away: I hope this will not be the lot of my country. I rejoice, that my dear nation now begin to peep into the privileges of civilization—that this great and generous government is favorable to them, and that ere long, as I hope, Congress will give them the hand of strong fellowship—that they will encircle them in the arms of love, and adopt them into the fond embraces of that Union, which the immortal Washington and others have made in this western world!

"Honored Father, these are the consolations I entertain for the Indian nations, which I hope will be accomplished. I have read, that you have, in your visit to Brainerd, been pleased to encourage that Institution by your liberality: which is truly gratifying to me, and am led to believe with confidence, that our President loves the Indians too!

"It is a known fact, that those Indians who have missionaries among them, and who live on this side the Mississippi, are coming up, with faster steps to civilization, than those who have been enticed to remove to the west. An instance of this, may be found in viewing the condition of my dear people. I left them about two years ago; when they were at work: the tools of the whites were used—some possessed large farms; cattle, horses, hogs, &c. Their women were seen at the wheel, and the weaver's shuttle was in motion.

"How different is the condition of that part of my nation, who have been enticed, by their foolish imaginations, and particularly by the allurements of the white man, to remove to the Arkansaw. The equipage of a hunter, viz. a brass-kettle, gun and knife were offered to them, which, mortified at the sight, we saw them eagerly receive and depart. They are now in the pursuit of game, in which employment, we have reason to apprehend, they would have continued, or perhaps might have sunk into oblivion, were it not, that teachers have been sent to them, by christian benevolence.

"My health is not very good at present; my disease, the scrofulous complaint, has again attacked my system. My father wishes me to return, which I will perhaps do in a short time. I wrote to him, and requested him, to send me to a College at the south, whenever I may have the happiness to recover. My father and mother are both ignorant of the English language, but it is astonishing to see them exert all their power to have their children educated, like the whites!

"Honored Sir, wishing you the blessings of heaven, and congratulating you in your re-election to your high seat, I subscribe myself most excellent Sir, your humble servant,

JOHN RIDGE."

To his Excellency James Monroe, }
President of the U. S. of America. }