

1841. Its object, as declared by the 2d article of the constitution, is "to disseminate the Sacred Scriptures in the English and Cherokee languages among the people of the Cherokee nation; and all funds collected by the Society are to be expended for that object." It is free from all sectarianism, and designed to unite Christians of all denominations in the good work of circulating the Bible. The first few years after the Society was organized, but little was accomplished, because but few individuals took an interest in promoting its object. Subsequently, the Society gained ground, and has been attended with more or less success up to the present time.

The whole amount of money collected and expended by the Society since its commencement to its last annual meeting, in October, 1851, is about thirteen hundred dollars. The whole number of books purchased during the same time is about three thousand. These have been distributed in all parts of the nation by persons to whom they have been assigned. It is the aim of the Society to make its influence felt as widely as possible.

The Scriptures purchased by the Society, and put into circulation, are the following, viz: The Gospel of Mathew, Luke, and John, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistle to Timothy, the Epistle of James, the Epistles of Peter, the Epistles of John, and a part of the Revelation of John. There are portions, also, of the Old Testament circulated, viz: of Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Proverbs, and Isaiah. These are all translated into the Cherokee language.

The Society have also on hand a quantity of English Bibles and Testaments, furnished them by the American Bible Society for distribution. The Society, not having funds enough to purchase English Bibles, have depended on the American Bible Society for supplies, which have been furnished gratuitously.

The officers of the Society are a president and eight vice presidents, a secretary and treasurer, and an executive committee. The committee is composed of five persons, including the secretary and treasurer.

The Society meets annually at Tahlequah on the third Wednesday in October.

STEPHEN FOREMAN,  
*Secretary Cherokee Bible Society.*

GEORGE BUTLER, Esq.,  
*Cherokee Agent.*

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No. 47.

TAHLEQUAH, CHEROKEE NATION,  
*August 23, 1852*

.DEAR SIR: I proceed, in accordance to your request, to furnish you a brief statement respecting the public schools in the nation. As you did not specify any particular information you desired, in relation to the schools, I propose first to give the general features upon which they are conducted by law.

There are twenty-one common schools established, which are supported by the school fund received from the government of the United States annually. The pay of teachers is fixed by law at \$333 33 for ten months' teaching, consisting of two sessions of five months each, with a vacation of one month intervening between the sessions. The superintendent of public schools is also paid \$300 per annum out of the annual school fund, which, together with the purchase of books, about exhausts the amount received annually, which is \$7,500.

There are no schools established for the exclusive benefit of the orphans, or what might be termed orphans' schools; but they are sent to the common schools, and are supported out of the orphans' fund; that is, their board and clothing are furnished them at the rate of \$30 per annum to each orphan. In order to distribute the funds equally to the nation, the law provides that six orphans be placed at each school, taken from the immediate neighborhood of the school, of those in the most indigent circumstances. Each school having a complement, makes 126 orphans provided for out of their fund. Three directors are appointed to each school, whose duty it is to place the orphans in respectable families convenient to the school, and to see that they are comfortably provided for, and to overlook the general interests of the schools. The orphans are allowed the same privilege to enter the seminaries with other children, who are also provided for in like manner at these as at the common schools. We have now several orphans entered in the seminaries. Thus the cost of the support of orphans considerably exceeds the amount received annually, which is \$2,500; the excess is supplied from the surplus orphans' fund in the treasury.

The most of the school-houses are well built of hewed logs—large and commodious, with plenty of glass lights; they are furnished with stone chimneys or stoves. There are but one frame and one brick building. All these have been built by the people, and furnished with all the accommodations free of the public charge.

The common schools have been in successful operation during the past year. I feel gratified to state that an increase of interest is manifest throughout the whole nation in the cause of education.

Parents who, a few years ago, felt little or no interest in the education of their children, are now fully alive to the subject. The desire of all now seems to be, that their children may also acquire knowledge—to rise from ignorance to intelligence, from obscurity to distinction. The cause of the increasing interest manifested in education is very obviously traced to the influence of the seminaries, which have now been in successful operation over a year, at which institutions fifty scholars are annually received from the common schools, having already entered its second scholastic year with one hundred students.

The progress made of learning in so short a time at these institutions has fully met, or even exceeded, the anticipations of the public. It has kindled a flame in the bosom of every parent who has witnessed the operations of these institutions that will never expire, but will continue to burn until every child shall be brought under the influence of education; when every child shall learn to read, as well as lisp, the name of mother; when every man shall be brought up qualified for any business in life, whether civil or political. I have unnecessarily

digressed from the main object, where I merely proposed to give facts, and not opinions. But I might add here, with propriety, that the seminaries are free institutions. Students are entered for four years, free of charge for board and tuition. Why not every child grow up learned and intelligent with such institutions?

The following table of statistics will show the condition of the common schools. The aggregate number I give is the highest number which have attended school during the past year. (Our scholastic year closes the last of July.) Many of these were received into the seminaries last March. The orphans are also included in the aggregate. The number stated under the head of spelling and reading are confined to those studies alone; for all the scholars in every school are, together with their other studies, engaged in spelling and reading. The reading books are of different kinds and grades. Many of them are reading history, though I have not given their number. It would afford me great pleasure to have been able to give a more minute and detailed account respecting the condition of the public schools; but I hope my sickness will be sufficient apology for any lack of information which may be wanted or desired.

*Statistics.*

Aggregate No. scholars.....	1,100	A-B-C-darians.....	149
Males.....	677	Reading and spelling, exclu-	
Females.....	423	sive.....	435
Total No. of orphans.....	114	Primary geography.....	149
Males.....	75	Geography and atlas.....	163
Females.....	39	Oral arithmetic.....	272
		Written arithmetic.....	192
		English grammar.....	225
		Writing.....	354

Respectfully submitted:

Your most obedient servant,

**JAMES M. PAYNE,**

*Superintendent Public Schools.*

**GEORGE BUTLER, Esq.,**  
*Cherokee Agent.*

No. 48.

MALE SEMINARY, NEAR TAHLEQUAH, C. N.,

*September 6, 1852.*

SIR: This seminary was opened on the 6th of May, 1851. Twenty-five boarding pupils, (the number fixed by law for annual admission,) with two day scholars, were then admitted to complete a course of

study of four years. On the 14th February, 1852, twenty-five additional boarding pupils were received.

The following studies have been pursued with a success equal to that of the higher type of academies in the States: Geography, history, arithmetic, algebra, English grammar, composition, elocution, the French, Latin, and Greek languages.

Yours, respectfully,

T. B. VAN HORNE,

*Principal.*

GEORGE BUTLER, Esq.,  
*Cherokee Agent.*

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No. 49.

MALE SEMINARY, C. N.,

*September 19, 1852.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I furnish you below with a few facts relative to the Cherokee Male Seminary.

It was the intention of the Board of Directors that the school should commence about the first of October, 1850, and teachers were engaged accordingly; but, owing to the unfinished state of the buildings, and the difficulty of getting the necessary furniture, the commencement was delayed many months. Finally, on the 6th of May last, the public exercises of opening took place. These were of exceeding interest, and were attended by a large concourse of people.

The term closed on the 6th of August, having continued only thirteen weeks, contrary to the letter of the law, which requires each term to be twenty weeks in length. The unseasonableness of commencement and the inexpediency and danger of protracting the term through the hot and unhealthy months, were the causes of the abridgment. Of course, as this was the first session of a new institution—and a short one at that—we could hardly expect to do more than get a fair start. However, such a spirit has been manifested, and such progress made on the part of the pupils, as gives the teachers, and all acquainted with the facts, much gratification and ground for encouragement.

Twenty-five regular boarding pupils were admitted according to the law, and two or three day-scholars have been in attendance most of the term. These have applied themselves with exemplary diligence and faithfulness to their studies; and all, even the lowest, were found, on examination of the instructors' records, to have maintained through the term a standing of more than medium scholarship. To awaken the faculty of thought, and excite a habit of independent investigation, and to arouse an intellectual enthusiasm, has been, and will continue to be, the especial effort of the instructors; and the peculiar nature of the Indian, as well as the defects in elementary instruction among the Cherokees, has made such an effort the more imperatively necessary. To do this for minds that have grown old in stupidity or dissipation, is always a hard task; but I am of opinion that no company of young men of any race would prove, under similar circumstances, more susceptible of

intellectual excitement than these have done. Most, to be sure, more properly belong to the white race; though a few are entirely or chiefly Indian, and in all traces of Indian blood may be discovered. Some of our best scholars are those most thoroughly Indian. In age they are from fourteen to twenty-one—sixteen predominating.

A "good examination" in reading, spelling, geography, arithmetic, and grammar, was the legal requisite of admission; though, to fill up the number allowed, it was found necessary to give the word "good" considerable latitude. At the close of the term, however, the first class had nearly completed Greenleaf's National Arithmetic, Davies' Algebra, (though some knew not so much as the meaning of algebra before,) Green's Analysis of the English Language, and could read well in Latin. One student of Greek made excellent progress, and a small class in French (extra) did very well. The second class, though moving much slower, seemed to have acquired a thorough insight into the rudiments of geography, arithmetic, and grammar, reading, and spelling from McEllcott's Analytical Manual; composition and elocution were attended to by all, and good progress made, particularly in reading. The greatest desideratum still is a more thorough awakening of a scholarly enthusiasm.

Lessons in instrumental music on the violin, flute, and clarionet were given to some fifteen students by a skilful teacher, and the music of his pupils at the public examination was highly commended.

The students have organized a literary society, styled the Sequoyan Institute, (from the celebrated inventor of the Cherokee alphabet, George Guess, whose Indian name was Sequoya,) in which weekly debates are held, with other literary exercises. They have made provision, by a tax and initiation fee, for a Society library, to be under their own control.

Globes representing the earth and heavens, Bliss's outline maps, Dr. Cutter's physiological charts, and several large maps of different parts of the earth's surface, besides a good variety of reference books, are here for our use; and it is expected that a philosophical apparatus, to cost \$1,000, will ere long be added. The institution is also provided with a library, consisting of religious, historical, biographical, scientific, and literary works, furnished mostly by the benevolence of publishers, and other friends of the seminary. It is still small, but we hope further donations will be made.

A sermon is usually preached to the students every Sabbath, and an hour is spent besides in the study of the Holy Scriptures.

On the whole, the present prospects of the seminary seem to be eminently encouraging.

Yours, very respectfully,

O. L. WOODFORD, *Assistant Instructor*

To GEORGE BUTLER, Esq.,

*United States Agent for Cherokees.*

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NEW SPRING PLACE, C. N., *September 29, 1852.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter arrived to hand on the 20th ultimo, and, according to your request, I cheerfully submit the following, hoping it may arrive to your hands in due time to suit your purposes:

The total number of souls under our care at this station, called *New Spring Place*, is about 75. This is a small increase over other years. In connexion with this station is a day-school, open to the neighborhood to send their children from home. To some extent this privilege is made of avail by the neighbors. Most of them live rather far to send from home; consequently there is only a limited attendance. The average attendance is about ten to twelve scholars per day. It is our conviction that gospel institutions are steadily gaining ground, and civilization is slowly progressing among the lower classes of the people around us.

Permit me to relieve you from an erroneous impression you seem to have in directing your letter *Baptist Mission*. This station is not in connexion with that denomination. Our denomination styles itself *United Brethren*, or, more commonly, are called *Moravians*, and we are here directed by a Board of Missions, located in Salem, Forsythe county, North Carolina. This station is located on the military road to Baities prairie, at the forks of Sprink creek, thirty-five and a half miles from Fort Gibson.

With sentiments of respect, I am your servant,  
GILBERT BISHOP.

Mr. GEORGE BUTLER.

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No. 50.

CHOCTAW AGENCY, *September 6, 1852.*

SIR: In looking over the events which have transpired in the Choctaw nation since my last annual report, I feel that we have abundant reason for feelings of gratitude to the Giver of all Good that the Choctaws have neither been wasted by pestilence nor famine, nor by the more slow, but not less certain, destructive influences of vice. Every effort has been made, both by the officers of the nation and the missionaries of the several denominations of Christians who are laboring amongst this people, to elevate them, morally as well as in other respects.

Fears were entertained the past spring that some of the Choctaws would suffer for bread, owing to the great scarcity of corn, occasioned by the excessive drought of the previous summer. I am, however, happy to state that, by the assistance of the licensed traders in the country, who purchased and shipped a considerable quantity of corn and flour into the nation for the people, and the generous disposition of all who had any corn to spare, the season of scarcity has been passed without much, if any, actual suffering. The anticipated scarcity also caused a considerable number of the people to sow wheat and oats, and also to plant a considerable quantity of Irish potatoes and garden vegetables, which would come into use before the season for corn to mature. Crops of corn were also planted much earlier than usual, and every effort was made that the present crop should be abundant. In this they have not been disappointed, as their efforts have been