

My dear Friends,

[Before August 1850]

May I bring before you a question that is sorely perplexing me? I fear you will think as indeed I begin to do myself, that I am always in some dilemma. Today I have seen (at the request of the teachers) two gentlemen from the Cherokee nation. They are in search of teachers for a new Seminary to be established there. The school is to number but 25 the first year. It is free—supported by government—the girls are to be selected from the common school and pass an examination before entering. The course of [beginning of page 2] study is to be four years. Twenty five are to be added each year—so the established number will be one hundred. They wish at present only a principal and an associate. Sarah Worcester, daughter of the missionary among the Cherokees— is recommended as principal and myself her associate. The salary for the principal is \$800, for the associate \$600 per year besides board. This is the plain statement of the case. It is by no means certain that they will wish us to go—they are looking around and will select from those recommended. They returned to Washington today—and will write to Miss Chapin in a few days and inform her of their decision. in the mean time they wished me to think of it and consult my friends and be prepared to decide as soon as I hear from them.

I long to fly to my home to consult my parents and you [page 3] but this I may not do. At first I resolved not to think of it but on second thought it seemed not right to decide too hastily. I have just finished a letter to my parents. Warren is not here. I cannot write and receive answer for five months. It is at such a time as this I feel most keenly our wide separation. Will Warren's parents, brother & sister advise me? Please tell me just what you think of it—if you think I had better make it a subject of serious thought or not think of it at all—I wish to have your candid opinion—will you advise me as you would Mary under the same circumstances?

I have this week written to Father that I would teach in our own district next winter. Do not think that I am anxious to go—for it is not so—I only wish to know what I ought to do. [page 4] The decision I know must rest with me—but if I know the views & feelings of my friends it will assist me so much—Will you write me soon? Should they wish to have me go I must decide as soon as I hear from them. The gentlemen return to the nation in Aug. If I decide to go I shall come home immediately.

I must not write more tonight. I am sorry to trouble you with such a note.

Affectionately Ellen