GREAT OSAGE MISSION.

ARRIVAL OF THE FAMILY.

From the Rev. Mr. Dodge, dated Osage River, Aug. 6, 1821.

Dear Sir,—In the midst of surrounding cares and pressing calls, I break away for a few moments to announce to you the safe arrival of the Great Osage Mission, in the land of their destination. We arrived here on the 2d of August instant, after a long and perilous journey by land and by water. Excepting in the instances of sister Newton and her babe, our lives have been spared; and, as it respects health, it has been far better enjoyed, than might reasonably have been anticipated, when we consider that about sixty persons have been packed into two keel-boats, for the space of nearly five months. A number of the family have had a kind of seasoning to the climate; and some of them, as well as a number of our hired men, have been violently attacked with a billious affection; but the Lord has helped our young Physician, insomuch that he has been remarkably successful in baffling the disease. Our family now appear to enjoy a comfortable state of health. May the Lord confirm and preserve our health, and give us grace to improve it.

The family appear to be greatly animated with the prospect before them. As respects temporal concerns, no district of country I ever saw, ever promised more to its first inhabitants. Land, as much as any one could wish, and that of the first quality, is completely open for culti-
viation. In regard to spiritual concerns, it is, as we expected to find it, a land of darkness. Cross darkness hath covered the people: There is, therefore, business enough to be done. Whatever our hands find to do, may God enable us to do it with our might.

The family are in very good spirits; and harmony has very generally prevailed in all our deliberations and decisions. We have not decided upon a site for our establishment, not having opportunity yet to see the Chiefs of the Nation. They are now absent on their summer hunt; but we have sent for them, and are hourly expecting their return. We have had several places recommended to us, some of which we have viewed; but where we shall finally fix is yet uncertain. May the Lord direct us to the right spot.

I would have sent the journal up to this time, had I had leisure to copy it. Let this suffice for the present. Give our kindest respects to the members of the Board, and other Christian friends. Request them to continue their prayers for us, that we may be humble and faithful. We dwell where Satan’s seat is, and where he has long reigned. It cannot be expected, that he will give up his dominion without a struggle. Against the sword of the Gospel, however, he cannot stand. O, then, pray for us, that we may wield this sword to the best advantage.

From the Rev. Mr. Piceley, dated Mission Boat, Osage River, August 6, 1821.

Dear Sir,—You will join with us in returning thanks to Almighty God for our safe passage thus far. We are now, we suppose, within a few miles of the place where we shall eventually be established. Our journey has indeed been long and tedious, but it has not on that account been less marked with the peculiar Providence of God in our favour. We have had a flood tide against us most of the way up this river, as well as up the Missouri—but if it had been otherwise upon this river, we, instead of being here, should undoubtedly have been 200 miles below, without the least possible hope of getting our boats up this season. The water was never known to be so high in this part of the country as it has been this last spring, and we came along just in season to improve it, though at times it cost us much labour and patience to encounter the flood-wood, and the rapidity of the current.

An old Indian, as we have been told since our arrival here, was asked if he could tell why it rained so much. He replied, that the Missionaries were coming, and had been praying to the Great Spirit for rain that they might get up the river. Our health, considering the number of our family, their circumstances, and their fatigues, has been remarkable. We have had no alarming sickness, and only one slight attack of the ague and fever.

The Indians appeared highly pleased at our arrival, and sent off an express the next morning, (the day before yesterday) to assemble the chiefs, who were gone away to their hunting grounds, in order that we may have a talk with them, and ascertain where they would wish us to make our establishment.

Mr. Sibley, superintendent at Fort Osage, has written us a letter, inviting us to come and establish ourselves at a place where he is now building a trading house for government.

We are now within 5 or 6 miles of that place; but our boats are necessarily prevented from going any farther from the shallowness of the water.

Three of the brethren have been to view the station recommended by Mr. S. and report favourably. Thus things seem to indicate that this is the time for Christian action. We may, however, be much delayed in collecting the Indian council, as there are some apprehensions of war with the Cherokees.