

Robert Simerwell to Reverend C.M. Fuller

In this letter to Reverend C. M. Fuller, Robert Simerwell relates that the Indians who accompanied Issac McCoy west of the Missouri River were pleased with the land that they found. More importantly, Simerwell states that the "tide of white population setting in is so great that our hopes of remaining here long is almost cut off." In addition, Simerwell believes that the white populations arrival is doubly bad for the Indians in the area because of whites' "ruinous habit of dealing out spirits to these unfortunate people."

Creator: Simerwell, Robert, 1786-1868

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Robert Simerwell to Reverend C.M. Fuller

Simerwell, Robert

Caney Dec 17th 1828.

Dear Bro. C.M. Fuller

I venture to answer your letter of July 5 and shall have it with Br. McLeay to write you on his return if he thinks it necessary. The box of clothing from Ellbridge valued at 55. dol with your letter and the \$20. inclosed came safe to hand and was a matter of comfort to us not only because we much needed such clothing but rather that while labouring here for the good of these sufferers we are not forgotten by our friends at a distance tender our sincere thanks to that worthy society whose bounty is not withheld from the needy.

Br. McLeay has not returned from the west the Indians who accompanied him have and I believe are pleased with the country west of Missouri he expects to be here early in January and perhaps will stay a few days and go on to Washington his family and Br. Lykins have gone to Lex. Kent to spend the winter all intending in the spring to proceed to Mopouri then to open a mission and to assist in laying the foundation of the much talked of colony.

The Indians have parted with almost all their lands in this section of the country and the tide of white population setting in is ^{so} great that our hopes of remaining here long is almost cut off. It might not be a miss to remark that much evil is felt from the appropriation of the whites especially from the ruinous habit of dealing out spirits to these unfortunate people - the evening after the treaty as I am informed a man purchased a few quarts of whiskey say three and with it bought fifty shirts received the day before for their lands but why should I mention this since this practice is carried on daily and hourly.

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Last Saturday as Schank go shequa (the mother of one of the boys at Paultney V.T.) was returning with her husband loaded with venison her husband intoxicated ^{took} an offence at her broke his gun over her cut her throat and left her in the woods three miles from us where she remained till next day her husband (Wump key by name) told the first Indian he met saying you may go hunt for her and prove my words to be true the Indian asked him if he intended to go away he answered no why should I run off it is only a woman I have killed

Let me tell you that those two girls have found a place in Ohio were placed there last July we feel thankful to you for your endeavours to furnish them a place and your attention to this mission.

We have some hopes that the Lord will visit us with his grace the spirit of inquiry is abroad in our family pray for us for indeed we have ^{been} dormant and almost dead for some time past may the Lord quicken us and show us our sins and our folly

feeling thankful for your communication I beg leave to ask you to write once in a while a vacation may require

Your affectionate

Brother in Christ

Rev. C. M. Fuller

Robert Simerwell

Simerwell to
Fuller
Dec. 10. 1828