

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### CHAHTA VBA ISHT TALOA.

*Choctaw Hymn Book*, 18mo, pp. 84. Boston: Crocker & Brewster.

A work of this kind, in the language of a tribe of Indians, who were a few years since destitute of any written language, is an object of deep interest. It was prepared by the missionaries, for the use of the educated Christian Indians. In its construction they have adopted, as far as the sounds permit it, the perfect alphabet, devised so singularly by Prof. Lee of Cambridge, and Mr Pickering of Boston, at the same time, in distant countries; and this alphabet is employed in the Sandwich Islands, and all other missions in which a written language is to be introduced, under the care of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The following are the names and

powers of the letters, as given at the commencement of the Hymn Book; and is interesting at a moment when so many projects are forming for the improvement of our own orthography.

ALPHABET.

<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Ex.</i>
A a	ah	ah	O o	o	note.
<u>A</u> <u>a</u> *	aw		P p	pe	
B b	be		S s	se	
E e	a	ale	T t	te	
F f	fe		U u	oo	
H h	he †		V v	uh	gun
I i	e	she	W w	we	
K k	ke		Y y	ye	
L l	le		Ch ch	che	chin
M m	me		Sh sh	she	
N n	ne				

*Nasalized Vowels.* †

<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Names.</i>
<u>A</u> <u>a</u>	ang
<u>A</u> <u>a</u> *	awng
<u>I</u> <u>i</u>	eeng
<u>O</u> <u>o</u>	owng
<u>U</u> <u>u</u>	oong
<u>V</u> <u>v</u>	ung

*Diphthongs.*

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Sounded.</i>
Ai ai	i as i in pine. ow as ow in now.
Au au	

About 10,000 of the nation are supposed to have embraced Christianity nominally, and several hundreds are learning to write and read their language by means of the new alphabet, &c.

There are about 200 adults and children, who are learning English. We have been favored with a view of some of the letters written by the younger pupils in English. The following is a literal copy of one of them, which was written in a good hand by a little girl, of 9 years of age, unassisted and uncorrected, who had been learning English, *as a foreign language*, about 3 years. We cannot but regard it as one of several decisive and gratifying proofs of capacity for improvement, in a race, whom many are disposed to pronounce incapable of cultivation.

*Goshen School*

MR WRIGHT

My dear friend I now sit down this afternoon to write to you I want to see you very much The boys and girls are all well we want

\* A peculiar character.

† Very strong aspirate.

‡ Each of the nasalized vowels retains the sound of the corresponding simple vowel, as exhibited in the scheme, but modified nearly as it would be, by joining to it the English letters, *ng*. Thus the A a has nearly the sound of *ang* in *rang*, and the A a has nearly the sound of *ong* in long.

to learn very much. We hope that you will come back into the Choctaw Nation before we go over the river do go with us because when we go over the river there will be no school there and we want to learn very much before we go over the river We expect that you want to see us we have not seen Mrs Wright this long time and we want to see Mrs Wright very much This is all I wish to say to you

MARY GARDNER.

We observed in other letters a precise correspondence to the style of the letters of the deaf and dumb, especially in the omission of the substantive verb, which does not exist, either in the Choctaw language, or in that of gestures.

Our readers are doubtless aware, that among the Cherokees, an alphabet has been devised and the language reduced to writing by the unassisted efforts of a single native and his daughter; an example, unprecedented we believe since the days of Cadmus.