

Shoals of Ogeechee Oct^r 24th 1797

The communication of my dear M^r Furman favor (Received in August last) afforded us real satisfaction and pleasure as it assured us of the welfare of yourself & family, also the pleasing intelligence of Cousin joining the Church, I trust she counted the cost; I have been waiting with impatience to receive a line from her. I wrote and enclosed several letters to you sometime ago sent them enclosed to M^r Roberts in Savannah requesting him to send them by Cap^t Ross, I will thank you to inform me, whether you received them in that way.

I have been visiting Montpelier, accompanied by M^r M^r & Anne, it is a beautiful situation, the troops (except a Vengeance Guard) are removed two miles on the other side the Oconee river, the above place affords a large view of the Indian country. The Lord appears to be carrying on a considerable work in y^e part of the country. Rev^d Tho^s Mercer has baptiz'd upwards of thirty persons within a short time, most of them young people. his place of residence is about 12 miles below that ^{the Oconee} on Buffalo he baptiz'd 14 at once there the beginning of last month & smaller numbers from time to time lately, many more appear to be in great distress at both places. Other Churches near there have also had several additions, they allow their women to exhort. Alas! what shall I say, with respect to myself, all is lifeless. I wish to possess the ardent flame which seems to

to possess the breasts of the young Converts. but I am constrained to exclaim in the Poets language, My heart, how dreadful hard it is!

There has been several reunited & 2 or 3 added to Mr Vining's Church, last meeting which was the third Sabbath in last month the Old Gentleman preached from Isaiah LI V. 11, he preached a funeral sermon after that, which was his last, he finished his course the 7th inst. and we trust he is now enjoying the full fruition of that Savior & his everlasting love, he so often endeavored to set forth as the sinners only refuge & hope. — — — But to human appearance the Church has met with a severe stroke! lay his little digressions aside, he certainly was a good preacher, perhaps his zeal may have carried him sometimes beyond the length of prudence or duty, he was well established in that whom JESUS once loves he loves to the end, and his love was from Eternity. — — — A man was unhappily situated in his family his consort when she was at home refusing to join him in worship & very seldom attended his ministry, indeed I never saw her but once at Church his sons wife had to make mend & see after him latterly, we have not heard the particulars of his death, flying report says it was the cause was a white swelling on the thigh which spread in various parts about him, Thus we are left almost without a teacher in our Settlement, there being none equal to him. may the Lord sanctify the dispensation to us, whether it is mercy or judgment

Mercy to the deceased it appears to be, but judgment to us.

M^r & M^{rs} Michael has left us, they are gone to powelton, that they may be able to see about building their house &c he gave 800 doll^s for his plantation & 2000^d for 7 negroes, he means keep a store & being a tobacco planter, but mem^o, I believe he would not wish it communicated abroad.

No news from Charleston makes me fear the Epidemic disease rages! O that the lives of my dear connections may be spared, May mercy be shewn to poor sinful Charleston who certainly has experienced great mercy & goodness heretofore.

We have had an afflicted family our Children except ~~a~~ been down with intermitting fever, Anne is very bad I hope recovered; the rest continue, altho they take the bark plentifully James is a bed now with the fever, it came on without a chill. -- M^{rs} M^D was well pleas^d at sammy having the small-pocks, the poor little fellow is quite reduced at present.

M^{rs} M^D Donald writes with Kitty, Anne, & the rest of us in love to you and Cousin Wood. I am sorry for his disappointment. O what a world is this! -- I endeavor when I am writing, (I believe) you will not look over the scrawl with the critic's eye, I have gone a much greater length than intended; you will pardon it, there are ^{in the room of which} somethings might have been left out, and some enquiries made particularly whether neighbor Thomson proceeds in her sad course of d-king to excess? -- ever yours &c Mary M^D Donald

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The Rev. & M^r Richard Furman

Charles W. T. M.

dear friends
I have received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am well at present
and hope these few lines will find you the same.
I have not much news to write at present. I am
still in the same place, and am engaged in the same
work. I have not much time to write at present.
I am, dear friends, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Charles W. T. M.

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