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Letter from Squire Gray Eyes & John M. Armstrong to James B. Finley

Squire Gray Eyes

John M. Armstrong

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Dear Brother,

Since the meeting of the official members of W. B. Church here, whose proceedings were sent to you informing you and the Ohio Conference of its decisions, the enemy has been at work. I believe that one of these leading Methodists are willing to meet to any man what ever to maintain their ground upon the Indians. Here in the Kansas it contains a number of persons who compose of very professors. Nevertheless, infallibly endorses and backsliders and possess a certain preservable and preservatives and treat them to the Ohio Creek. Now we continually protest against the proceeding of this meeting having any force or being whatever. In the first place it could not be a national meeting there being but 45 persons present. In the second place a large majority of those present were not members of the church. It is reasonable to conclude that there were some present who would vote out of the church if they were not driven out of their course in life is every indication of rebellion. We deny the right of any such body to dictate in its own or interpreted in church matters whatever. The name alone names is applied to the resolutions reported as secretary, to which himself in having before we came to
this country, he professes no religion. Thanks to proper education, he has done more than any other man seen in the nation to lead the young people into habits of intemperance. Such is the man who is the Master Spirit of the factions got up in favor of the new Church and with his aid have succeeded too well in dividing our ranks. Old man Black, the two sons (J. H. Black & Little Black) and James Young of the official members have deserted our old cause. At a meeting of the official members three from bottom agreed to come back and any of the majority of the members which decided against them. But being the time to consult their advisers out of the church, they have refused to comply with their agreement.

Our present missionary has deeply grieved and betrayed us. He had always held out the idea to us that he was between in his teachings and that the weight when a suit able opportunity presented itself that he would go with or rather genuine with us in the old Church. But his subsequent conduct shows that his pretensions were shallow and deceptive. When we were about to adopt measures to erect a new church building, some of our official members objected alleging that the church might get our missionary strife and that that need not be sung as an objection for it was certain that which ever went the legislation would be that the church property would go, none now. We bring a very different story. If there be twelve members go with us we have a meeting and meeting house we can still hold our meeting. Such is the language now.

Pray for us here better that the Lord may give us wisdom in this our time of trouble.

Your brother in Christ,

John M. Armstrong

Rev. J. B. Finley
Ohio Conference
Dear Brother

Since the meeting of the official members of M.E. Church here whose proceedings were sent to you informing you and the Ohio Conference of its decision, the enemy has been at work.

It seems that our slave dealing missionaries are willing to resort to any means whatever to maintain their grasp upon the Indians. Here in the Wyandott nation a meeting was got up composed of nonprofessers slave dealers infidels inebriates and backsliders and passed a certain preamble and resolutions and sent them to the Ohio Conf.

Now we solemnly protest against the proceeding of that meeting having any force or validity whatever. In the first place it could not be called a national meeting there being but 47 Wyandotts present. In the second place a large majority of those present were not members of the church. It is reasonable to conclude that there were some present who would vote out of the world religion itself were it in their power, if their course in life is any indication of sentiment.

We deny the right of any such body to dictate interfere or intermeddle in any church matter whatever. The man whose name is appended as secretary to the resolutions referred to has involved himself in slavery since we came to this country. He professes no religion, spends whole weeks in a neighboring village in a state of intoxication, a man who has done worse than any other ten men in the nation to lead our young people into habits of intemperance. Such is the man who is master spirit of the faction got up in favor of the new church and with his aids have succeeded too well in dividing our ranks. Old man Hicks his two sons (F.A. Hick & Little Chief) and David Young of the official members have deserted our old ship. At a meeting of the official members these four brethren agreed to come back and stay with us if a majority of the membership decided against them. But having had time to consult their advisors out of the church have since refused to comply with this agreement.

Our present missionary has deeply galled and betrayed us. He has always held out the idea to us that he was northern in his sentiments and that he might when a suitable opportunity presented itself go with or rather remain with us in the old church but his subsequent conduct shows that his pretentions were shallow and deceptive. When we were about to adopt measures to erect a new church building some of our official members objected alledging that the South might claim it. Our missionary spoke up and said that that need not be urged as an objection for it was certain that which ever way the Wyandott Societys went the church property would go, and now he sings a very different song. “If there be only twelve members go with us we have a parsonage and meetinghouse we can still hold our meetings.” Such is the language now.

Pray for us dear brother that the Lord may give us wisdom in this our time of trouble.
Your brothers in Christ

Squire Grey Eyes

John M. Armstrong

Rev. J.B. Finley

Ohio Conference