

THE VINDICATOR

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN JUMPER

We extract the following from the "Hurrygraphs" of Dr. G. J. Johnson, communicated to the Central Baptist, Saint Louis, Mo.:

John Jumper is a noble specimen of an Indian man, a christian and a Baptist minister. He is a full-blooded Seminole, fifty-five years old, with slight gray tinging his jet black hair, six feet four inches in height, and weighs two hundred and twenty-five pounds. His features indicate fair intelligence and strong will, and yet great benevolence, all of which are said to prominently characterize him. He is earnest and active as a christian, and loves the work of the ministry. Withal, he is somewhat wealthy, and is, therefore, in his circumstances, as well as by constitution, a natural leader among the people of his tribe. He has held the position of Head-Chief of the Seminoles for about twenty-five years, until a few months since,

when he declined a re-election, that, as he said, he might devote himself more fully to the preaching of the gospel among his people.

The new house of worship built by the Seminoles is in the grove near to brother Jumper's residence, and is a well-constructed frame, 25X35 feet upon the ground, and of two stories, the lower for purposes of week-day and Sunday-school, and the upper for public worship; whole cost about \$1,000. I may add, it is provided with a small bell, hung upon a pole frame outside the house, and stayed up by being fastened to the trees.

A SPIRITUAL FEAST-DAY

The services of dedication were appropriately opened on Lord's Day morning after the singing of several stirring songs by the native christians, and prayer, with a short address by brother Buckner, reminding the Indian disciples of what great things the Lord had done for them, and how thankful they should be for the grace they had received.

The writer then preached the dedicatory sermon, after which brother Murrow explained to the church, in a few words, the nature of a dedication -- that it was

the simple offering of the house to the Lord as His, with prayer that He would accept and fill it with His presence, and make it a blessing to the people assembling in it. The whole church arose to their feet in acknowledgement of this dedication, and then, after singing a hymn, brother Jumper offered the dedicatory prayer. Oh, how I wish that I could understand that prayer. To see that stalwart form bowed so humbly at the mercy-seat, and swaying to and fro as he wrestled for a blessing, and the tears flowing freely down his face, while voice and hands were uplifted in such earnest supplication, was a scene that awakened a longing for fuller understanding. But God understood the prayer, and, I have no doubt, answered it.