

COLL. B. N. C. CHOCTA BY N. R. 1210

CHOCTA RITUAL

etc. W. Cole,
Interviewer,
November 15, 1907

From personal study of Choctaw Books, mostly the Choctaw Testament, one of the two great divisions of the Bible, and the Choctaw Hymn book, as used by the Choctaws and the Chickasaws, holding their religious meetings.

The Choctaws and the Chickasaws as a race of people are of the class of people who believe in the Almighty Creator. They believe that there is a beginning of time and that there will be an end of time. Before the discovery of North America not knowing just who to worship yet they worshipped, praying their knees not to whom. Finally a missionary came to this country with the Bible and preached to them the right and the wrong, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, that they should worship God in their life time and after their death they should live forever in the hereafter. When this was preached to them, they found something that they had been looking for. They had been looking for something to pray to, yet they did not know what they were

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looking for. Through the white missionary to this country an orphan Indian boy whose parents had died was placed under the care of Cyrus Kinsbury, minister of the Gospel who was in charge of the school named Pine Ridge Mission which was located near Ponkaville.

This boy was born in the State of Mississippi in the year 1826 and grew up to be one of the leaders of his people. It is unknown as to the Indian name but he was given the English name of Allen Wright, after the missionary to the Choctaws, Alfred Wright. Allen Wright attended tribal school until in the year 1848 when the Choctaw School Trustees selected him and four other boys to attend an eastern college with the recommendation of the Choctaw Council. He finished in the classical course at Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1852, and he also completed the study for the ministry at Union Theological Seminary, in 1855 and a few months later was ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

He was a very fine scholar in Latin, Greek, and

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Hebrew as well as in his own native tongue, the Choctaw. He translated the Book of Psalms direct from the Hebrew to Choctaw and also made a translation of hymns, and the current topics of the day, besides translating the laws of the Choctaws and the Chickasaws into their native tongues. He also translated the English Dictionary to Choctaw Lexicon.

There are several Choctaws as well as the Chickasaws who own the different books in the Bible and the Choctaw Hymn Book, and Reverend Allen Wright is responsible for its translation and the output of these books.