

cation and Christian knowledge has been for the most part steady and satisfactory, though not without interruptions. He was one of the first two who offered themselves as candidates for baptism in October 1852, but hesitated and drew back a year later, when the other was received. Whether his declension then arose solely from deference to his father's authority, who insisted on his delaying joining the church, or partly also from weakness of faith and fear of consequences; or in some degree also probably, as his father now affirms was his design, that he might well understand what he was about to engage in, and not hastily do what he might wish afterwards and be unable to undo; whatever were the motives, he soon regretted having yielded to worldly influences what his conscience told him was his duty to God, and ere long he took a public opportunity of declaring that he was on the Lord's side still, and was resolved to join the family of God's people. He rejoined the baptism class in March last, and came to me immediately on my return to make known his mind to me. He again made known his design to his father, resolved, however, not to be withheld, and his father made no further objections. When the day came, I told King Eyo, after the forenoon meeting, that I purposed receiving his second son into the fellowship of the church in the afternoon meeting, by baptism, and he said simply that he knew of it. I added, that the Lord had greatly honoured his family in taking his two eldest sons to be his own children among the first in Calabar, and it would be well if he and the rest of his family would come to the Lord and be saved. He smiled, but made no reply. In the afternoon public meeting these two interesting youths were addressed both in English and Efik, as they understood English well, and our audience is mixed, and the questions of the formula prepared by Mr. Goldie in the Efik tongue, which I think very good, were put to them, after which they publicly received the sign and seal of the Christian faith in the divinely appointed ordinance of baptism. I preached on the occasion from the words, "I love them that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me." It was a happy and important occasion to me as well as to them. My children were joined to the Lord. These are first fruits, if not the first, of the children the Lord has promised us in this country, instead of those, which, for his sake, we have left in a distant land. Yet we tremble while we rejoice, for I know what is before them. I reflect with deep grief on some disappointments in former years, when the youthful promise turned out like the morning cloud and early dew, which soon passed away; and I dread a renewal of those pangs which our hopes deferred and at last broken. May the Lord in great Mercy preserve them and me from such sorrows.

One other member has been lately introduced, but before my return, much to my satisfaction—my faithful servant George. I got him out of a captured slaver a small boy, nearly 15 years ago. After he had been some years with me, and was instructed in the things of God, and proved himself obedient thereunto, and to me as his only earthly protector, I baptized him as one of my family into the family of the Lord's people. He was then 12 or 14 years old. Except in one instance, five or six years ago, he has been faithful, and strictly moral and religious, as well as most useful in my family and in the mission. I expected to have received him to communion two years ago had I not left the country, but am better pleased that one of the brethren performed the duty who would not be swayed by partiality. Mr. Anderson after repeated examinations, was much satisfied with him. I baptized him as one of my own family. Had he been the son or the slave of an heathen I could not have done so at that time. But his father and mother were dead to him, being in Africa, and God had given him to me in Jamaica to bring up for him.

LETTER FROM EGBO JACK, ONE OF THE CONVERTS MENTIONED IN THE PRECEDING EXTRACT, TO A YOUNG MAN IN EDINBURGH.

Creek town, Old Calabar. Mission House, July 6, 1854.

DEAR WILLY, —It is very long since I had the pleasure of writing you, yet