

die. (It died soon afterwards). I looked into the wigwam & saw the women dancing around the fire in the middle, holding by the arms a pale, emaciated child too sick & weak to stand up itself & perform the senseless ceremony in order to be cured. In the meantime one man beat upon the drum & another shook a gourde-shell in order to keep time. After dancing a few minutes all seated themselves around the fire in silence, & the leader made a short speech, which was responded to by a loud grunt. They vainly imagine that these unmeaning ceremonies have a mysterious efficiency in healing the sick altho' nothing can be more inappropriate or less calculated to do them good. They resort to this dance, or rather season of revelry on other important occasions, as for example when going out to hunt that they may find a plenty of game, or when they have hunted a long time & taken nothing, that the Great Spirit may tell them where to find it. But their songs & speeches are mere repetition of words without meaning which forcibly reminded me of the Saviors injunction "use not vain repetitions as the heathen do." What added to the sorrow and disgust which I felt was, that these ceremonies were performed with whiskey, which is considered indispensable, and when the wretched, squalid mother arose the second time to dance she was too drunk to move, & could only stand & make the child perform the motion whilst the rest went around. From this scene of superstition, degradation and drunkenness, I turned and inquired how long shall more than Egyptian darkness brood over these immortal minds! And how long shall men influenced wholly by the basest selfishness be permitted to pour out such a flood of desolation, as they do now upon these frontiers! And when shall the light of the gospel shine upon this fast degenerating tribe!

Jan. 2d 1833. Julia, a little girl about four years of age, a daughter of Mr. S[tevens] the Teacher, expired. She had a presentiment from the time she was first taken, that she should not recover; was often heard engaged in prayer, & frequently asked her mother also to pray for her. Altho'