

We publish to day, from the Southern Recorder, a letter from Judge Clayton, of Georgia, in relation to the rupture of the Cherokee negotiation at the end of the last session of Congress. It will be seen that it completely and entirely confirms every thing that we have said in relation to that affair. It is as plain as any thing can be, that the Governor was completely outwitted by the Cherokees, and, to use the words of Secretary Cass, was "trifled with," by the Cherokee delegation. They kept up the farce of negotiation to the very day of the passage of the bloody bill; and it was not until the morning after the passage, that they told the astonished Secretary, that they could do nothing more in the business.

From the silence of Governor Cass, on the remark of Judge Clayton, that the passage of the force bill was the cause of their refusal to continue the negotiation, it would seem that the Governor agreed with him in opinion.

We hope that it may not be considered that we wish to cast the slightest censure upon Governor Cass, on account of the failure of the negotiation. Its success was prevented by considerations of much more importance, than a few millions more or less of the people's money being bestowed upon a band of savages.

The passage of the force bill might establish a particular interpretation of the Constitution, and might help to make a President.

## LETTER.

There has appeared in the Federal Union, as I understand, for it is a paper I seldom see and never read, a letter from one of its correspondents, at Washington, stating that the treaty with the Cherokees was broken off by a part of the Georgia delegation. Now this suggestion, so far as I am individually concerned, and as I verily believe, in reference to the rest of my colleagues intended to be implicated, is as *false as it is infamous*; and when he comes to be known it will be found that I have put the denial in a sufficiently strong point of view. I state positively I do not know the persons composing the Indian delegation, that I never spoke to, or had any communication directly or indirectly with any of them upon any subject whatever, and during the last and preceding sessions of Congress, I studiously avoided having any concern with them, believing they were the dupes and tools of mere politicians, seeking to promote their selfish projects through the instrumentality of public sympathy in their behalf, and at the expense of the interest of Georgia.

The Administration believed, and had so given out, that there would be no difficulty in procuring a treaty, and public opinion seemed to be settled in that expectation and gratified at the prospect of such an issue. The first intimation of a contrary result, came from the Secretary of War himself, and that on the evening before Congress adjourned. On that evening, being Friday, and the day after the passage of the force bill, Gov. Cass came to the Capitol, and sent in for one of the members from Georgia. His message delivered to me, I immediately waited upon him. He commenced by observing, that he had called to request an interview with the Georgia representation, at his office, on the next morning at 10 o'clock, and then said, the object of it was to consult us as to the course necessary to be pursued in relation to the treaty with the Cherokees. He stated, he considered the Government had been trifled with by their delegation; that after giving every reasonable indication of their intentions to treat, they had strangely and suddenly broken off the negotiation. He remarked, that several propositions had passed between them

from time to time, and that finally the Indians asked to know what the Government would give for their lands, *in a round sum*, and they would go off on their own "hook," as they expressed it. He said; he replied, two millions and a half of dollars. They took time to consider the offer, and on yesterday morning, Thursday, he stated, they called to inquire if the President would give no more. He answered, perhaps the President would give *a little more*, rather than the treaty should fail; they rejoined, that unless he would give *a great deal more*, there was no use for further negotiations. To this remark, which he said surprised him very much, he replied, "meet me at the President's to-morrow morning, Friday, and we will ascertain what additional sum the President will give you." They promised to do so, but to his as-

tonishment, they had failed, and had addressed him a note, requesting to know when it would suit the President to admit them to take leave of him. Now, said he, we have some idea of offering three millions for their land, and I wish to know whether your delegation will advise the measure. I answered without hesitation, that I would—nay, if necessary, he ought to give more. For though it was too much, yet it was a property we ought to have had long ago; our citizens had, and were daily acquiring it under a late disposition of it by the State, were going into the possession of it, and as we could never consent, let the consequences be what they might, to have that possession disturbed, I did think, for the sake of peace, and the adjustment of a much vexed and exciting question, that the land could scarcely be purchased too dearly.

I promised to meet him next morning, and accordingly did so, finding none other of our delegation there but Judge Wayne. I repeated what I had said on the evening before, in which Judge Wayne concurred, and he said he would draw up a written communication to that effect, and obtain the signatures of the whole representation, which I approved, and had no doubt it would meet with the similar approbation of the rest of the delegation. I heard no more of it, Congress adjourned next evening, and the members separated. I afterwards understood that three millions of dollars had been offered by the Government, and that the Indians had proposed to submit the offer to a meeting of the nation, some time in this month; if they would agree to take it, there would be a treaty.

At an interview on Saturday morning, I mentioned in the presence of Gov. Cass and Judge Wayne, that the force bill had been the cause of the failure—the former made no reply, the latter observed, he did not think so, but believed a set of white men had associated themselves with the Indians for the purpose of making a speculation out of the Government. I remarked, granted, which I thought not unlikely; yet every one must perceive the force bill would be the cause of *that*; if no other mischief resulted from the law, it would at least cost the Government many thousands more than would otherwise have been demanded.

A. S. CLAYTON.