

IN CONGRESS, JAN. 14, 1828.

Mr. Lumpkin, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which the subject had been referred, made the following Report:—

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred a resolution of the 8th inst. instructing them “to inquire if any of the Indian Tribes within the territorial jurisdiction of any of the states, have organized an independent Government, with a view to a permanent location within the said States; and, if they find that any attempt of the kind has been made, to inquire into the expediency of reporting to this house such measures as they may deem necessary to arrest such permanent location, report:—That they have satisfactorily ascertained that the Cherokee Indians have organized an independent system of government, with a view to a permanent location in the

States, wherein they now reside. The Committee have seen their Constitution in a printed form; and, if that instrument is to be relied on as embracing the views of the Cherokee Indians, no doubt can be entertained of their determination to locate permanently in their present abode. They declare, amongst other things, that their present boundaries shall for ever remain unalterably the same; and that their sovereignty and jurisdiction of their Government shall extend over the country which they occupy at this time. In reference to the concluding part of the resolution, the Committee are of opinion, that the Government of the United States has no right to interfere with the form of Government adopted by the Cherokee Indians, so far as it relates to the government of their own people. Nevertheless, the Committee are of opinion, that good faith and justice requires of this Government promptly to discountenance the formation of such Government, so far as it may, in any degree, assume a permanent jurisdiction over the soil, or in any way attempt to alter the tenure by which they have heretofore held their lands; because, an idea of this kind must prove fallacious and injurious to the best interests of the Indians themselves. And the sooner they are assured this cannot be permitted, the better it will be for them; and they will the more readily come into the views of the Government, and join their brethren in the West.—The only expedient mode which has occurred to the Committee, to arrest the permanent location of these Indians, is to be found in the exercise of a liberal and candid policy on the part of the United States towards them.

To arrest the idea of a permanent location of the Cherokee Indians within the limits of the State of Georgia, the motive is peculiarly strong, arising from the compact with that State, whereby the United States are bound to extinguish the Indian title to the lands within it, whenever it can be done on reasonable and peaceable terms. With a view to the fulfilment of this contract, and to the peculiar circumstances which have grown out of the case, your Committee would earnestly recommend that a generous and liberal provision be made to accomplish that object, as the best course which can be pursued by the United States, to prevent conflicts which may disturb the harmony of our own citizens, and prevent the degradation and ruin of the Indians.