

PRESENTMENTS

OF THE GRAND JURY OF JACKSON COUNTY
AUGUST TERM, 1830.

THE Grand Jury for the county of Jackson having gone through the business of the Court for the present term, come now to the discharge of the last, though not least duty.

We are called upon for an expression of sentiment, relative to the extension of the laws of Georgia over that part of our state, called the Cherokee nation, in doing of which we are glad to see such an unanimity of opinion prevail. The forbearance of the state of Georgia towards their red friends for many years, indulged them in the belief that they might go on and establish within her charter, a free and sovereign state, a privilege as entirely unconstitutional as it could have been by extending their boundaries over any other portion of our state. Could it be expected that Georgia would longer lie dormant? Only acquiesce in this, and what may we not suppose their next step would be? Forced as we were to choose between two alternatives, either for ever to abandon our right, or extend our laws over that portion of country, the latter was the result of the wisdom of our legislature, still allowing them five months in which they might remove if they saw proper, previous to carrying this law into effect. The time has elapsed, and some are not yet gone, of course they must abide the consequence of the law. We are happy to see the forbearance of our citizens, towards the citizens of other states throughout the long train of abuses, insults and injuries they have thought fit to pour upon us from time to time. Not content with having imposed upon us and our sister states the most unjust taxation, and having attempted at divers times to create interruption and discord among us, in consequence of our different opinion as regards slavery, they come now within our own borders and endeavour to prevent us from exercising our right over part of our own soil, "calling it an oppressive edict of arbitrary power." We will give them liberty to call it what they please, provided they will allow us the liberty they take themselves, viz: executing our own laws.

We rejoice that it is in our power to say that the history of our government is unstained with the interference of Georgia, or any of her citizens, in matters where our sister states were alone concerned.

We have only to add that we hope our officers will unanimously come to the resolution of his honor Judge Clayton, so far as they are individually concerned, and determine faithfully and impartially to administer the law, and we feel prepared to say for the citizens of this county that you have our pledge to receive our aid.

As regards our county matters, were we to take into consideration the disrespect that has been paid to presentments of similar bodies heretofore, we would remain entirely silent, but we again intend to apprise our citizens of some mismanagements which we conceive to be aggravious. The unsettled state of our county funds, so often presented before you, we find yet to be in a situation by no means satisfactory. So far as the Treasurer is concerned his report has afforded satisfaction, but we recommend to him, without delay, to bring all persons holding funds belonging to the county to a speedy settlement, which we hope would quell the excitement now raging through our county, and show the propriety of an additional tax, the great difficulty of which we have to complain is the irregular manner in which our stray books are kept, and of the fact of their having been a considerable quantity of money received from the sale of estrays which is entirely unaccounted for. The fault we are inclined to believe is as much to be attributed to the neglect of the Justices of the Peace in returning the money, as in the clerk failing to make a record of it, all of which we fear are more or less guilty. To remedy this defect, we recommend that the clerk make a fair exhibit to the Grand Jury of his county, at the first term of each year, of all the estrays that have been sold in each district, for how much, and by whom taken up; for on the present book for the four last years, we have nothing specific, all being confounded under the date of 1826.

We had hoped that the recommendation of the last Grand Jury would have caused the entire abandonment of the practice of treating with spiritous liquors, so long indulged by our candidates, but we are sorry that we come so far short of realizing our anticipation, and have only further to say that we still insist that they will forsake it.

We highly approve of the conduct of our Inferior Court in their determination of having the road laws rigidly executed, and hope they will not be deterred from having our county roads improved and kept in order in consequence of the cry of oppression and exercise of arbitrary power by a few of unthinking individuals.

We return our thanks to his honor Judge Clayton, and Mr. Solicitor Trippe for the faithful and able discharge of their official duties during the present term.

We request that these our presentments be published in the Athenian.

JOHN W. GLENN, Foreman.

JOHN PARK,	WM. M. GATHRIGHT,
THOMAS C. BARRON,	PHINEAS MATHEWS,
FENNEL WILSON,	JAMES SHIELDS,
PLEASANT O. PITTMAN	ISAAC BORING,
SAMUEL BARNETT,	PARRY BOWEN,
JOHN J. PARK,	ALEX'R. BATCHELOR,
ROBERT VENABLE,	SAMUEL BURNS,
NATHAN C. JARRETT,	SAMUEL SMITH,
JAMES HAMPTON,	JOHN J. McCULLOCH.

On motion of the Solicitor General, it is ordered that the foregoing presentments be published agreeably to the request of the Grand Jury.

A true extract from the minutes of the Superior Court of Jackson County, August Term, 1830.
EDWARD ADAMS, Clerk.