

# CHEROKEE CONSTITUTION.

The following articles, extracted from the new Constitution adopted by the Cherokee nation, will show the light in which the tribe view matters of religion :

“ART. XVI. Whereas the Ministers of the Gospel are, by their profession, dedicated to the service of God, and the care of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duty of their function, therefore, no minister of the Gospel, or public preacher, of any religious persuasion, while he continues in the exercise of his pastoral functions, shall be eligible to the office of Principal Chief, or a seat in either House of the General Council.

ART. XVII. No person who denies the being of God, or of a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this Nation.

ART. XVIII. The free exercise of religious worship, and serving God without distinction, shall forever be allowed within this Nation: *Provided*, That this liberty of con-

science shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this Nation."