

From the Richmond Enquirer.

A CHEROKEE NEWSPAPER!

The press has been employed in New York and Philadelphia for establishing newspapers among the Africans in those cities. It is now shedding its light among the Indians. We received yesterday morning a newspaper printed in the Cherokee tribe: A part of it in the English characters, and a part of it in type specially cast for the purpose of representing the Cherokee Alphabet invented by Mr. Guess. It is a singular specimen of typography—and is left at our office for the inspection of the curious. The first page and half of the 2nd. present a part of the "*Constitution of the Cherokee nation, formed by a convention of Delegates from the several districts, at New Echota, July 1827.*" It is printed in both the English and Cherokee Alphabets in parallel columns. The *Lord's Prayer*, both in Prose and Verse, on the 4th page, and two other articles on the 3d page, are also displayed in the Cherokee type—and a key is furnished in a very interesting communication, on the 4th page, of the Alphabet of the Cherokee language—the number of characters is 85—more than 20 of which are represented by English types corresponding to the vowels and the consonants (*d, g, h, k, l, m, n, s, t, w, and y*)—The rest are characters specially shaped and cast for the purpose. "Each character represents a syllable by itself."—Two very important advantages are claimed for the Cherokee Alphabet over "the Roman, as applied to the writing of the English language: One is, that excepting the variations of longer or shorter, harder or softer, as from (*d* to *t*,) and more or less aspirated sounds, each character is the invariable representative of the same sound; while in English the same sound may have half a dozen different signs, or the same sign may represent as many different

sounds."—"Another source of wonder in regard to the Cherokee alphabet is; that a few syllabic characters are sufficient to write a language. Certainly they are sufficient to write it, and that, in a manner vastly more perfect than the English language is written by means of the Roman alphabet of letters. Two things account for the fewness of the requisite syllabic characters. First, the fewness of consonant sounds in the language. Secondly, and chiefly, the circumstance that every syllable in the language ends with a vowel sound. A little calculation will show what a vast difference the latter circumstance makes in the number of possible syllables. Suppose, for example, the number of simple and compound consonant sounds in each of two languages to be 15, and the number of vowel sounds 6: in either language a vowel standing alone may constitute a syllable; but in one every syllable ends with a vowel sound, (as in Cherokee,)—in the other, (as in English,) a syllable may either begin or end, or both, with a consonant.—Now, though the number of consonants and of vowels is the same in each language, yet, if our arithmetic be correct, the number of possible syllables in the latter is 1536, while, in the former, it is only 96." Enough, however, of the peculiarities of the Cherokee Alphabet; which cannot be clearly explained to the reader, without his having the Alphabet itself before him.

The 1st No. of this newspaper is issued on the 21st Feb. at New Echota—Its Cherokee title defies the expression of our pen; but its English Synonyme is the "Cherokee Phoenix."—It is edited by Elias Boudinott; and issued weekly at \$2 50 if paid in advance—It is handsomely printed on a Super Royal Sheet, with new type. "The establishment, lately purchased, principally with the charities of our white brethren, is the property of the Nation, and the paper is patronized by, and under the direction of, the *Cherokee Legislature*."—The spirit in which it is to be conducted is disclosed in a long Editorial Address to the Public—It disclaims all sectarian doctrines in Religion; or the taking of any part in the Presidential election. It is intended principally for the benefit of the Cherokees—to enlighten their own minds, and to clear up all mistakes and misrepresentations about them, from the minds of American politicians.—One point it seems particularly anxious to impress upon them; that it is neither their interest nor their wish to imitate the Creeks, Chickasaws and Choctaws in the abandonment of their own country. It declares that they are unanimously opposed to any emigration from their own lands to the country west of the Mississippi.—Yet we are inclined to believe that they are acting upon an erroneous policy in this respect.—We know the pride of the Indian character. We know how strong is the attachment of almost every person to the place of his nativity. We know how deeply this sentiment is strengthened among the Indians by a sort of superstitious reverence for the ashes of their ancestors. "What!" (exclaimed the Indians in Canada, when the French were persuading them to remove from their native fields)—"Can we say to the bones of our fathers, 'Arise, and go with us to a foreign land?'"—But the sad experience of so many years ought to read this melancholy lesson to the Cherokees; that the foot of the white man is continually treading upon their heels; that the resources of the surrounding whites must gradually destroy all insulated opposition on the part of the sons of the forest; and that it is better for them to remove to the West of the Mississippi; where uniting with the other tribes, in their moral and physical resources, they may gradually develope, on a more auspicious theatre, the new experiment of Indian Civilization.