

# GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION.

## MESSAGE

OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEFS OF THE  
CHEROKEE NATION, TO THE GEN-  
ERAL COUNCIL.

To the Members of the Committee and  
Council, in General Council convened.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In addressing  
you on this momentous occasion, we  
cannot, in justice to our feelings, for-  
bear a solemn pause, and with  
grateful feelings meditate on the ma-  
ny blessings which a kind Providence  
has conferred on us as a people. Al-  
though we have had trials & tribulations  
to encounter, & in some instances, the  
sad effects of intemperance have been  
experienced within the circle of our  
citizens, yet, there is every reason to  
flatter us in the hope, that under wise  
and wholesome laws, the preponder-  
ating influence of civilization, morali-  
ty and religion, will secure to us and  
our posterity an ample share of pros-  
perity and happiness.

Occupying your seats by the free  
suffrage of the people, under the privi-  
leges guaranteed by the Constitution,  
the various subjects requiring your  
deliberation the present session, will,  
necessarily be important. The or-  
ganization of the new Government,  
the revision and amendments of the  
old laws, so as to make them in unison  
with the principles of the Constitution,  
will require your attention; & it cannot  
escape your wisdom, that the laws  
should be short, plain & suitable to the  
condition of the people, and to be well  
executed. The Judiciary system de-  
mands your serious deliberation, and  
the mode for conducting suits in courts  
should be free from all complicated  
formalities, and no other form should  
be required than, to let both parties  
know distinctly, what is alledged, that  
a fair trial may be had.