

In our last we published the provisions of the act passed at the recent session of the Legislature, to extend the laws of Georgia over the territory now in the occupancy of the Cherokee Indians. In ruminating upon the probable result of this measure, the mind is not a little perplexed with the difficulties which surround it. In the language of the chief magistrate of the state, "to expel them would be cruel and unjust,—to leave them as mere tenants at will would be a reproach to the character of the state,—for incorporation, with equality of rights, as a part of our political family, they are unfit." What then are we to do with them? The laws of the state will in a short time be extended over them—but this will not better their domestic condition, nor expel them from the territory. Nor will the major part of them remove thence until coercive measures are resorted to, although they are now reduced to the lowest state of wretchedness, and some have actually died lately from starvation! So at least says the last Columbus Enquirer. "To expel them would be cruel and unjust," but to suffer them to remain, would it not be more cruel and unjust still? With the whites they cannot amalgamate, nor will they ever be admitted to the privileges and immunities of white citizenship. The habits of the whites they will not adopt; to work is out of the question; many of them will literally perish before they will make corn for their sustenance. And as to the annual appropriations made by government for their use, very little of it gets among the bulk of the people composing the tribe, but is absorbed and applied to the private use of their wiley chiefs, mostly half-breeds and quarteroons, who have wriggled themselves into power and influence. And these are the men too who instil that wilful obstinacy and pertinacious adhesion to territory which we meet with in the Indian nation. They, by superior dexterity and cunning, have managed to apply the annual subsidies of government almost exclusively to their benefit, and engrossed every avenue of trade and profit—have grown rich and powerful (as far as their narrow limits extend)—hold lands as much as they can cultivate, and slaves as many as their ill-gotten wealth can purchase. These men will never leave the territory, nor suffer the others to leave it, but upon compulsion. But what does the poor, up-

thinking half-naked and half-starving savage, with his perishing family, wish to remain for, when a land ten-fold more abundant in all the necessaries of a savage life awaits him beyond the Mississippi? Is his miserable, smoky and confined wigwam so dear to him, or is he so much attached to the land on which he is starving? Harsh and unceremonious as it may appear at first sight, and "cruel and unjust" as it certainly would be stripped of collateral considerations,—when the whole are carefully weighed it appears to us that it would be doing these poor creatures signal service to compel them to leave the territory, and emigrate to the land provided for them. Government has furnished every thing for their removal, a place to remove to, and provisions for a limited time after they arrive—nothing is wanting. There they will be among other tribes of their own color, manners and habits; there they can devote themselves to their own familiar pursuits; and there they will prosper and increase; while in their present situation want and wretchedness are their daily attendants, and annihilation will in a few years complete the history of their sufferings and of their tribe.