

We publish the annexed letter with a great deal of pleasure; as well on account of the prospect which is held out to the state of speedily being put in possession of our Cherokee lands, as to add another proof of the honor and good faith with which Gen. Jackson intends to administer the government of the Union.—In addition to the information contained below, it is said the Cherokees are rapidly removing with their families, many of whom are emigrating to the west of the Mississippi, to settle on the lands provided for them there by the general government.

E. BERTSON, April 25, 1829.

*Messrs Camak & Ragland.*—Gentlemen: Subsequent to the adjournment of the last session of Congress, I sought, and had a conversation with the President of the United States on the subject of our Indian relations. I stated to him that Georgia had looked with great anxiety to the political change which had placed him in the federal Executive chair, with a confident hope, and expectation, that she would at last, though late, have justice extended to her, and that I was anxious to have it in my power to inform the people of Georgia on my arrival at home, of the course which would be pursued by him in reference to the subject. He promptly, and with apparent pleasure complied with my request. He read to me a talk which he had then recently addressed to the Creek Indians, urging them to emigrate west of the Mississippi, by arguments drawn from the impracticability of their remaining a separate people, within the limits of a sovereign State, and a proper view of their best interests in reference to their future welfare. I stated to the President that Georgia was more immediately and deeply interested in the course of policy which might be adopted relative to the Cherokee Indians within her limits; that I had understood a delegation from the latter tribe were then at the seat of government, and that as far as it would comport with the public service, I was anxious to know the object of their visit, and what course of measures the administration would adopt towards the Cherokees with a view to the compliance on the part of the United States, with their promise made to Georgia in the agreement of 1802. The President replied that nothing should be withheld from me. He told me that the Cherokee delegation had called on him, when he said to them that the United States had entered into a contract with the State of Georgia, by which they solemnly promised to extinguish for her use the Indian title, to all territory within her limits, of which promise they (the Indians) had been long since apprised; that the claims of Georgia under that contract, had been too long postponed; that irritated by delay and frequent disappointment, she would make an effort to force justice; that she possessed a right to extend her municipal jurisdiction over them, and to subject them to the control of such rules of action, as she might think proper to prescribe to them, provided the same should not be violative of the constitution of the U. States, and that the General Government could not constitutionally protect them against her exercise of that right; that Georgia was irritated by their recent attempt to adopt a constitution, and erect a separate government within her limits, and which they, could not be permitted to do; that he would repeat what he told them in 1817, that they might emigrate to the country west of the Mississippi River; that a regard for their best interest, justice to Georgia, and every other proper consideration required it; and that it was for them to make their election, to go west of the Mississippi, and possess a land which they and their children should not only possess forever, but have the friendly and protecting arm of the United States Government thrown around them, or abide the consequences of such rules of action as Georgia might prescribe for their government. To all of which the Indians replied, that a submission to the Georgia Government would degrade them, inasmuch as even their competency as witnesses would not be admitted in courts of justice; that he replied to them, that Georgia had the the right to do so. On this point the President suggested to me, that it would be good policy to admit their competency by legislative enactments, and guard against the evil which might result from such admission, by questioning their credibility as witnesses in judicial proceedings. He said he had no doubt of their emigration, and that such a course would leave them without cause of complaint. He expressed an anxious hope, that the citizens of Georgia would not irritate the Indians by any intrusions upon them, because the efforts of the Government to accomplish their removal, would be thereby embarrass-

ed. If I correctly understood the President, and have preserved a distinct recollection of his developement to me, on this subject so interesting to our State, we may hail the near approach of the period so long, ardently and justly desired when we shall come to the full possession and enjoyment of all the territory within our limits.

Respectfully your obedient servant.

**WILEY THOMPSON.**

