

CHEROKEE INDIANS.

DOCUMENTS

Received at the Executive Office from the Secretary at War.

INDIAN TALK.

From the President of the United States to the Creek Indians, through Colonel Crowell.

Friends and Brothers:—By permission of the Great Spirit above, and the voice of the people, I have been made President of the United States, and now speak to you as your father and friend, and request you to listen.—Your warriors have known me long. You know I love my white and red children, and always speak with a straight, and not with a forked tongue; that I have always told you the truth. I now speak to you, as to my children, in the language of truth—Listen.

Your bad men have made my heart sicken and bleed by the murder of one of my white children in Georgia. Our peaceful mother earth has been stained by the blood of the white man, and calls for the punishment of his murderers, whose surrender is now demanded under the solemn obligation of the treaty which your Chiefs and Warriors in Council have agreed to. To prevent the spilling of blood, you must surrender the murderers, and restore the property they have taken. To preserve peace, you must comply with your treaty.

Friends and Brothers, listen: Where you now are, you and my white children are too near to each other to live in harmony and peace. Your game is destroyed, and many of your people will not work and till the earth. Beyond the great River Mississippi, where a part of your nation has gone, your Father has provided a country large enough for all of you, and he advises you to remove to it. There your white brothers will not trouble you; they will have no claim to the land, and you can live upon it, you and all your children, as long as the grass grows or the water runs, in peace and plenty. It will be yours forever. For the improvements in the country where you now live, and for all the stock which you cannot take with you, your Father will pay you a fair price.

In my talk to you in the Creek Nation, many years ago, I told you of this new country, where you might be preserved as a great nation, and where your white brothers would not disturb you. In that country your Father, the President, now promises to protect you, to feed you, to shield you from all encroachment. The land beyond the Mississippi belongs to the President and to none else; and he will give it to you forever.

My children, listen. The late murder of one of my white children in Georgia, shews you that you and they are too near to each other. These bad men must now be delivered up, and suffer the penalties of the law for the blood they have shed.

I have sent my Agent ———, and your friend, Col. Crowell, to demand the surrender of the murderers, and to consult with you upon the subject of your removing to the land I have provided for you West of the Mississippi, in order that my white and red children may live in peace, and that the land may not be stained with the blood of my children again. I have instructed Col. Crowell to speak the truth to you, and to assure you that your Father, the President, will deal fairly and justly with you; and whilst he feels a Father's love for you, that he advises your whole nation to go to the place where he can protect and foster you.—Should any incline to remain and come under the laws of Alabama, land will be laid off for them, and their families in fee.

My children, listen. My white children in Alabama, have extended their law over your country. If you remain in it, you must be subject to that law. If you remove across the Mississippi, you will be subject to your own laws, and the care of your Father, the President. You will be treated with kindness, and the lands will be yours forever.

Friends and Brothers, listen. This is a straight and good talk. It is for your nation's good, and your Father requests you to hear his counsel.

Signed, **ANDREW JACKSON.**

March 23d, 1829.

The Secretary of War to the Cherokee Delegation.

(COPY.)

Department of War, April 18, 1829.

To Messrs. John Ross, Richard Taylor, Edward Gunter and William S. Coody, Cherokee Delegation.

Friends and Brothers,—Your letter of the 17th of February, addressed to the late Secretary of War, has been brought to the notice of this Department, since the communication made to you on the 11th inst. and having conversed freely and fully with the President of the United States, I am directed by him to submit the following as the views which are entertained, in reference to the subjects which you have submitted for consideration.

You state that "the Legislature of Georgia, in defiance of the laws of the United States, and the most solemn treaties existing," have extended a jurisdiction over your nation, to take effect in June, 1830. That "your nation had no voice in the formation of the confederacy of the Union, and has ever been unshackled with the laws of individual States, because independent of them;" and that consequently this act of Georgia is to be viewed, "in no other light, than a wanton usurpation of power, guaranteed to no State, neither by the common law of the land, nor by the laws of nature."

To all this, there is a plain and obvious answer, deducible from the known history of the country. During the war of the Revolution, your nation was the friend and ally of Great Britain; a power which then claimed entire sovereignty, within the limits of what constituted the thirteen United States. By the Declaration of Independence, and subsequently the Treaty of 1783, all the rights of sovereignty pertaining to Great Britain, became vested