



Reduction and Indian Affairs.—Extract from the Presentments of the Grand Jury of Wilkes county, at the late term of the Superior Court of that county :

Believing that a majority of the people of this country are in favor of a Reduction in our Representation in the Legislature, we recommend our delegation at the next session to use every exertion in their power to attain so desirable an object. We also earnestly appeal to the voters of our county to be prompt in attending the polls in October next, and endorsing on their tickets *Reduction, or No Reduction*, as it may seem to them most advisable. Great interest has already been excited upon this subject, and certainly not without cause. From a table published in the Georgia Journal, we are enabled to present a fact, perhaps not sufficiently known; that there are in the state; 41 counties out of 76, containing a representative population of only 108,477, and are represented in the Legislature by 41 senators and 55 representatives; while 35 counties (among them Wilkes,) with a representative population of 256,690, more than *double* the population of the 41 counties, are represented by 35 senators and 85 representatives, only. The 41 counties above alluded to, contain a white population of 93,604, and have received of the Academy fund \$38,308. and 86 cents: and of the poor school fund, \$15.638 and 5 cents; while the 35 counties (Wilkes among them) with a white population of 166,074, nearly *double* the population of the 41 counties, have received of the Academy fund \$40,974 and 32 cents, only, and of the poor school fund, \$39,223 and 29 cents. The 41 counties will have paid into the treasury for the year 1829, a tax amounting to \$11,917 and 79 cents, and the 35 counties the sum of \$51,725 and 81 cents. The pay of the members of the Legislature for 1829, amounted to \$51,275 and 40 cents. The pay of the members of the 41 counties amounted to \$23,729 and 20 cents, and the pay of the members of the 35 counties, amounted to \$27,546 20 cents. The amount of taxes paid by the 41 counties, is only \$11,917 and 79 cents; so that the other 35 counties are obliged to contribute the sum of \$11,811 and 41 cents, towards paying the members of these 41 counties; their tax being deficient in that amount for the payment of *their own* members.

This body having attentively considered the charge of Judge Clayton delivered to the Grand Jury of Clark county, relative to the act of the Legislature "adding the territory lying within the chartered limits of Georgia, and now in the occupancy of the Cherokee Indians, to the counties of Carrol, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Hall, and Habersham, and to extend the laws of this state over the same, and to annul all laws and ordinances made by the Cherokee nation of Indians," &c. do entirely accord and respond to the sentiments and opinions of his honor as to the undoubted right of the state, and as to the substantial policy and justice of the measure. The right of jurisdiction by the state over this Territory cannot be questioned, and had it not been for her forbearance, our laws would have been extended over it years since. The time had come

when it was necessary that a decisive step should be taken in order to put down the establishment of an independant government within the limits of the state, separate and distinct from that recognized by her laws and constitution. The Legislature therefore acted wisely in passing an act extending the jurisdiction of the state over her entire limits. We highly approve the measure, and believe we may safely promise on the part of the free men of this county to support it by all legal means in their power.

We recommend our representatives to endeavor to have the law in relation to Indian testimony modified; at least so far as to allow all Indians the benefit of *their testimony*, when it is apparent to the court before which they may appear, that they are sufficiently informed to be fully sensible of the nature and responsibility of an oath, the value thereof, and the privilege extended to them.