



**THE "FREE PRESS,"**

By George Howard,

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**DOMESTIC.**

**Cherokee Legislature.**—John Ridge, an Indian, writes to the editor of the Boston Recorder, from the Cherokee Nation, that the Cherokee Legislative Council assembled on the 1st October last, to transact business. The agent and commissioners from the United States, and commissioners from Georgia, attended and presented their credentials, and were received with a respect equal to the importance of their commissions. The object of the commissioners of Georgia was to impress the Cherokees with a conviction that the State which they represented had long standing claims against that nation, which they endeavored to authenticate by old treaties. A reply was made in writing by the Cherokee legislators, that these claims were long since adjusted, of which the 9th art. of the treaty of Tellico was conclusive evidence, which stipulates, that "all animosities, plunderings, &c. prior to that date, shall cease, and be no longer remembered or demanded on either side." The subject was thus closed with the commissioners of Georgia—both parties maintaining different constructions of the treaties.

A discussion then commenced with the commissioners from the United States, who demanded a cession of the land, which was met and rejected with candor and deliberate determination. "Gentle, brilliant, and forcible periods of eloquence, backed with large sums of money as presents, were spent in vain." The legislators declared that they would never again cede one foot of land. "A precious trust was confided to their care—the happiness and care of their sires, mothers, wives and children—and no consideration should violate it." An unsuccessful attempt was made by M'Intosh, a chief of the Creek Nation, who was present at the Council, to bribe the President of the Cherokee National Committee, and one of the most distinguished chiefs. The offer of pecuniary reward was brilliant, and a less sum has tempted more civilized people to betray their trust. "If the chiefs (said M'Intosh to the Cherokee President) feel disposed to let the United States have the land, I will make the commissioners give you two thousand dollars, A. M'Coy the same, and Charles Hicks three thousand dollars, for presents, and nobody shall know it." The offer was received with detestation; and M'Intosh was summoned before the Council, while the President addressed that body on the subject, and read the letters containing the offers of the Creek chief. "A traitor," said the

President, "is looked upon by all nations in the darkest color, and is more despicable than the meanest reptile that crawls upon the earth. An honorable and upright character is more valuable than the filthy lucre of the whole world." The Speaker of the Cherokee Nation then addressed the Council concerning the conduct of M'Intosh, who, though a Creek chief, appears to have had considerable influence with the Cherokees for the last twelve years. The Speaker stated that it was a maxim with the Cherokees never to trust a man who had violated the confidence reposed in him; and as M'Intosh had done this, he was now divested of his trust, and permitted to retire in peace to his own nation.

From the Mobile (Ala.) Register, March 23.

**Cherokees.**—We learn that Hicks, the principal Chief of the Cherokees, accompanied by thirteen other chiefs, started a few weeks since as commissioners to Washington City, for the purpose of procuring an acknowledgment of their independence as a nation, or of selling their whole territory. Hicks, however, was laboring under the pain of a white swelling, and became so very ill that he was under the necessity of returning, but gave strict and positive instructions to the other chiefs, either to bring home an acknowledgment of their National Independence, or to negotiate a transfer. It is possible that a portion of their country will shortly be added to this state.

From the Raleigh Register, 23d inst.

**Cherokee Lands.**—We learn that his Excellency Governor Holmes has appointed James Iredell, Esq. of Edenton, and Dr. Benjamin Robinson, of Fayetteville, Commissioners, under the act of the last session of our General Assembly, entitled "An act respecting the reservations of certain Indians in the lands lately acquired by treaty from the Cherokee Nation," to enquire into the titles of certain tracts of land claimed by individuals of the Cherokee Nation of Indians, under certain provisions made in the treaties concluded between the United States and the said Nation in the years 1817 and 1819, and to contract with any of said Indians, or with any agent or agents duly authorised by them, for the purchase of the tract or tracts to which the said Commissioners shall believe the said Indians, or any of them, shall have a good and valid title under the provisions of said treaties: said contracts to be subject to the ratification of the General Assembly. The Commissioners are to meet at Franklin, in Haywood county, on the 1st of August next.

From the Indianapolis Gaz. 30th ult.

**Horrid barbarity.**—It becomes our painful duty to record one of the most outrageous transactions that has occurred since the settlement of the state. We have been enabled to collect the following particulars, from the information of a traveller who has just passed through the neighborhood, and in whose ve-

racity we place the utmost confidence:

It seems that a party of Indians, ten in number, consisting of three men, three women, two girls about half grown, and two small boys, were encamped on Fall creek, in Madison county, about eight miles above the Falls, and 35 miles above this place, for the purpose of hunting. On Monday, 22d inst, a party of five white men and two boys went to the camp and decoyed the three men away from the camp, for the ostensible purpose of assisting them to hunt some cattle. After they had gone some distance from the camp, two of the Indians were shot dead; the third made his escape, badly wounded. In the evening of the same day, the same party returned to the camp, and, after making some professions of friendship, murdered the whole of the women and children. Their bodies were most shockingly mangled, for the purpose of producing an impression that it was the work of Indians, and thrown into a hole of water occasioned by the falling of a tree. One of the men killed one of the children by taking it by the heels and beating its brains out against a tree. On Tuesday, the place was visited by a party of men, when one of the women was found still alive, but died on the evening of the next day. At the time the camp was first visited, after the massacre, the property of the Indians, consisting of guns, skins, furs, &c. was still at the camp and was left there unmolested, but on the succeeding day, when the place was visited by a party of men from the falls of Fall creek, the bodies were found entirely stripped, and every species of property carried away.

We are further informed, that one of the lads concerned in the murder, (and who was compelled to assist, by the threats of his father,) soon after the transaction gave information, and five of the party concerned were immediately arrested, and are now in custody at the falls of Fall creek; one made his escape, and the youth who gave the information is said to be at liberty in the neighborhood. Since their arrest, it is said that these persons have made a full confession.

All the families composing the settlement, in the neighborhood of the scene of this horrible transaction, have removed to the mills, at the falls on Fall creek, to avoid the retaliatory vengeance of the Indians.

**Wild pigeons.**—The immense number of pigeons that inhabit the western regions of the United States have excited the admiration and astonishment of travellers, and occasioned from some of them very wonderful accounts, which many who have not been eye witnesses, have considered as fabulous. Altho' the pigeon is decidedly a bird of the wilderness, yet it does not hesitate to encroach on the settlements of man, and often proves destructive to his wheat and cornfield. A western paper of the 27th Feb. says that there were at that time vast numbers scattered over the central and northern frontier towns

of Kentucky. They sweep the forests in such immense flocks that they keep up a noise, thro' the day, somewhat resembling a continual thunder; and not unfrequently in such peals as to very much impede the equestrian traveller, if he has not a very gentle horse. From a computation it appears there are upon a square mile, every day, 5000—that they embrace a tract of country 70 miles square; so that allowing one half of this area to be filled at the rate above mentioned, there would be above twelve millions. Pigeons are great gormandizers, and it appears, from calculation, that allowing their food equal to one gill of wheat per day, which is supposed to be short of the quantity of nutriment they would require, they would consume about 115,327 bushels per day—this, at fifty cents per bushel, would amount to 57,663 dollars. Providence has given them a peculiar power of seeking far and wide through the fertile forests of the west, to gratify the appetite, and gather up the surplus fruits of the earth, which would otherwise waste, like the leaves, to enrich the soil that produces them.

**Fire.**—The dwelling house of Mr. James Peace, in Granville county, was entirely consumed by fire, with all its contents, on the 17th inst. while the family were at church. Owing to some circumstance, a negro fellow, the wife of whom Mr. Peace had hired, was suspected as the author of the foul deed, and he was consequently arrested. The negro confessed himself guilty of the charge, and stated that he had done it, to revenge his ill-treatment, in being prohibited from visiting his wife. The negro is confined in jail to await his trial.

**Singular advertisement.**—The following advertisement appeared in a late Boston paper. For the honor of our country, we hope, that there are but few "parents" among us, who have children they "would wish to conceal."

"A woman in the country would take an infant child, such as the parents would wish to conceal, with a sum of money sufficient for its maintenance till able to provide for its own support. For further particulars inquire at this office."

**Liberia.**—The following is an extract of a letter from Cape Coast Castle, dated October 24, published in the Edinburgh Star:

"Certain Americans have purchased a small tract of land on the coast of Africa, somewhere near Cape Misouado, and have colonised it with a black and yellow population from the United States, where the slave population has increased to a degree which has not a little alarmed the government. These unfortunate wretches, amounting to about 400 in number, the moment they landed, found themselves, in the first place, exposed to the dishonesty and extortion of the agents of the original purchasers of the Colony. The latter were furnished with the necessary supplies for their

colonists, but their agents had bartered these supplies away with the natives for their own profit, and the colonists were starving. In addition to this scene of misery, the natives, conceiving the Americans to have cheated them in the purchase of the lands, had made war upon them, and were hunting them down in all directions. When the last accounts came away, these miserable people, deserted by the parent country, which had thus thrown them upon a barbarous coast to perish, were erecting some works round the wretched collection of huts which they called a town, and named it *Monrovia*, after the President of the United States. They entertained no hope, however, of being able to oppose any effectual resistance to the black swarms which surrounded them, and had literally shut them up in their dwellings. This primary colony the Americans had named Liberia."

**RUSSIA.**

We are informed, by an article in the Encyclopedia, of the manner in which the Emperor Alexander trains his subjects to arms. The project is, to organize, and to preserve a large military force, without an expense to the imperial treasury. In various parts of his empire, particularly in those of Poland, and as far as Mount Caucasus, he has established military villages. These villages are built on lands belonging to the crown, and divided into farms of about forty English acres. Each of these farms contains two houses, one for the master colonist, the other for the reserve. The former is a peasant of fifty years of age, who receives his land and house on the condition of furnishing a soldier and his horse, who is to assist him when not engaged on military duty in the cultivation of the earth. At the end of twenty-five years, if a Russian, twenty if a Pole, the reserve is free from military duty. This reserve is to be the successor of the master colonist—women living within, are not allowed to marry out of those villages. The children are taught, as a part of school education, to ride and use the sabre, and at the age of thirteen, they join the regiment, where they are formed into military corps, and the most promising made officers. Each military district is under the command of a colonel, subjected to military law, and from the decision of the commanding officer no appeal lies but to the Emperor. Eighty thousand have been thus enrolled already.

Such is the formidable plan, which the modern Alexander, who seems descended in a direct line from the Macedonian, has adopted for the aggrandizement of Russia: but will this power, so raised up, serve to prolong or to overthrow the royal government, for it is equally powerful for the accomplishment of either. A nation when thus disciplined to arms, has nothing to fear from standing armies, and in case the monarch should prove a tyrant, he has provided them with arms, and disciplined them to his own destruction.—*Balt. Morn. Chron.*