

CHEROKEE PHOENIX AND INDIANS' ADVOCATE.

CHEROKEE PHOENIX.

NEW ECHOTA, MARCH 17, 1850.

The following articles copied from the Arkansas Gazette we recommend to Dr. Ely, for he is the only one we have noticed who can draw powerful arguments, from such transactions among the western Indians, in favor of the removal of those east of the Mississippi.

THE LATE OSAGE VICTORY.

The following extract of a letter from a gentleman at the Western Creek Agency, dated 10th ult., to another in this place, contains some farther particulars of the victory which the Osages have recently obtained over their enemies the Pawnees, than we were in possession of when we published the account of it in our paper of the 2d inst.

"The Osages have just returned from a war expedition against their foes, the Pawnees. They arrived at their town triumphantly, having met with unbounded success. They went to the Pawnee town, about 300 in number, and drove them, after a short but bloody battle, into a large lake, where the Osages laid down their guns and chased them in the lake with the tomahawks, and massacred them before they could make their escape. It is asserted by them, that, since their knowledge of the Pawnees, they never have as yet had a fight where so much blood was spilt. It is remarkable, that the Osages did not lose a single man. The number of Pawnees killed is about 80 or 90—5 women taken prisoners—and they brought 54 horses, which they stole from the Pawnees."

The late Indian Murder.—The following is an extract of a letter to the Editor, from a respectable citizen residing at Miller C. H., dated 3d inst. Some of the particulars of the murder to which it alludes, were published in our paper of the 2d inst.

Mr. ISAAC MURPHY was murdered by a party of from 12 to 15 Indians, while at work in his field, on the 23d Jan. The citizens, to the number of about 40, have pursued them, but have not yet returned. It is not ascertained what Indians committed the murder. Mr. Murphy was a respectable citizen, living about 3 miles from this place.

"P. S. Since writing the foregoing, the citizens who went in pursuit of the Indians, have returned, after having pursued them to the Cross-timbers, without overtaking them. They ascertained them to be Pawnees, from their sign and trail tending directly toward their villages. Signs of numerous bodies of Indians, were discovered within 12 or 15 miles of the settlement, but it is presumed that none came in except those who committed the murder.—The Cadocs are suspected of being concerned in the affair.

"The citizens on Red river are much alarmed, being apprehensive that the Indians will return again as soon as the grass springs up sufficiently for them to subsist their horses."

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Bell, from the committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred that part of the President's Message which relates to the Indian Affairs, and sundry resolutions and memorials upon the same subject, made a report thereon, accompanied by a bill, to provide for the removal of the Indian Tribes within any of the States and Territories, and for their permanent settlement West of the river Mississippi; which was read and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, with the Report and Documents ordered to be printed. [The report is very long, occupying about sixty pages of manuscript.]

Mr. Buchanan said this was a subject of great importance; the more, as he had no doubt, from the nature of the numerous memorials presented to the House, that great misapprehension prevailed in the country on the subject. It was commonly believed that the Indians were to be removed from the Southern States by force; and nothing was farther from the intention of Congress or of the State of Georgia either, than this. It was right to correct the erroneous impression of the public on this subject, and he therefore moved that ten thousand additional copies of the report be printed for the use of the House.

Mr. Burgess did not rise to controvert the printing of any number of copies of the report, but in some sort

to controvert the idea suggested, namely, that misapprehension and error had gone abroad on this subject. The gentleman said nothing was further from the intention of this Government and of Georgia, than to remove the Indians by force. Mr. B. presumed, that nothing of the sort was intended by the Government of the United States, but when he saw Georgia making laws to extend over the Indians her jurisdiction, and excluding them from the exercise of their own rights, and calculated to drive them off, he could not agree to the remark of the gentleman. He hoped the motion would be postponed for a week, by which time the report would be printed, and the House could see what it was, and whether it was such as to deserve this great circulation among the people.

Mr. Wilde said he did not intend to be drawn into a premature discussion—premature, at least, in his judgment—of the highly important questions involved in the bill and report of the Committee on Indian Affairs, which had not yet been read. He agreed with the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. B.] that great misapprehension had existed on this subject, and disagreed with the gentleman from Rhode Island, who insisted that there was no misapprehension in relation to the policy and conduct of the State of Georgia. That State had indeed made provision prospectively for extending her laws over every person within her limits. In doing so she had done no more than had recently been done by some of the new States—nothing more than had long since been done by several of the old ones. He denied that the State of Georgia entertained the project of driving the Indians from her soil by force; and he believed he had at least as good an opportunity of being informed as to the views and policy of that State, as the honorable gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. Bates could not, until he knew what the report was, consent to order this great extra number to be printed. He had great confidence in the committee which made the report, and especially for the honorable chairman; but he wished the report to lie on the table until to-morrow or next day, to afford an opportunity for examining it, and he moved to postpone the motion for the extra printing until to-morrow.

Mr. Thompson, of Georgia, called for the reading of the report. This was opposed by Mr. Sutherland, as an useless waste of time; and was insisted on by Mr. Thompson, who said it was necessary, inasmuch as the not knowing what it contained, was made a plea for objecting to the printing.

Mr. Reed deprecated this departure from the old usages of the House, which was growing up. It had been the practice to print the usual numbers of a document, and when read and understood, if found of great interest, to print an extra number. Now, it was becoming customary, when a report was made, for some gentleman, not a member of the committee, but knowing something of it he supposed, to get up and move an extraordinary number of copies. He hoped before this was agreed to, in the present case, the House would be enabled to know the contents of the report.

Mr. Thompson said, in deference to the opinions of friends near him, he would withdraw the call for the reading.

Mr. Taylor said a few words in favor of the postponement, and if that were not carried, he should call for the reading himself, as he could not vote for this extra number without knowing something of the report.

Mr. Buchanan rose to insist on the opinion which he had expressed, that great misapprehension existed in the country respecting this Indian question. The memorials which loaded the tables of this House proved this fact. He was satisfied that the fears of the memorialists respecting the intentions of the Government, and of the State of Georgia, were totally groundless. The forcible removal of the Indians was thought, in many parts of the country, to be resolved on—a great excitement prevailed on the subject—enthusiasts have been busy in scattering firebrands and arrows throughout the country relative to this subject, calculated to create discord, to sow the seeds of disunion, and to sever brethren who ought ever to be united. It was proper the

People should have information to remove the error prevalent on this subject, and who, he asked, would desire to keep such information from the people?

Mr. Wickliffe would be willing to print the same number of this report as had been ordered of a report on the same subject made some years ago—he believed at the close of the 19th Congress—but no more. That report was made, and without being read, a large additional number of copies were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Everett, of Mass. said the gentleman was mistaken. He (Mr. E.) made that report himself, and he well remembered that it was read through, to the House, before the printing was ordered. But as to the other question: The gentleman from Pennsylvania had said that great misapprehension existed in the country on this Indian subject; and gave that as a reason for moving the large additional number of copies of the report. Mr. E. said he would not contend about the correctness of this opinion, because that would be plunging into the discussion. But when the House is told that great error of opinion prevails on a subject, and that a certain document is calculated to contradict that opinion and correct the misapprehension, would the House favor the extensive distribution of that document without first hearing it? Was it not proper first to know what opinions it contradicts, and what it affirms? He had so much confidence in the Committee, that had the printing been moved without any reason but the interest of the subject, he would have voted for it without hesitation; but it was the reason assigned for the motion which made him averse to consent to it.

Mr. Goodnow, of Ohio, was in favor of the extra number of copies. As the subject was one of great importance, and as he had perfect confidence in the Committee, he was willing, on the faith of that confidence to vote for the motion. There was nothing, he thought, more important, there was nothing more dear to him, than giving information to the people.

Mr. Lamar, of Georgia, said he would not now enter into any discussion of the subject; but, when the time came, he could show, that, in the conduct of Georgia respecting the Indians, there was nothing inconsistent with the Constitution or with propriety. That now was not the question; but it was true that great misapprehension existed in some parts of the country on the subject; the newspapers had teemed with statements and comments calculated to mislead the public mind, & he hoped that a large number of this report might be printed and distributed among the people, to counteract the great misrepresentations on the subject.

Mr. Stergess of Pennsylvania, took it for granted that the report embraced all the laws of Georgia, respecting the Indians, and all the facts of the case, presented in a fair view; and as it would therefore enable the people to form a correct opinion on the subject, he was in favor of printing the additional copies. Mr. S. concurred in the opinion that the most erroneous impressions were entertained among the people on this subject. His own correspondence, as well as the numerous petitions received by this House, convinced him of the fact. He had received a letter lately from home, expressing surprise at a proposition now before Congress, as was honestly believed, for removing the Indians by force, and the people in his part of the country were actually holding meetings to petition Congress against such a measure. Another letter was in favor of the extension of jurisdiction over the Indians, by the State of Georgia; but protested against the contemplated forcible removal in favor of that which has been done, and against that which is not intended. He cited other cases to establish the fact of great misapprehension on the subject; and as this report would correct those erroneous impressions, he was in favor of the extra number.

Mr. Miller, of Pa. preferred knowing himself what the report contained before he voted for printing this large additional number. The debate had consumed more time than the reading of the report could have done, and he wished it read. He had voted, some days ago, for printing 6000 copies of

a report, with its being read. [The report made by Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee of Commerce,] and he confessed, if he had known what that report contained, he should have voted differently. He was resolved not to commit the same error again.

Mr. Haynes, of Georgia, said, the objection to the printing, seemed to be the idea, that the report was a partial one; an argument on one side. This was mere presumption, and ought not to hinder the distribution of the information which it contained among the people. Supposing the character of the report such as was imputed to it, the House had printed a large extra number of a former report, of an opposite character, and it would be unfair to withhold this.

Mr. White of N. York, seeing no end to this debate, and perceiving its tendency to a premature discussion of the whole subject if indulged, moved the previous question—but withdrew his motion at the request of

Mr. Cambreleng, who regretted to hear what the gentleman (Mr. MILLER) had said about the report of the committee on commerce. He knew not whether to consider those remarks as implying a compliment or a censure but he was bound to receive them as complimentary. Would that gentleman suppress information, or withhold it from the people, because it might not correspond with his own views, or because he might dissent from the deductions from it? Mr. C. was surprised at the opposition to printing the extra number of the present report. There had been an Indian war raging out of doors, and he wished to have the question brought in here, where they might have a fair and honorable war with the other side, who had been carrying it on out of doors. He should like to see who were the members that were opposed to having this question placed fairly before the people; and he therefore demanded the yeas and nays on the motion for postponement.

Mr. Storrs, of New York, said that he wished to vote understandingly on every matter connected with so delicate and important a subject as that before the House. He might or might not agree to the principles of the report, and could not say whether he did not, as it had not been read to the House, and he did not know exactly what the report was. He hoped that he should not be pressed to vote blindfolded on any question relating to it. He had during the debate looked very slightly at some of the sheets at the table, but had not time to read a passage of it carefully. In that part which he cast his eye upon he saw that a paragraph from an opinion was quoted from a case in the Supreme Court of New York, but he had not time to look and see whether the report further stated that the case had been reversed in the Court of Errors there. He wanted information as to the nature of the report and its principles. At any rate he did not wish to act in darkness upon it. He moved that it should be read to the House, and asked the Yeas and Nays on that question.

The Yeas and Nays were ordered, and the question was taken on the reading of the report, and decided in the affirmative. Ayes 120, noes 56.

The Clerk accordingly commenced the reading, and had proceeded about half an hour; when

Mr. Clay, of Alab. moved to dispense with the further reading, which was agreed to, 78 to 57.

A motion was then (about 3 o'clock) made to adjourn and lost.—Ayes 48, noes 90.

Mr. White, now renewed his motion for the previous question, which was seconded by a majority of the House.

Mr. Storrs, of N. Y. then moved to lay the motion for printing on the table, and called for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The yeas and nays were ordered, and being called: the motion to lay on the table was lost. Ayes 37, noes 143.

The previous question now recurring, Mr. Vance demanded the yeas and nays on it, and they were ordered.

And the previous question being put? Shall the main question be now put? it was carried. Ayes 126, noes 53.

The main question was then accordingly put, viz. on the motion to print 10,000 additional copies of the report and decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 116, noes, 56.

The Indian Committees in both houses of Congress have reported, recommending, as we anticipated, the removal of the Indians to the west of the Mississippi. The question is therefore now open for discussion, and soon we shall hear what is to become of us. The crisis is at hand. Will justice prevail? Will honor and plighted faith be regarded, and the poor Indians be shielded from oppression? These are momentous questions which must in a very short time receive a practical answer. If justice prevails, the Indians will assuredly be protected. But if treaties are disregarded and declared of no validity, as many high in office have already done, then indeed shall we be delivered over to our enemies—it matters not whether we hide ourselves in the western prairies—our enemies will have no difficulty in finding us there. If therefore we are to be sacrificed, let the bloody tragedy be accomplished here, on our own native soil, around the graves of our fathers & in the view of the people of these United States. The good people of this boasting republic may stand and gaze on the oppressive acts of Georgia, consenting or not, as they please, to our destruction. It will not require their aid to destroy us—they need only stand still—Georgia can accomplish her design easily—but there will be a reckoning hereafter.

It is said, however, that the general Government and the state of Georgia do not contemplate using force. We have never intimated that open force will be resorted to—this would be too barefaced. But measures are in operation whose effects upon us are the same as those of compulsion. The object is our removal, and if it is ever accomplished, it must be done contrary to our wishes and inclinations, by means which honor and justice must forever reprobate. It makes no difference whether we are ousted at the point of the bayonet, or by indirect and oppressive measures—it is the same thing with us, and we wish the public to know it. People of the U. S. our appeal is to you—will you, with a relentless hand, extinguish all our rising expectations?

The leading men of this nation have been charged with a studied attempt to mislead their people in regard to the nature of the country allotted by the government for the future residence of the Indians. They have said, and repeated a hundred times, that the country was unfit for the Cherokees—it is poor and unhealthy—it is deficient in wood and water. On the other hand, the agents of the government have extolled it, as being unexceptionable in every respect. We can answer these men by a report. It is their studied attempt to beguile and mislead the Indian and not only the Indians, but the public. We hope they will never succeed. We have frequently said that the good land, if any there be in the west, was not sufficient for the support of the Indians proposed to be colonized there. In this opinion we are not alone.

We invite our Cherokee readers, to whom the deceptive promises have been held out, to peruse the remarks which follow. They are taken from an article in the Arkansas Gazette, headed, "On the purchase of Texas." The writer must be considered a good witness in the case, so far as the nature and extent of the country is concerned.

The whole country west of Missouri and Arkansas, (including the forty miles severed from the latter,) is already parcelled out to the different tribes who now occupy it. The Cherokees and Creeks are already murmuring on account of their restricted limits, and complain that the Government has assigned to both the same tract of country. The productions of the habitable parts of the country, under the careless culture of the Indians, will be found not more than sufficient to supply the wants of its present population. And it should be recollected, that, tinctured, as the Indians are, with some of the characteristics of civilization, the force of their original habits is broken, which renders them as little qualified to subsist on the sterile prairies towards the Rocky Mountains, as many of our own citizens. In meliorating the condition of the Indians, humanity needs no subterfuge; its principles are plain, direct, and unconditional. The Government is bound to protect the Indians as a separate and distinct people, so long as that protection does not interfere with the rights and interests of its own citizens; but when this sacrifice becomes ne-