

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CREEK INDIANS.

[From the American Museum.]

AS the Creek nation, bordering on Georgia, with whom commissioners from the United States have lately had a conference, have become the subject of much conversation, though they are little known to many of us, we presume a short account of them, and the country they inhabit, from one who has been familiar with them, will not be unacceptable.

The Creeks, who call themselves Muskogees, are composed of various tribes, who, after tedious wars, thought it good policy to unite to support themselves against the Chactaws, &c. They consist of the Apalaktas, Alibamons, Abecas, Cawittaws, Coofas, Conghacs, Coofactes, Chacshoomas, Natchez, Odonis, Okohoy, Pakanas, Oakmulgis, Taenfas, Talepoo-fas, Weetunikas, and some others. Their union has not only answered their first hope, but enabled them to overawe the Chactaws and other nations.

They inhabit a noble and fruitful country, where they will become civilized, more and more every year; and where they, or some other people, more civilized and more powerful, will one day enjoy all the blessings, which the superior advantages of their soil, climate, and situation can bestow. They are an expert, sagacious, politic people—extremely jealous of their rights—averse to parting with their lands—and determined to defend them against all invasions, to the utmost extremity.

They are remarkably well shaped; are expert swimmers; and are a sprightly hardy race. They teach their horses to swim in a very extraordinary manner; and find great use therein, in their war parties. They have abundance of tame cattle and swine—turkeys, ducks and other poultry: they cultivate tobacco, rice, Indian corn, potatoes, beans, peas, cabbage, &c.

Their country abounds with melons, peaches, strawberries, plumbs, grapes, and a variety of other fruits.

To strangers they are hospitable—nay, liberally kind to excess, even to white men, when any above the rank of a trader visits them. With those they are punctual, and honest in their dealings: and they afford them protection from all insults. Many of the nation are addicted to trade as principals, or as factors for the London company, who are allowed by the Spaniards a free trade with them, in a stipulated number of ships from London annually.

Their women are handsome—and considering their state of civilization, many of them are very cleanly. Their dresses at festivals and public dances, are rich and expensive. They are exceedingly attentive to strangers, whom they serve with excellent provisions, well cooked, which are always accompanied with a bottle of crystalline bear's oil, and another of virgin honey, full as pure.

Their country, or what they claim, is bounded northward by nearly the 34th degree of latitude; and extends from the Tombecbee or Mobile river, to the Atlantic ocean. It is well watered by many navigable streams, leading to bays and harbours, which will become of great importance in peace and war; and is abundant in deer, bears, wild turkeys, and small game.

The men value themselves on being good hunters, fishermen, and warriors, so much that their women still do most of the work of the field, which, in this fine country, and climate, is not very laborious. They are, however, adopting the use of black slaves.

They are the only red people we know, who frequently keep by them stores of liquor, by way of refreshment only; or who make any great use of milk, eggs, and honey.

Their country, amongst other valuable commodities, is possessed of a number of extraordinary salt springs, some of which produce one third salt. And their rivers are remarkably stored with the best of fish.

Hospitable and kind as these people are to friends, they are, if possible, still more inveterate to enemies, which is an exception to true bravery; but it is the effect of their education.

Whilst the British possessed the sea coasts of East and West Florida, the Creeks lived on good terms with them; and they are now in as strict friendship with the Spaniards, who cultivate their esteem with great attention, and strict regard to justice, indeed with a liberality some other nations are strangers to: no nation has a more contemptible opinion of the white men's faith, in general, than these people. Yet they place great confidence in the United States; and wish to agree with them, upon a permanent boundary, over which the southern states shall not trespass.

Mr. Magillivrie, whose mother was principal of the nation, and who has several