

Cherokees, in 1721, for the first time. This was done by Governor Nicholson of the province last named, who had been instructed by the British Government to make a point of fixing their boundaries, and then forbidding encroachments upon them. He accordingly sent a message to the Cherokees, proposing a general congress, to treat of mutual friendship and commerce. 'Pleased,' it is said, 'with an offer which implied that they were a free people,' the chiefs of thirty-seven towns immediately set out to meet him, at this congress. The governor made them presents, smoked the pipe of peace with them, agreed upon boundaries, and regulated weights, measures and trade. It is worthy of remark that this treaty was faithfully observed for nearly forty years, notwithstanding the weakness of the colony, and the great strength of the Cherokees, who could muster 6,000 bowmen.

The treaty was renewed in 1730, when Sir Alexander Cumming was sent out from England for the express purpose of concluding a treaty of alliance with the Cherokees. Their hunting-grounds were of immense extent, reaching from the head of the Savannah far back among the Apalachian Mountains; their population exceeded 20,000; and of course an alliance with such a nation—especially as the English were then situa-