

record book. The Treasurer is under a \$75,000 bond. Sometimes he has as much as \$350,000 cash in his hands. Each of the political districts, nine in number, has its sheriff and deputy sheriff, and its prosecuting Attorney. The Legislative Assembly consists of an Upper and a Lower House. In the former sit 18 Senators, and in the latter 38 Councillors, elected every second year from the nine districts. Every man over 18 years of age has a vote, and the voting is *viva voce*. The Cherokees are the most ardent politicians on the face of the earth. They are at present divided into two parties—the Nationalists and the Downings; the former answering to the American Republicans, and the latter to the Democrats. These parties copy their American neighbors in vilifying one another with much vigor and ingenuity. The Judicial department of the Cherokee nation is composed of a District Court for each of the nine political Districts. In cases involving the death penalty, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court presides. The jury and grand jury system is followed the same as in the United States. Their State prison is

in civilization as the Cherokees would have adopted the white man's views in regard to the desirability of each individual having his own holding. But not so. They still hold their lands in common, and they are utterly averse to any change being made in this respect. The land, they say, belongs to the Cherokee nation, and not to the individuals thereof; land is as air and water, the property of all, it cannot be given away to the few.

A well educated Cherokee lawyer has given the following reasons wherefore the Cherokees are opposed to the allotment of land in severalty: (1) By holding it in common, they are better able to resist the aggression of the whites; (2) their present social system has never yet developed a mendicant or a tramp; (3) Although poor, yet they have no paupers, none suffering from the oppression of the rich. With the whites, every one is scrambling to live, the strong trampling down the weak, but not so with them. (4) They do not believe that the whites have any better condition to offer them, therefore they prefer to remain as they are.

It remains now to say a few words as to the ancient condition and old traditions of this people so far as can be ascertained.

The idea, we believe, is becoming prevalent among those who have searched deeply into the matter, that these Cherokee Indians are connected with the ancient mound builders, and indeed, that they may quite possibly be their direct descendants. North Carolina and Tennessee are known to have been their ancient domains, and from the mounds in these regions have been obtained articles similar in material and construction to those still to be found among the Eastern Cherokees. There can be no doubt that these people formerly practised the art of pottery very extensively; they used a plastic clay, tempered with pulverized shell or powdered



CHEROKEE PRISON.

at Tahlequah, their capital, where also are situated their Government Offices and Houses of Parliament, also two large, handsomely built Seminaries, one for male and one for female pupils, each with accommodation for 150 scholars.

It might be thought that a people so far advanced

mica; with this material they made bowls, cups, pots, etc., of various sizes, and ornamented them with native made paint. They were also skilled in basket and cane work. They made bows and arrows. They would also kill small game with "blow guns," 7 or 8 feet long, made out of a hollowed cane, an arrow was inserted with a wad of thistle down, bound tightly round the