

Georgia rose against them and forcibly expelled them from their State, driving them away to the west of the Mississippi. The hardships and exposures of that journey, coupled with the fevers and malaria of a radically different climate, cost the lives of ten per cent. of their population. They exhibited, however, wonderfully recuperative power, and five years after their forced removal from their old homes, we find them again with houses and farms, eleven schools in active operation, and a printing office issuing publications both in the English and Cherokee languages. The civil war of 1861-3, again worked great havoc among them; they were raided and sacked alternately by the federal and confederate troops, and when the fight was over they were left an impoverished, heart-broken people, their schools and churches all burnt, their fields deserted and overgrown with weeds. In sullen despair they set to work to rebuild the waste places, and bent to the task with a determination and perseverance that could not fail to secure success.

And now, to-day, the country of these Cherokee Indians is fair and prosperous, and long may they be allowed to enjoy it. Few people on the face of the earth have made so great progress in so short a time, and in the face of so great difficulties and discouragements as have these Cherokees. They number now 22,000. They have 2300 scholars attending 75 schools, established and supported by themselves at an annual expense to the nation of nearly \$100,000. To-day, 13,000 of their people can read and 18,000 can speak the English language. To-day, 5000 brick, frame and log houses are occupied by them, and they have 64 churches with a membership of several thousands. They have also a constitutional form of Government, framed on the same plan as that of the United States. A leading spirit in the framing of their constitution was John Ross, in the year 1827. He was then made their Principal Chief, and continued in office until he died in 1866. John Ross was of mixed Scotch and Indian blood, his maternal grandfather being John Stuart, who was British Superintendent of Indian affairs prior to the Revolution.

A visitor to the Cherokee country, in Indian Territory, at the present day would be vastly surprised to note the wonderful progress that these people have made; indeed, he would scarcely believe that he was in Indian country at all. Entering the district by the Missouri Pacific Railway, he arrives first at the town of Vinita, a town of a thousand people; it is surrounded



VINITA.

by farms with comfortable houses and cottages; it has broad streets and business houses built of stone, brick, and wood; it has a Mayor and Council; it levies and collects taxes on all property within the corporate limits. It has four churches, and a large, well-conducted high school, called the Worcester Academy, with accommodation for 200 pupils. One of the citizens of the town is estimated to be worth \$100,000. It should be added, however, that there are very few full-blooded Cherokees in the town—the population consisting mostly of half-breeds and whites adopted into the nation. Out in the country 'round, the farm houses are, in every respect, equal to those of other western settlers. Some of these farms are 400 or 500 acres in extent. There are orchards set out with apple and peach trees, and here and there a vineyard. The fences are of plank, wire, or wooden rail. Of course there are poor Cherokees as well as well-to-do ones; these live in log cabins, plant from 5 to 100 acres, and keep hogs and a few cattle. The last census taken shewed, out of 20,000 people, five persons only who made their living by hunting and fishing, the others being farmers, mechanics, teachers, etc.—but no saloon keepers. The community is strictly prohibitionist; the whisky peddler who carries on his secret nefarious traffic does not rank much above a thief, and when found is promptly and severely dealt with.

The system of government is now very complete. The Principal Chief is the Governor, and has all the functions usually attaching to that office, with the pardoning power, the right to veto, etc. He may be impeached as the Governor of a State may be impeached. The Executive office is thoroughly well managed. The Chief has four Secretaries, who are constantly employed in keeping a record of the affairs of the nation. Every letter is briefed, registered, and placed on the letter