

one of the tribe. In the mean time, the value of their rich reservations became apparent to the people of Georgia, by whom they were surrounded, and the Government of that state insisted on their being given up to them in conformity with an agreement which it urged that the general Government had made to that effect, without the concurrence of the Cherokees, and in violation of the treaties by which the reservations had been made. Some of the most able lawyers in the United States were retained by the Cherokees to defend their rights in the most legitimate and constitutional manner. Some of those advocates have earned the lasting gratitude and respect of mankind, for the ability and zeal with which they strenuously, and for a time successfully defended the rights of the oppressed. It is well known that the hearts and wishes of no inconsiderable number of the worthiest citizens of America were on the side of the Cherokees, and memorials and remonstrances, in some of which the members of the Society of Friends took a part, were presented to Congress from different parts of the Union: but the agreement of the Congress with the Georgians, like the oath of Herod to the daughter of Herodias, was not to be violated. The general Government has used some efforts to mitigate the blow which it was resolved to inflict, and it employed remonstrance and persuasion before having recourse to coercion. That the inducements which it held out were far from equivalent in the eyes of the Cherokees to the attractions of their native land, will be seen from the following pathetic appeal of the Cherokees, in which may also be seen the character of some of the agents which the enlightened government of a civilized country sometimes suffers itself to employ in its dealings with Aboriginal tribes.

The Memorial of the Cherokee Nation to the Honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, most humbly and most respectfully sheweth,

THAT whereas, we, the undersigned, citizens of the Cherokee nation, have always regarded the instrument purporting to be a treaty made in December, 1835, at New Echota, by the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, and certain unauthorized individual Cherokees, to be a violation of the fundamental principles of justice, and an outrage on the primary rules of national intercourse, as well as the known laws and usages of the Cherokee nation, and therefore to be destitute of any binding force on us.

* * * With the full detail of our troubles we forbear to trespass on your indulgence. They are extensively known, and our delegation, now at Washington, will be found ready to furnish any information which may be needed.

We therefore respectfully present the following, which will show the appalling circumstances in which we are placed, by the operations of that perfidious compact.

A communication has recently issued from the United States' agency, addressed to the chiefs, head men and people of the Cherokee nation, in which we are told, that "the executive has formally declined" all intercourse or correspondence with Mr. Ross, in relation to the treaty, "and"