

States wishes us to go to the west. We are sorry to hear talk. Our minds are troubled. We do not want to go to the west, unless the Cherokees go there too.

We speak to you as a chief of the Cherokee nation. It has been the custom of our fathers and our forefathers to go freely into each other's country. With this knowledge we came into the Cherokee country. We came here to escape from the evils of war. In time of trouble we came to the Cherokees as to the home of a brother. When we came we were kindly treated. Our red brethren made no objection. They did not tell us to leave the country. But we have been pursued by the white man, and treated harshly, without knowing that we are guilty of any crime. While living here we planted corn in the season, but the white man destroyed it, and took away much of our other property. In this bad treatment two of our men were killed, one man shot through the thigh and arm, and three children lost in the flight of their mothers, and have not been found. We do not want to be put into the hands of these men. We ask the favour of you to permit us to reside with you. We ask your pity and protection. We put ourselves into your hands. We ask you to speak for us to the president, our father, that he may order his men not to hunt us through the country. We hope you will pity us; we hope the president will pity us. We want to live with you. We are willing to obey your laws.

Again we speak to the principal chief of the Cherokees.

Most of our numbers are connected with the Cherokees by blood or marriage, and those who are not themselves connected in this manner are nearly related to those who are.

We hope the Cherokee chief will take hold of us and help us before our father the president.

Will you tell the president that the son and brother of Chinnabee, the Creek warrior, who was the strong friend of the whites in peace and war, are here with us, and join with us in this petition? We hope the chief will obtain help for his own people, and that we may share in that benefit; but, if not, we are willing to share in the afflictions of the Cherokees.

You will discover our desires, and we hope you will be able to help us.

Signed at Red Clay, August 12, 1837, by your friends and brothers.—
From the Friend.

Although the Indians removed beyond the Mississippi have been repeatedly assured that they will henceforth be suffered to enjoy undisputed possession of the territory which has been assigned to them, yet it may reasonably be doubted whether, in their weakened condition, they will be able to maintain themselves against the increasing pressure of western emigration, and prevent the encroachments of the backwoods-men, to whose progress the Government of the United States, though it may be actuated by the best intentions, can give little or no check. The accounts furnished by recent travellers make known the existence of a most accessible and easy passage across the Rocky Mountains, by which enterprising settlers cannot fail to be invited to enter upon the fertile territory, watered by the Oregon or Columbia River. The tribes inhabiting that district are described as an interesting and simple people, and are said already to have ex-