

the influence, which the *comparatively few*, who have hitherto been educated, have exerted already on the character of the nation, especially that of the Cherokees. Let them remember that this influence will still continue to spread, while there will be added to it the influence of a much larger number of educated Indians, (a number increasing each year) who will leave the schools annually for ten years to come. Let it be remembered that in the mean time a large proportion of those, whose attachment to old habits of life is most inveterate, will have passed away, while their places are filled by those whose habits have been formed in a greater degree under the influence of civilization and Christianity; that the number of schools and missionary stations will also be increased, while the obstacles which have impeded their success are daily diminishing;—let all these circumstances be considered without prejudice, and none can help acknowledging that there is the fairest prospect of the full and perfect civilization of the nation of the Cherokees, and that too at no distant period of time. Provided that they be left to the undisturbed power of the causes now in operation—that they be not broken up and driven off to the wilds beyond the Mississippi, nor left to suffer from the oppression of the State of Georgia—we think there exists the most rational ground for such a conclusion, not merely in regard to this tribe, but, at a somewhat more distant interval, in regard to their neighbors, the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks.

The statements we have exhibited will probably be met with incredulity in the minds of not a few, and with absolute contradiction on the part of others. There seems to be a deep rooted superstition (we know not what else to call it) in many minds, that the Indians are really *destined*, as if there were some fatality in the case, never to be christianized, but gradually to decay till they become totally extinct. This superstitious idea is equally irrational and unchristian; and it is every man's duty to examine facts with an unprejudiced mind, and to give accredited statements their true weight.

As to the proceedings of Congress on this subject, it is most evidently the duty of that body to learn the *truth*, from eye witnesses who are competent to decide, who have had intimate and personal acquaintance with the character of those tribes, whose welfare would be so deeply affected by the measures which have been proposed in regard to them. Those who hold the destiny of these tribes in their power cannot be too humane, too deliberate, nor too cautious in their decisions. They should never rest satisfied with second-hand information, nor with the declarations of interested men.