

Governor's Message.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, GEORGIA, }
Milledgeville, October 19, 1830. }

FELLOW CITIZENS,—The great number of persons who have taken possession of the Cherokee territory in search of gold, in defiance of the authority of the State, to the injury of the public property and the rights of the Indians, has made it necessary that you should be assembled together sooner than the time appointed by law for the meeting of the Legislature.

In the early part of the year, Gold was discovered in great quantities in the Indian lands. The act of 1829 having fixed upon the first of June, as the time when the laws were to be extended over that part of the State, all persons seemed to consider themselves at liberty, in the mean time, to appropriate as much of its mineral riches to themselves as possible. The whole community became very much excited. The profits of those engaged in searching for Gold, were reported to be very great. The love of gain, always one of the strongest passions, became stimulated to excess. All classes of people, but especially the idle and profligate, pressed into the mineral region, with the hope of acquiring great wealth with little labor. The thousands of persons thus collected together, all operated upon by motives which lead to most of the disorders of society, and freed from those restraints which the laws impose upon the evil dispositions of men, exhibited a scene of vicious indulgence, violence and fraud, which would not have been tolerated for a moment if the means could have been used to prevent it. The Indian right of occupancy was wholly disregarded. The Indians themselves were not even permitted to have an equal enjoyment of the riches of the earth, which circumstances had thus for a time made common to all. The Cherokee government, of the importance of which to the Indians so much has been lately said, proved utterly powerless to protect any rights or punish any wrongs. The magnitude of the evil was such, that it became a matter of consideration, whether the Legislature should not be called together to provide for it some proper remedy. At this time the bill for the removal of the Cherokees beyond the Mississippi, was depending before Congress. The Government of the United States was, for the first time, earnestly endeavoring to execute the contract of 1802. The manner proposed was believed to be the only practical one, consistent with humanity to the Indians, and justice to Georgia. Unfortunately for the country, the opposition to the Administration determined to make the proposed removal of the Indians a party question. The facts connected with the subject were found to be so far re-