

An Excursion in the Cherokee Nation.

Mr. ESTROA — I spent the greater part of last
year in the Cherokee Nation, and mixed freely among
the Indians, in order to ascertain, if possible,
their views in regard to removing west of the
Mississippi. Their Delegation had just returned
from Washington, and meetings were held in dif-
ferent parts of the Nation by their chiefs and prin-
cipal men, the object of which appeared to be, to
inform the people what the Delegation had done
there, what the decision of the Supreme Court
was, and advising them what course to pursue in
future. — I attended one of these meetings, at which
there were a great many Indians assembled, but
they conversed chiefly in their own language, in-
ferno doubt to conceal from me their motives.
They appeared to express a great deal of uneasi-
ness, after understanding I was from Georgia, at-
taching me among them, and frequently inquired if
I was in some way connected with the guard sent
out by the State to protect the gold mines. They
were evidently very suspicious and unfriendly to-
wards our State. — At this meeting were Ross,
Cotton and Ridge; they all appear to be quite in-
dependent men and very gentleman like in their de-
portment. The common Indians however are ve-

ry ignorant and degraded, appearing to have no will of their own, but relying implicitly on any thing their chiefs see cause to tell them: they then to reason until Jackson's term of the president expires: that then Clay will be elected; that an act of our Legislature extending our laws will be declared unconstitutional; that though they have despaired of being looked upon as a free nation, they will be recognized as domestic dependants under the protection of the General Government alone, not subject to the law of any State, and to be restored to all their ancient rights and privileges. They then read the decision of the Supreme Court, and the views of some Northern writers on the subject, and exhorted them to submit to the laws of Georgia for the present, and patiently wait until Jackson shall have been removed. This is about the amount I could gather through an interpreter.

I had heard much said about the advancement of the Cherokees in civilization; and it is perhaps true that in travelling along the road, the country has rather an imposing appearance; for you occasionally come to some well improved country.-- But you will find it to be only where white men have settled and made fortunes out of the poor degraded natives, by marrying among them and cheating them out of all they are worth. Among those men, you will find some of the greatest outlaws from moral worth and common honesty, that perhaps the world affords. The half-breeds, quarterons, &c. are generally dexterous in their low contemptible way and in that alone while the full blooded natives are as ignorant as it appears possible for them to be, living in wretched hovels, and many of them, both male and female, almost quite naked and perhaps as nearly starved. I was told by an intelligent gentleman living in New Echo that he knew several families that had subsisted for the last three weeks entirely on sap and roots. It would certainly be a humane policy that would remove them to a country where they could enjoy unmolested their wandering habits of life, as it appears to be impossible to reclaim them. Much of the land seems to be good, and the country delightful. Colonel Sanford deserves much credit for the prompt manner in which he seems to be discharging the duties assigned him. C.

Campbellton, April 29, 1831.