

So much for Mr. Gilmer's honesty and partiality. Let us see if his capacity for the office which he seeks, is not equally deficient. In his late message, he recommends the repeal of the law of 1829, which prevents Indians from being competent witnesses in the courts of this State where a white man is a party. Our negroes and free persons of color have been always by law likewise excluded from testifying against white men: ought not Mr. Gilmer to recommend a repeal of that law also, to maintain his consistency? All the reasons that are applicable to the one case, likewise apply with double force to the other. Our free persons of color are much more familiar with the obligations of an oath than the Indians; more correctly instructed in their notions of religion and justice; and not half so savage in their manners or inveterate in their hostility to the whites. Who is there that would not rather trust the oath of a negro than an Indian? Indeed, both classes are too deficient in morality and too deeply interested in giving false testimony, to be ever admitted as competent witnesses against white men, consistent with sound policy. The hatred of the savages to the white men and to the Georgians in particular, is inveterate and incurable; and, to admit them to testify in cases where the lives and property of our citizens are concerned, would only enable them to effect by their oaths what they would long since have accomplished with the tomahawk and scalping knife, if they had dared. Does Mr. Gilmer think that such witnesses can be trusted? How would he be pleased himself to have his own life or that of any member of his family placed at the mercy of such witnesses as the infuriated relatives of the late George Tassels? As I am unable to conceive any adequate motive for Mr. Gilmer's singular views on this subject, I must set them down either to his weakness of understanding or sheer ignorance of the Indian character. I am fully convinced that no one who entertains such views, can ever be calculated to conduct our important and delicate relations with the Cherokee Indians to a successful and honorable conclusion.

A few remarks touching Mr. Lusk's conduct