

The following extract we have taken from a communication to the Cherokee Phoenix, giving an account of the distressed situation of the Creek Indians. We have noticed their destitute condition before, and deeply regretted that any change should have taken place in the policy of the General Government, by which a portion of the Indians have been deceived in their expectations of being removed at the public expense. It is but the part of justice and humanity, that their situation should be attended to, and their wants supplied, until they can be comfortably settled in their Western home; especially those who are desirous to remove. It is with pleasure we learn that Gen. Coffee is now among them, for we hope much good may result from his presence. His arrival, however, is rather too late, for the worst is probably over—they have already begun to find sustenance in the crops of the present year, and were it not for the small pox which is said to exist among them, their condition for the present would be much ameliorated. But our object in publishing the extract was more particularly on account of the concluding paragraph. It seems that it is not the good of the nation that is to be looked after—the will of a few obstinate head men is to be gratified, even if “robbing must transpire in consequence.” This is the true secret; they have found that we have a President who will not disregard the rights of sovereign states for their gratification, and offended dignity exhorts them to maintain every right they can claim, regardless of its effect on the majority of their people. This is oppression more severe, cruelty more intolerable, upon the ignorant and confiding mass of the Indians, than even our laws of which they complain so bitterly. But while all the annuities, and all the wealth of the Indians, can be retained in the hands of a few individuals by art and management—by imposing upon the credulity of the ignorant—we must expect that any effort to reverse the order of things, will be met with the cry of persecution! They fear that their greatest source of wealth will be destroyed by a change of scene, and this makes them zealous in the cause. The tone of the whole extract is sufficient evidence to prove the malignity of the writer—he attempts to rouse the sympathy of the people by wilful misrepresentations; and while he wishes to excite pity, indulges in abuse, and even bids defiance to the President. Let his own words prove the assertion:

“I have often wondered at the iron nerves of these states who attempt to eject the Indians by force of circumstances from the lands of their fathers. No pity or shame seem to dwell in their minds, but go on with the accomplishment of their designs as if we were Wolves or Tigers or the Boa Constrictor. I know the Chiefs of this nation, their feelings and the feelings of the people. They look, if they do look in vain, to the people of the U. States to see their sufferings, and heal their wounds, by enforcing the laws and treaties in their behalf. If they read the opinion of the Supreme Court and respect it, they will compel their servants, the President and Congress to grant us justice. If not, the act of robbery must transpire, for Gen. Jackson shall never say he has effected a treaty from the Cherokee Nation by his policy. Yours, &c.

JOHN RIDGE.”