

TREATY REJECTED BY THE CHEROKEES.—

The council lately held by John Ross, at Red Bluff, has determined to reject the very liberal and provident terms offered to their tribe by the president. The council was composed almost exclusively of the Ross party; and they expressed a determination to remain on the east of the Mississippi, and to treat the propositions of the federal government with contempt. The conduct of John Ross has been most perfidious. During the late session of congress, he gave a written pledge, by which he bound himself to abide by such a treaty as the United States' Senate should believe to be proper; on which that body was consulted, and its opinion obtained; and on that opinion, thus drawn forth, the treaty proposed by the President has been based. But this faithless man now violates his pledge, and has the effrontery to declare, that it was made only as a manœuvre to try the strength of his party in the Senate. It is worthy of observation, that his insidious proposal to the Senate, in which he promised to conform to its decision, was made through Judge White. The Senator from Tennessee was his instrument in deceiving the Senate. About a year before this transaction, the same Senator from Tennessee accomplished the purposes of this same chief, when he took the lead in preventing the ratification of a treaty for the removal of the Cherokees to the West.

At the late council, John Ross used most dishonorable and criminal artifices to induce his ignorant and deluded countrymen to reject the treaty. In reading and interpreting the treaty to the council, some material clauses were entirely omitted. Important passages in the President's letter to the Cherokees were in like manner left out. He also communicated to them false statements made by Indians of worthless character, of the nature of the country proposed to be given to them in the West, and unjustly charged the federal government with a violation of its engagements to those Cherokees who have removed; and he would not suffer Cherokees of good character who were present, to contradict and expose those false statements. He has at the same time paralyzed, to a great extent, the exertions of the Indians favorable to emigration, by filling them with alarm for their personal safety. There are hundreds of Cherokees, or any other Chief favorable to emigration. These men dare not act with vigour; they know that their lives are in constant peril; they are afraid to make a bold and open opposition to his selfish and insidious policy. They are obliged to leave a large part of their ignorant countrymen in a state of constant delusion. Many of our most intelligent citizens believe, that the life of Ridge is in the most imminent danger; should he make any effort, and succeed to any extent in undeceiving the Cherokees, it is thought by persons well acquainted with the Ross party, that he would immediately fall by the rifle of an assassin. The murder of Walker and of Hicks, distinguished Indians favorable to emigration, perpetrated during the past year, proves that these apprehensions are well founded.

As the Cherokees are determined to oppose the policy of Georgia, what course shall the State now pursue? Her people have no sickly sensibilities on this subject. They know that the aboriginal race are withered and blighted in the neighborhood of any civilized race; and that rapidly accelerating debasement, and early extinction are the certain destiny of the Cherokees, should they be permitted to remain east of the Mississippi. It is impossible for Georgia to recede from her present position. She will not abandon that policy which she has been steadily pursuing for years; she will not permit her plans to be defeated by the avaricious and faithless Cherokee dictator. When liberal and provident treaties are contemptuously rejected, it is to be presumed that she will look to other modes of accomplishing her purposes.

It now appears, that the civil arm of the government has not sufficient energy for the execution of our laws in the Cherokee country. When Ross men who murdered Indians friendly to our citizens, were apprehended under the proclamation of the Governor, and committed for safe keeping until trial, to the jail of the county of Cass, how easily; how triumphantly, did the Indian party trample down the safeguards of the law! A club of them assembled at night, forced the jail, and liberated the prisoners. These men are now at large, by their impunity, giving encouragement to the Ross-men to murder every Cherokee favorable to the emigration of his tribe. Ridge and his friends, who are entitled to the protection of our laws, can derive no safety from them. They see that their lives are periled by acts which give them a claim to our esteem and affection. In yielding to the policy of Georgia, and advocating the removal of their tribe to the Far West, they consult the true interests of their countrymen; they adopt the only means of rescuing their tribe from hopeless ruin. In a country overrun by half-savages, under the control of a perfidious and unprincipled chief, there is no adequate energy in the law to preserve them from the blow of the assassin; there is not sufficient terror in the administration of the law, to deter by intimidation the ruffian vas-

sals of John Ross. Should our painful forebodings be realized, should the virtuous and talented Ridge fall by the hand of an assassin, because an advocate for the emigration of his tribe, deep will be the sorrow, humiliating will be the mortification of Georgia.

We may add, that, in many parts of the Cherokee counties the laws administered by the ordinary officers are not deemed a sufficient safeguard to our own citizens against the savage resentment of the Ross-men; and that acts of mutual violence are apprehended.— We again ask, what course shall Georgia pursue? Shall she suffer the authority of her laws to be broken down, the lives of her citizens to be exposed to the assaults of savages who deny the obligations of those laws, and hate their restraints, and the peace of her territory to be disturbed by hordes of ruffians devoted to an unprincipled chief?