

CONGRESS—THE CHEROKEES.

The principal matter of interest from Washington, brought by the late mails, will be found in some documents communicated to both Houses on the 22d ult. and which will be found in our columns to-day, relative to the removal of the Cherokees. It will be seen on referring to them, that the Secretary of War has assented to some propositions made by John Ross, and has recommended to Congress that an additional sum of money should be granted to defray the expenses of the emigration of the Cherokees. This emigration he consents shall be conducted by the agents and authorities of the tribe; and he also consents, *if Congress and the States interested concur*, that, if necessary to their safety and comfort, two years may be allowed, to complete the removal. We have no doubt, from the information in the possession of the Secretary of War as to the disposition of the Cherokees on the subject of emigration, and the unbounded sway which Ross holds over them, that he believes it will take two years to run down and capture them, and to carry them forcibly to the West; and that the co-operation of Ross will make them willing to come in forthwith, and that therefore, by the proposed arrangement, we will sooner and at less expense, be rid of this troublesome popu-

lation. But we entertain a different opinion. We believe that the force now in that country will be competent to remove the Indians before the close of the present year, and we therefore shall protest most strenuously against granting the proposed extension of time. With the other provisions of the contemplated arrangement we have no fault to find. It is immaterial to Georgia, what mode the General Government adopts of effecting the removal—all we ask is the speedy execution of this part of the treaty, and this we must have. It is the same to us whether the agents who superintend the emigration be Indians or white men, and if that object can be hastened, or made more satisfactory to those interested, Georgians will not complain. We have no doubt, too, that reasonable time would be granted by the people of our State for this purpose, but we cannot consent to lose the cultivation of our lands for another year, when we know that the present season will be long enough for the accomplishment of the object desired.

The feeling which would naturally be supposed might be excited by the prospect of a longer continuance of the Indians here, furnishes a fine field for the enemies of the Administration to labor in, and we accordingly find them busily employed in misrepresenting the recommendation of the Secretary of War. They are every where spreading the news that a further extension of two years has been recommended, leaving their hearers and readers to infer that the work of removal is only to commence at the expiration of that time.—The statement is deceptive, and the object contemptible. The whole matter is simply a proposition to Congress, and to the States of Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee, to this effect: "Are you willing that the emigration, after the Indians have been enrolled and assembled by Gen. Scott, shall be conducted by the agents of the Cherokees—that they shall use all diligence in hastening the removal, and that, if it cannot sooner be effected, two years may be allowed for the final consummation of the work? If you are willing, the President will agree to it; but if either of you object, it will not be urged."—Surely this is not a subject for excitement and indignation. It is a simple proposition which we can make ineffectual by a single word, and which we should reject for the only reason that the time extends too far. Suppose three months had been substituted, could we reasonably have demurred? Surely not; for we believe that more than that time will be spent in finding them all out and getting them on their way.

For conclusive proof of the disposition of the Administration to do justice to us, and to carry out the Treaty, we refer to the orders of the Secretary of war to Gen. Scott, based upon the very propositions about which so much complaint is made. He tells the General that the emigration must "be carried on continuously," that "it is not intended to retard the execution of the treaty," and that he must permit no unnecessary delay in his operations. Those who look upon the subject coolly and deliberately, it seems to us that this order will satisfy; but persons who wish an excuse to clamor against the Government, are not expected to be suited—and there are no doubt many, who, on first hearing the rumor, honestly thought it a matter of grave import, involving the destiny of an Administration, who have by this time learned that their first impressions did gross injustice to those who have labored so perseveringly to maintain our rights and promote our interest.