

PRESENTMENTS

Of the Grand Jury of Twiggs county, at September Term,
1830.

WE congratulate our fellow-citizens that we have no presentments to make for infractions of the laws; and it is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction that we can give evidence of the progress of the people of Twiggs county in moral and intellectual refinement—Therefore, our presentments will be short, and of a general nature.

In presenting our views upon the subject of our claims upon that portion of our State's Territory now in the occupancy of the Cherokee Indians, as well as upon any other subject of general interest, we do not arrogate to ourselves a right, but adhere to a custom established in sound policy. As the organ of the people of Twiggs county, and we believe that we speak the sentiments of the people of Georgia, when we say, that the act of the Legislature at its last session, extending the laws over the Cherokees residing within the limits of this State, should be duly observed, and strictly enforced. Upon a calm and dispassionate review of the whole matter, it seems to us the safest and most expedient method for us to adopt, is, that the Legislature pass the necessary laws and survey the territory; make provisions for the Indians by temporary reserves; tax their property and compel them to contribute to the support of the Government under whose laws they must live, if they persist in refusing to emigrate; and make such other distribution of the land as will promote the best interests of the State. It is important that something be done speedily. The precious metal is found in that section of the State in great abundance, and is daily removed by citizens of other states, which of right belongs to the citizens of Georgia. We did indulge a fond hope that under the Administration of the present Chief Magistrate of the United States we would have been relieved from the necessity of legislating for these deluded people (the Cherokees;) but the philanthropic, wise and humane efforts of the President, have been paralyzed; and obstacles thrown in the way at every step, by an unwise and unjust opposition of some of our Northern brethren, that would dishonor a less enlightened people. We forbear going into a history of our rights upon this subject as they are well understood by the people of Georgia.—We are gratified to see the subject met promptly and energetically by functionaries high in office, and highly recommend the candid and able remarks which the learned and patriotic Judge Clayton gave in charge to the Grand Jury at the last term of the Superior Court of Clark county. And in relation to the communication made by Mr. Wirt to the Governor, we highly approve of the manner and style in which His Excellency has met that presumptuous and dictatorial letter.

One other subject of importance has been under the consideration of the Grand Jury: the establishment of a Supreme Court for the correction of Errors. It has been so often a subject of grand jury presentments, and its importance so ably set forth, that we will on this occasion only add our entire conviction of the propriety of such a measure. And in order that the labors of the Judge throughout the State may be equalized we recommend the enactment of a law compelling them to alternate.

We request the Clerk of the Inferior Court to examine the Estray Book and notify every defaulter (if any) in writing of the amount and nature of the default, and that he notify John Fort specially to make a return of the amount he is chargeable on his private book or otherwise and that the Clerk return a list to the next Grand Jury.

We tender our thanks to his Honor Judge HOLT, for his punctual and impartial discharge of the duties of the court during the present term. And to the Solicitor General, we tender our thanks for his respectful attention towards this body.

We request that our presentments may be published in the Georgia Journal and Federal Union.

JOEL DENSON, Foreman.

David B Perryman,

Joseph Blackshear,

James Bryan,

Henry Bunn,

Nimrod W Long,

Michael B. Headen,

Isaac Denson,

Thos. Glover,

Cader Sawyer,

Henry Lee,

Ira E Dupree,

Holiday H Harrell,

Joshua D. Bostick,

Benj. B. Smith,

Robert Bedingfield,

John Graddy,

William A. Tharp,

Henry Solomon,

Ruffin R. Tarver,

Nathan Grimes,

Hartwell H. Tarver.

A true Extract from the minutes,

ALLEN FLEMING, Clerk.