

*Indian Affairs—Difficulties of Georgia.*

In addition to all the declarations and pledges of the President, and of all our representatives, and friends, in Congress, some of which I would here insert, if time and space would allow, I call the attention of the public to the following official announcements of one, of our highest judicial tribunals:—"My other purpose," says Judge Clayton, in his charge to the grand jury of Clark county, "is to apprise the Indians that they are not to be oppressed, as has been sagely foretold; that the same justice which is meted to the citizen shall be meted to them;" &c. "To our citizens," says Judge Clayton, in the same charge, "I would say, let us falsify the prophecies that have been made, as to the treatment which the Indians are to receive at our hands, by exercising towards that unfortunate people, the utmost kindness, justice, and humanity. Their personal rights must be respected. To the Indians, I will repeat," continues the Judge,

"they have nothing to dread, as far as they are concerned, either from the character of our laws, or the mode of their administration."

As an inducement to pursue the moderate course which has been recommended to us by our friends, and our public functionaries, I call the attention of the community to the serious difficulties which already press upon Georgia, and among those, the controversies, with Alabama and Florida, concerning boundary.

Should it ultimately be deemed clearly necessary and proper, (for nothing else would justify us.) to dispose of the Cherokee territory, we should then make some humane provision for the Cherokees who may remain and submit to our laws. Surely we should allow to such, something like the protection extended to aliens, at least. Should we be compelled, in justice to ourselves, to occupy the Cherokee lands, our citizens should remember, that a distinguished representative from this state, in pursuance of the Georgia resolutions of 1826, declared in his speech on the Indian bill, during the late session of Congress, that "the laws of Georgia neither contemplate driving the Cherokees from their lands, nor any other act of oppression or injustice against them;" and then quoted one of our resolutions, requesting the President to instruct certain commissioners, in substance, "to grant, if they found it absolutely necessary, reserves of land in favour of individual Indians, or inhabitants of the nation, not to exceed one sixth part of the territory to be acquired, the same to be subject to future purchase by the general government, for the use of Georgia.—Consistency and duty would both forbid an unnecessary departure from our own overtures and pledges.

The foregoing proposition on the part of Georgia, would seem to accord with the doctrine advanced in the most respectable authorities, which seem to say, that *whenever the hunter state is relinquished, and the agricultural adopted, the Indians are entitled to a sufficiency of their territories, so changed, to afford them an adequate support.* This principle would seem to be distinctly recognized in a report of the Committee on the state of the republic, adopted at the last session of our legislature, concerning the policy of the general government towards the Indians. See Journal H. R. p. 264

I am aware I have transcended the legitimate bounds of a paragraph; but the importance of the subject will be my excuse

PARAGRAPHIST.

Sept. 16th, 1830.