

## GEORGIA AND THE INDIANS.—

Will the National Journal, New York Journal of Commerce, and Daily Advertiser, the Boston Courier, and their co-workers, republish the following statement, as a slight atonement for the almost innumerable slanders against Georgia, which they have heretofore given currency to?—Will it be considered unreasonable, to make an appeal to their sense of justice on the subject?

A white man by the name of James D. Sutton, residing in Habersham county, was convicted, at the last Superior court of that county, of the crime of Robbery committed on a Cherokee Indian, in the Cherokee nation, and sentenced to four years confinement in the Penitentiary. We understand that *Judge Clayton*, before whom the case was tried, charged the jury against the prisoner, and in his remarks upon passing sentence, admonished the community that the laws of the country would be administered with an even hand over all descriptions of persons.

We make this statement on authority not to be questioned; & add to it another case of which we have lately heard the particulars.

There was a combination among certain unprincipled white men, lately to defraud a wealthy Indian. They forged his signature to a number of notes, & instituted an action on one of them, under the belief that our law on the subject of Indian Evidence would enable them to recover. They failed altogether. The jury would not sustain them.

By the way we cannot omit to express ourselves decidedly hostile to the law excluding Indians from the privilege of testifying in our courts. It is unjust, and inexpedient, and should be repealed. In relation to Indians, and every one else, not notoriously infamous, we hold that they should be permitted to give their evidence, in all cases, whether affecting their interest or not. The object is to arrive at the truth. Let not that object be defeated, by arbitrary restrictions. Let the court and jury be the judges of the *credibility* of witnesses. To their *competency* let there be no objection, except what may arise from notorious infamy.