



EDITED BY ELIAS BOLDING

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ISAAC H. HARRIS,

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All letters addressed to the Editor, post paid, will receive due attention.

CHEROKEE PHOENIX
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
ISAAC H. HARRIS,
AT THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX
PRINTING OFFICE, NEW ECHOTA,
GEORGIA.

A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

What is there in all the pomp of the world, the enjoyments of luxury, and the gratification of passion, compared with the peace and tranquillity of a good conscience? It is the health of the soul. It is a sweet perfume, that diffuses its fragrance over every thing near it, and exhales its store. When combined with this, the gay pleasures of the world are like brilliant to a diseased eye, and the pleasures of the law are like a drop of water in the sea. To lie down at the pillow, after a day spent in intemperance, in dissipation, and in riotous living, how different from the state of him who reclines, at an unmutual hour, with his blood unclotted, his head throbbing with wine and glutony, his heart aching with execrable malice, his thoughts totally estranged from Him who has protected him in the day, and will watch over him, ungratefully as he is, in the night season! A good conscience is, indeed, the source of all the pleasures and joys of life. It is the fountain of a disposition to be pleased with every virtuous and innocent object around; these are the effects of a good conscience; these are the things which constitute happiness; and these conduct to dwell with the poor man in his humble cottage in the vale of obscurity. In the magnificent mansion of the proud and vain, after the exterior of happiness, the gliding of the train, the pride, and the pomp, but in the deep of habitation of piety is often found the downy nest of heavenly peace; that solid good, of which the parade of the vain, the divisions, and voluptuous, is but a shadowy semblance.

Christian Philosophy.

There is few things more universally condemned than Battery, yet there are few men who are above its influence, and still fewer who have courage sufficient to resist it with a faithful rebuke. The following anecdote is recorded as a specimen of a good answer to a certain clergyman in New England, against both for his great humility, was one day arrested by a parishioner, who highly commended some of his performances, of which the clergyman himself had a very low opinion. After patiently waiting for the parishioner to say what he had to say, he said, "My Friend, all that you say gives me no better opinion of myself than I had before, but gives me a much better opinion of you."

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION.

Formed by a Convention of Delegates from the several Districts, at New Echota, July, 1827.

WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES of the people of the CHEROKEE NATION in Convention assembled, in order to establish justice, ensure tranquillity, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty; acknowledging with humility and gratitude the goodness of the sovereign Ruler of the Universe, in offering us an opportunity so favorable to the design, and imploring his aid and direction in its accomplishment, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Government of the Cherokee Nation.

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. THE BOUNDARIES of this nation, embracing the lands solemnly guaranteed and reserved forever to the Cherokee Nation by the Treaties concluded with the United States, are as follows; and shall forever hereafter remain unalterably the same—to wit—Beginning on the North Bank of Tennessee River at the upper part of the Chickasaw old fields; thence along the main channel of said river, including all the islands therein, to the mouth of the Hiwassee river, thence up the main channel of said river, including islands, to the first hill which closes in on said river, about two miles above Hiwassee old Town; thence along the ridge which divides the waters of the Hiwassee and little Tellee, to the Tennessee river at Tallapoosa; thence along the main channel, including islands, to the junction of the Coosaw and Nantayales; thence along the ridge in the fork of said river, to the top of the blue ridge; thence along the ridge to the Darby Turnpike road; thence by a straight line to the main source of the Chatahoochee; thence along its main channel, including islands, to the Chatta-hochoy; and thence down the same to the Creek boundary at Buzzard Roost; thence along the boundary line which separates this and the Creek Nation, to a point on the Coosa river opposite the mouth of Wills Creek; thence down along the South bank of the same to a point opposite to Fort Strother; thence up the river to the mouth of Wills Creek; thence up along the East bank of said creek to the West branch thereof; and up the same to its source; and thence along the ridge which separates the Unicoigee and Tennessee waters, to a point on the top of said ridge; thence due North to Camp Coffee on Tennessee river, which is opposite the Chickasaw Island; thence to the place of beginning.

Sec. 2. THE SOVEREIGNTY and Jurisdiction of this Government shall extend over the Country within the boundaries above described, and the lands therein are, and shall remain, the common property of the Nation; but the improvements made thereon, and in the possession of the citizens of the Nation, are the exclusive and inalienable property of the citizens respectively who made, or may rightfully be in possession of them; Provided, That the citizens of the Nation, possessing exclusive and inalienable right to their respective improvements, as expressed in this article, shall possess no right nor power to dispose of their improvements in any manner whatsoever to the United States, individual States, or to individual citizens hereof; and that, whenever any such citizen or citizens shall remove with their effects out of the limits of this Nation, and become citizens of any other Government, all their rights and privileges as citizens of this Nation shall cease; Provided nevertheless, That the Legislature shall have power to resume by law to all the rights of citizenship, any such person or persons who may at any time desire to return to the Nation, or shall memorialize the General Council for such

admission.

Moreover, the Legislature shall have power to adopt such laws and regulations, as its wisdom may deem expedient and proper, to prevent the citizens from monopolizing improvements with the view of speculation.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. THE POWER of this Government shall be divided into three distinct departments:—the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial.

Sec. 2. No person or persons, belonging to one of these Departments, shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others, except in the cases hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. THE LEGISLATIVE POWER shall be vested in two distinct branches: a Committee, and a Council; each to have a negative on the other, and both to be styled, the General Council of the Cherokee Nation; and the style of their acts and laws shall be,

Resolved by the Committee and Council in General Council convened.

Sec. 2. The Cherokee Nation, as laid off into eight Districts, shall so remain.

Sec. 3. The Committee shall consist of two members from each District, and the Council shall consist of three members from each District, to be chosen by the qualified electors of their respective Districts for two years; and the elections to be held in every District on the first Monday in August for the year 1828, and every succeeding two years thereafter; and the General Council shall be held once a year, to be convened on the second Monday of October in each year, at New Echota.

Sec. 4. No person shall be eligible to a seat in the General Council, but a free Cherokee Male citizen, who shall have attained to the age of twenty-five years. The descendants of Cherokee men by all free women, except the African race, whose parents may be or have been living together as man and wife, according to the customs and laws of this Nation, shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of this Nation, as well as the posterity of Cherokee women by all free men. No person who is of negro or mulatto parentage, either by the father or mother side, shall be eligible to hold any office of profit, honor or trust, under this Government.

Sec. 5. The Electors, and members of the General Council shall, in all cases except those of treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at election, and at the General Council, and in going to, and returning from, the same.

Sec. 6. In all elections by the people, the electors shall vote viva voce. Electors for members to the General Council for 1828, shall be held at the places of holding the several courts, and at the other two precincts in each District which are designated by the law under which the members of this Convention were elected; and the District Judges shall superintend the elections within the precincts of their respective Court Houses, and the Marshals & Sheriffs shall superintend within the precincts which may be assigned them by the Circuit Judges of their respective Districts, together with one other person, who shall be appointed by the Circuit Judges for each precinct within their respective Districts; and the Circuit Judges shall also appoint a clerk to each precinct.—The superintendants and clerks shall, on the Wednesday morning succeeding the election, assemble at their respective Court Houses and proceed to examine and ascertain the true state of the polls, and shall issue to each member, duly elected, a certificate; and also make an official return of the state of the polls of election to the principal Chief, and it shall be the du-

II.

1. GWY NSI... (Cherokee text)

2. NSI... (Cherokee text)

III.

1. NSI... (Cherokee text)

2. NSI... (Cherokee text)

3. NSI... (Cherokee text)

4. NSI... (Cherokee text)

5. NSI... (Cherokee text)

6. NSI... (Cherokee text)

POETRY.

FOR THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX. TRANSLATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

DALEPAI HU SGLA 350A. AYAL SIVIA PA, S-4W-IC F-40A 3G...

THE LORD'S PRAYER VERSIFIED. Tune, Dalton.

- 1. S-4W-IA, AYAL HA, RG-4W-IA S-40A; DHZ RG-4 S-40AAT GE-40A F-RT.

Literal Translation of the Lord's Prayer from Cherokee into English.

OUR Father, who dwellest above, honored be thy name. Let thy empire spring to light. Let thy will be done on earth as it is done above.

The above is perhaps as literal a translation, as can well be given in English of the Lord's prayer in Cherokee, as it stands at the head of this column.

From the "Manuscript." GEN. WASHINGTON'S ESCAPE.

When the American army was stationed at West Point, during the revolutionary war, the British headquarters were not many miles distant, on the Hudson; and each were waiting, like the figures on a chess board, for some favorable movement, to disconcert and thwart the operations of the other.

winning over some one of the family. The friend whom the general visited was once thought to have espoused the interests of the British, but he had taken a decided stand in favor of America, and though a brave man, he professed the strictest neutrality...

During the intimacy of the General, it was rumored in the American army, that his friend had been seen often running from the British camp. Washington seemed to disregard the account; for he never ceased to visit the family, and, apparently, mingled as cordially with the host, as if no suspicion had crossed his mind.

At one o'clock on the following day, the general mounted his favorite horse and proceeded alone, upon a bye-road which conducted him to the hospitable mansion. It was about half an hour before the time, and the bustling host received him with open arms, in addition to the greetings of the delighted family.

They pursued their way to the camp triumphing at the sagacity of their commander, who had so astonishingly defeated the machinations of the British General. But the humanity of Washington prevailed over his sense of justice.

FOR THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX. CHEROKEE ALPHABET. MR. BOUDINOT—As your paper is about to make its appearance before the public, and is to be printed as your Prospectus informs us, partly in the Cherokee language, and in the new and singular character invented by Mr. Guess, I presume that some remarks on that character will not be unacceptable to some of your English readers.

The number of characters is 85.—The original number was 86, one of which has since been omitted, as being too little distinct in the sound represented by it from the character a.

ests that swelled along the bosom of the landscape. "Would it not be strange," observed the general, apparently unconscious of the movements behind him, "that after all my toils, America should forfeit her liberty?" "Heaven forbid!" said his friend, become less reserved, and entering more warmly into the feelings of the other.

The British General had secretly offered an immense sum to this man, to make an appointment with the hero, at two o'clock, at which time he was to send a troop of horse, to secure him in their possession. Suspecting his intentions, Washington had directed his own troop to habit themselves as English cavalry, and arrive half an hour precisely before the time he was expected.

The following is the proposed systematic arrangement. The vowels have the following sounds: a as a in father, or short as a in rival; e as a in hate, or short as e in net; i as i in pine, or short as i in pit; o as aw in law, or short as o in not; u as oo in fool, or short as u in full.

Those syllables which are written with the consonant g, except sga, sometimes have the sound of k. A do, s du, s dv, are sometimes sounded to, tu, tv. Those written with tl, except tla, sometimes vary to dl. Instead of ts, might be written ds, but the distinction is not very perceptible.

by embodying his signs of sounds, after having found his number sufficient for writing all the words of the language. A systematic arrangement of the characters, with the sounds expressed by means of the Roman letters, will be attempted below.

The consonants are used as follows. d represents nearly the same sound as in English, but approximating to that of t. g nearly the same as its hard sound in English, but approximating to k.

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Table showing systematic arrangement of Cherokee characters and their corresponding Roman letters. Columns include characters like 'v', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u' and their combinations with consonants.

Each character expresses a syllable by itself, with the exception of a, which has precisely the power of the Roman s, and is never used but as a prefix to a syllable beginning with the sound of g, q, or d, unless, occasionally, before o ka, w ta, t te, and a tih.

This circumstance of the alphabet being syllabic, and the number of syllables so small, is the greatest reason why the task of learning to read the Cherokee language is so vastly easier than that of learning to read English.

Those persons who are acquainted with the Alphabet used by the Hon. Mr. Pickering of Boston, in his Cherokee Grammar, [yet unfinished,] will perceive the following differences between it and the one given above.

- 1. The sound is here represented by the vowel o which, in his alphabet, is expressed by means of a new character; and the sound of o in tone or short as in intone is omitted. I have not used the new character for want of type; and have taken the letter o in its stead, as not being necessary for the expression of the other sound, which appears never to occur, unless in the single syllable quo, w.

When an English scholar recollects the tedious months occupied in his spelling-book, he regards it as a matter of astonishment, and nearly incredible, that an active Cherokee boy may learn to read his own language in a day, and that not more than two or three days is ordinarily requisite. Yet such is believed to be the fact. Nor is it so great a mystery to one who has learned to read both languages, and who reflects a little on the subject. When an English child has learned the names of his letters, he has but just begun learning to read.

But another very important advantage which this alphabet has over the Roman, as applied to the writing of the English language, is that, excepting the variations of longer or shorter, harder or softer, as from (d to t), and more or less aspirated sounds each character is the invariable representative of the same sound; while in English the same sound may have half a dozen different signs, or the same sign may represent, as many different sounds.

Another source of wonder in regard to the Cherokee alphabet is, that so few syllabic characters are sufficient to write a language. Certainly they are sufficient to write it, and that, for the reason implied in the last paragraph, in a manner vastly more perfect than the English language is written by means of the Roman alphabet of letters. Two things account for the fewness of the requisite syllabic characters. First the fewness of consonant sounds in the language. Secondly and chiefly, the circumstance that every syllable in the language ends with a vowel sound.