

Transcribed Excerpts from Tribal Newspaper Article about Cherokee Nation and White Settlers in Georgia, March 4, 1829

The undersigned, in behalf of a town meeting, composed of the Citizens of Turkey Town, take the liberty of addressing you through the public journal of our Nation, on the subject of emigration to the west ... The view we take of this measure, and the sentiments we will take occasion to express, will be simple and plain, founded on truth as handed down to us by our ancestors ...

General Washington, after having smoked the pipe of peace with our Chiefs, sent us word to discontinue the pursuit of vagrant habits and adopt those more substantial, and become cultivators of the soil. His successors pursued, in regard to us, the same policy, and sent to us the same Talk from time to time ... But time was not allowed us to experience the blessing of putting this recommendation to practice by interested wicked white men, who lived near to us, and who esteemed us a nuisance, because the Great Spirit had placed our habitations in a desirable County ... The bitter cup of adversity was filled to us on every side ...

The Indians were represented as incapable of learning the arts of civilized life, and at the same time treated in the most uncivil manner ... In this way our territory diminished, and our inheritance was circumscribed to its present bounds. ...

What is the language of objection at this time? ... we are now assaulted with menaces of expulsion, because we have unexpectedly become civilized, and because we have formed and organized a constitutional government ...

If the country, to which we are directed to go is desirable and well watered, why is it so long a wilderness and a waste and uninhabited by respectable white people, whose enterprise, ere this, would have induced them to monopolize it from the poor and unfortunate of their fellow citizens as they have hitherto done? From correct information, we have formed a bad opinion of the western country beyond the Mississippi. But if report was favorable to the fertility of the soil, if the running streams were as transparent as crystal, and silver fish abounded in their element in profusion we should still adhere to the purposes of spending the remnant of our lives on the soil that gave us birth and rendered dear from the nourishment we receive from its bosom.

We take the liberty of acknowledging our obligations to Major Ridge for his attendance at our meeting and for an eloquent speech suitable for the occasion which he delivered at our request.

MONEY HUNTER, his x mark.

TAH-KA-HA-KEE, his x mark.

SCATTERED, his x mark.

KUNG-WAS-SOO-LAS-KEE, his x mk.

KILLER, his mark.

RICHD. RATLIFF, jr. his x mark.

CRYING SNAKE, his x mark.

RESURRECTION, his x mark.

FOLLOWER, his x mark.