

**Handout 4: The Press****1832**

*The following excerpt is taken from the Cherokee Phoenix at New Echota, the Cherokee nation's seat of government on November 24, 1832, probably by Elias Boudinot, its editor.<sup>1</sup>*

"The Indian bill of 1830, sanctioned by President Jackson himself, provides that the existing treaties with the Indian tribes shall not be violated. The Supreme Court has decided that our treaties are binding on the government and the laws of Georgia are a nullity. The superior and inferior courts of Georgia have decided that the right of soil belongs to the Cherokees, the laws of Georgia to the contrary notwithstanding. Let us, therefore, calmly wait and see if the government will not yet acquiesce in the numerous authorities we have cited, from which we claim our relief, or whether the government will choose to have their laws nullified by a state as the easiest mode of releasing itself from enforcing them."

**1833**

*The following letter was published in Niles' Weekly Register, which published articles from newspapers all over the country. This letter was attributed to The Globe.<sup>2</sup>*

"THE INDIANS. It will gratify the true friends of the Indians, and go far, we think, to convince those who have apprehended their position, west of the Mississippi, was an unfavorable one, to read the following extract from a letter recently received from one of the commissioners, now engaged in the adjustment of unsettled Indian matters, in that region.

"The condition of the Creeks and Cherokees is very prosperous. The Cherokees can, I think, dispose of 28,000 bushels of corn this season, and the Creeks, 50,000 bushels; (this is over and above their own consumption). Education is becoming an interesting topic. Five schools have been and are now being established among the Creeks, independent of benevolent schools -- the Cherokees have employed four native teachers at four hundred dollars each, and Mr. Guess, the inventor of the alphabet, at four hundred, thus consuming 'their own fund' of two thousand dollars. This is, to the Indian nations, a most interesting time."

*The following excerpt, originally published in the Boston Patriot, appeared in the "Foreign News" section of the August 31, 1833 edition of Niles' Register.<sup>2</sup>*

"THE CHEROKEES. In pursuance of the stipulations of the convention between the United States and Georgia, made in 1802, all the lands of the Creeks have been purchased and ceded to that state. About one million acres of the lands of the Cherokees, comprising some of the most valuable of the gold mines, have been already purchased, and there are about five million acres, to which their title has never been extinguished. The greater part of these lands has been seized upon by Georgia, and granted to her citizens. The Cherokee Phenix [sic] proposes, that the federal government shall award a sum sufficient to satisfy the present holders of the lands, and shall suffer the Cherokees to remain in the peaceful enjoyment."

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<sup>1</sup> As quoted in by H. Niles, ed. in *Niles' Weekly Register* (Baltimore: Franklin Street Press, From September, 1832 To March 1833, Volume XLIII Or Volume VII – Fourth Series)364.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. August 31, 1833, 8.