

From the Farmer's Weekly Museum.
"Do thyself no harm."

OF all injunctions, this appears at first sight, the most unnecessary. One would suppose that the selfishness of our nature would be a sufficient pledge for abstaining from injury to ourselves. Yet, strange to tell, although we are persecuted with a thousand misfortunes from without, we are still so in love with pain, that we strive eagerly and assiduously to harm ourselves, and invite the vulture and viper vices to their prey.

Paul used the cautionary language of my text, to the alarmed goaler at Philippi, and I am surprised, that when the apostle was no longer in duress, and writing coolly in his closet, admonitory letters to the Romans, Corinthians and others, that he did not repeat his injunction. Few but what would have profited of such a lesson. For nine times out of ten, even in this unlucky world, men suffer more from their own, than others' harms. The first class of injuries beget a bitterer remorse too, than the second. When lightning seizes the oak of our forest, or hailstones beat the harvest into dust: when mildew taints the fields, or tempest unroofs habitation; when pestilence discharges the volley of death at our persons, or scandal, arrows of poison at our fame, in all these cases men footh themselves with the remembrance that such things are inevitable. But when mischief is of our own seeking, we are then doubly tortured on the rack of repentance. I am sorry that so shrewd a remarker as STERNE, should have asserted that "a shattered fortune and a shattered fame are but light afflictions, if we have the satisfaction of blustering them ourselves." These were careless words dropt from the pen of an ingenious author, in the moment when a sparkling paradox beguiled him from truth and reason. The man, who beholds his health, his fortune, or his virtue prostrate, and knows that he was the author of the mighty ruin, suffers greater punishment, than Sicilian tyrants ever invented, or the walls of the Bastille ever beheld.

How many infatuated mortals employ life in devising schemes which must inevitably terminate in misery to themselves. Men would relent towards their neighbour should wrong them, even in the merest trifles, but our own evil affections are often more pernicious than the secret wishes, or the open assault of a vengeful foe.

Addison, in one of his Spectators, a work which for pure morality, may rival the sermons of an Archbishop; Addison, who ought to have been a prelate, rather than a politician, tells us that when he beholds a luxurious banquet spread, he thinks he can discern Fever and Gout skulking among the dishes.

Thus the toper's bottles, the sharper's cards, and the worldling's plans, I have thought were so many javelins and swords, which men lifted against their own existence. I believe that no one will say that my morality is impracticably rigid, but still I must think though wine and play and wealth in moderation are innocent, yet I must forbid their incessant pursuit, for I wish that the world would do itself no harm.

The LAY PREACHER.

AUGUSTA, July 28.

[The following PROTEST of the State Commissioners, and the ANSWER of the Federal Commissioners, by letter to the Executive of Georgia, cannot but be interesting to our readers.]

COLERAIN, 20th June, 1796.

WE the undersigned Commissioners of the state of Georgia, appointed on the part of the state, to attend a treaty with the Creek Indians, now held at this place under the authority of the United States, in pursuance of the trust reposed in us, think it our indispensable duty, which we owe to our country, to protest, and we do hereby PROTEST against the Commissioners of the United States, and their superintendent of Indian affairs, for certain proceedings affecting the object of the state of Georgia, the relinquishment of the Indian claims to certain lands contemplated in an act of this state, entitled "an act for appropriating part of the unlocated territory of this state, for payment of the late state troops, and for other purposes therein mentioned," passed the 28th December, 1794, as the causes of the failure thereof, as follows:

First. We protest against certain regulations of the Commissioners of the United States, signed Benjamin Hawkins and George Clymer, posted up at the gate of the garrison of Colerain, and dated the 26th day of May last, and which regulations are in the words following, to wit:—"The Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Creek Nation of Indians, in order to prevent quarrels, improper behaviour or mal-practice during the negotiation, have judged it proper, in virtue of the powers and authority vested in them, to make the following regulations."

1st. The Indians are to be encamped on the river bank, above the garrison, convenient to the spring and river.

2d. The Superintendent is to fix his residence within the Indian encampment.

3d. No citizen of the United States is to be permitted to encamp with, or near the Indians, except such as are under the direction of the superintendent.

4th. No citizen is to be permitted to enter the Indian camp in arms.

5th. No citizen is to visit the Indians, or hold any conversation with them, except with a permit from the Commissioners of the United States, or either of them.

6th. No citizen is to be in arms in the garrison or neighbourhood of it, and on the arrival of any visitor who may travel with arms, they are to be informed of this order, and requested to conform thereto.

7th. No citizen to be permitted to sell, or furnish by gift, spirituous liquors to the Indians, or to have any commercial traffic with them.

8th. These regulations are to be posted up at the two gates of the garrison, and at the residence of the superintendent.

By which regulations the commissioners of the

state have been debarred from negotiating the affections of the Indians, and consequently effecting the object of their mission—the civil and actual jurisdiction of the state have been infringed, and her consequence in the eyes of the Indians, much lessened, who will be taught by the conduct we have experienced, being liable to stoppage by the commissaries, without passports from the Federal Commissioners, on our own ground, and within the actual limits of the sovereignty of Georgia, from entering their encampment, that the citizens of the state, however high their commission, are inferior in consequence and rights to themselves, and may be insulted with impunity.—

Secondly. We protest against the manner of conducting the said treaty: The same being ordered by the President to be at Colerain, and to be conducted in a fair, open and honorable manner, and so the talk or invitation of the President, and the talk of Georgia were given, in a square or bower, erected in the garrison for that purpose, since which, without any known reason to the Commissioners of the state, the place has been altered to Muscogee, the residence of the superintendent, where the talk of the Indians, in answer to the talk delivered by us was manufactured, and where the Commissioners of Georgia, owing to the regulations before protested against, had no access.—The said pretended answer or talk of the Indians not being delivered in the usual open manner in the square, face to face, before the Commissioners of Georgia and the United States, but penned in the camps of certain Agents or Interpreters, under the command of the superintendent, and transmitted, not directly, but through the channel of the Commissioners of the United States to us, without being certified by them, or by any attesting witnesses, Chief, Agent, or Interpreter. And for this also, that in attempting to attend one of the conferences, to which the Commissioners of the United States had invited the Commissioners of Georgia, we were insulted by the stoppage of our Secretary by the sentinel of the garrison picket; and he having our papers were compelled to return, in obedience to the regulations before-mentioned.

Thirdly. We protest against the Commissioners for not permitting us to propose questions, or deliver sentiments, during the negotiation, on the subject of our particular mission, without being under their controul, and overruling arbitrary interference.

We further protest against the said Commissioners, for evasive conduct towards the state and her Commissioners, in offering their services to procure the land at one period, and openly declaring at another, in open council, that it was not the wish of the Commissioners of the United States that the Creeks should part with the lands without their own desire.

Fourthly. We protest against the superintendent of Indian affairs for not countering certain reports introduced into the Creek Nation, that the Georgia militia were to encounter the Indians in this place, and certain talks sent these persuading the Indians not to relinquish their claims, to the lands contemplated to be purchased by the state, in the invitation of the President and the act mentioned afore-said.

Fifthly. We protest against the time and place appointed for holding the treaty, both of which we understand were recommended by the superintendent of Indian affairs, on account of the scarcity of provisions at such a season, and the poverty of the surrounding country.—The supplies of the former swelling the expense to an enormous amount, and the latter being, altho' the property of the superintendent, inconveniently situated in every respect, but more particularly for our fellow-citizens to attend who have suffered from Indian depredations.

Sixthly. We protest against any cession of land, within the territorial limits of the state of Georgia by the Creek Indians, to the United States, whether for the purpose of posts, trading houses, or otherwise, without the consent of the State of Georgia, as contrary to the 8th section of the first article of the United States Constitution which declares, "the Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of government of the United States; and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state, in which the same shall be for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, and other needful buildings." Such cession for trading houses and garrisons being now applied for by the Commissioners of the United States, with land adjacent for stock, and to raise corn within the territorial limits of the state of Georgia, and which at a future day may militate with the rights of the state, and be pronounced binding on her, being now to be concluded on at a public treaty, and perhaps may be ratified by the treaty making power of the United States.

Seventhly. We protest against the decision of the Commissioners of the United States, given in council to the Chief of the Creek Nation, that the treaties of Augusta, Galphinton and Shouderbone, held in the years 1793, 1795, and 1796, whilst Georgia was a free, sovereign and independent state, unconnected with the treaty making power of the United States under the present constitution, were invalid, and of course that the cession of the Tallafee country was void.

There was no federal compact against such cession or treaty, between individual states and Indian tribes at the time it was made, and if the United States have a right to take a retrospective view and lop off cessions of part of a state, made before their authority existed, the United States may make different cessions, until they lop off a whole state, and if one state, they may sever several states, the whole having been formed by cessions at different periods, a melancholy prospect, and more melancholy tie to the union, for the frontier state of Georgia.

We further protest against the construction of the said Commissioners, as to the property the Indians are made liable for, under the said treaty of New-York, which construction confines the demand for property, plundered from our citizens, to a very humble limit, even as respects negroes, the only article agreeable to their construction contemplated thereby.

Eighthly. We therefore protest against the payment or liability of payment, of any share of the enormous and unnecessary expense attending the present treaty, by the state of Georgia, which so far from being conducted in a fair, open and honorable manner, the answer of the Indians one party thereto, if so it can be called, has been dictated to them in secret council by undue influence, and cannot be considered their answer, and for that the state of Georgia has not had a fair and

open opportunity to contract for the lands, the plea of the chiefs, openly declared by Aleck Cornels and the Bird Tail King, their speakers, now being, that the refusal to giving up the land was fully determined on in the nation, and that the chiefs came instructed to abide by that determination, which if true is a fraud on the state, and a trick unworthy the dignity and honor of the United States, transacted through their superintendent to sing one half the expense of a treaty to serve their own purposes, on an individual state; which could possibly reap no benefit thereby; and we do in consequence protest against any payment or liability of payment by the state of Georgia as afore-said for or on account of the same, unless it may be such necessities as the commissioners of Georgia or their guard or household may have drawn, and for which only the state ought to be accountable.

JAMES HENDRICKS, }
JAMES JACKSON, }
JAMES SIMMS, }
By order of the Board of Commissioners.

THOMAS ROBERTSON, Sec'y.

Colerain, July 1, 1796.

THE day before the Commissioners on the part of Georgia left us, they sent us a paper, purporting to be a protest against certain proceedings had in relation to the wishes of the state of Georgia, to acquire certain lands from the Creeks, at the treaty concluded on the 29th ult. at this place.

We read it with that attention due to men in their situation, and we can attest, extravagant as the protest is, that it is of a piece with their whole conduct during their residence at this place. The best answer to it probably would be drawn from the paper itself, by every reflecting mind, after a candid perusal of its contents. We feel, notwithstanding, a desire to remove some impressions, which are intended to be produced by it; and this is the object we have in giving your Excellency the trouble of reading our comment. It would be sufficient for us to refer you to our letter of this date, the facts therein being incontrovertible, all the expressions in the protest would be of no weight, and no more. But we must enter somewhat into detail. Your commissioners, frequently speaking of overruling and arbitrary conduct, forget that it is only applicable to themselves.—It may be necessary to observe, that they have altogether mistaken the nature of their authority, and have assumed a high diplomatic character.—This we must suppose, or otherwise, that they had willingly slighted the terms and conditions of their appointment. Such high, self created pretensions not being yielded to on our part, is, no doubt, the real ground of the discontent apparent throughout the whole of their performance.

The regulations mentioned under the first head, are literally in conformity to instructions, suggested, we can conceive, by the experience of the past; and conform exactly to our sense of right. We were surprised that the commissioners of Georgia did not themselves discover a special interest in the observance of some such regulations, considering their tendency to obviate some of the difficulties lying in the way of their own object, had it been attainable at this treaty, as they were aware of the jealousies of the Creeks in all things relating to this state.

The comment on these regulations in the protest, we do not pretend to understand.

The second: in answer to this, which we hope, (though against appearance) not to be designedly misrepresented, we have to state, that the commissioners of the United States did, on the 17th of June, and the commissioners of Georgia on the 18th, address the chiefs at the square of negotiation in the garrison; that after the latter address, the commissioners of the United States said to the Indians—"You have this day heard the talk of our brothers, the beloved men of Georgia. It is a long one, and contains many things. We request you will allow yourselves sufficient time to consider upon it. That you will consider upon the subject with as much coolness and deliberation, as if you were within your own square or your own councils in your nation. You are in perfect safety at this place. You may choose your ground for deliberation, and shall then be secure from all interruption." The chiefs, after consultations, applied to Mr. Hawkins, and requested that he would have them furnished with a copy of the talk delivered them by the commissioners of Georgia, and all other papers referred to in it; they wished to have them in their own councils, that they might understand every part, before they made up their minds to reply. Mr. Hawkins applied to Mr. Simms, and Col. Hendricks, who promised them in half an hour.

June 19. This day the Indians applied for the papers promised them yesterday, and we wrote to the commissioners of Georgia. "The Indians have requested us to furnish them with a copy of the talk you addressed to them yesterday, that they may be able to examine it leisurely in their councils. We have promised it to them, and we have to request of you to furnish us an authentic copy of the speech, together with the papers referred to therein, which were shew'd and explained to the Indians."

Mr. Robertson, the secretary to the commissioners, called on us and delivered the talk, certified to be a true copy, and extracts from some of the papers alluded to. He said the paper containing the claims against the Indians, was an original; that it would take three days to copy; that the commissioners did not like to trust it in the camp; but they would shew it to us, if we were desirous of examining it at our lodgings.

June 20. The Indians for at this day in council in a square which they prepared for that purpose in their own encampment. They requested that three of the interpreters should attend them, and named Timothy Barnard, Alex. Cornels, and James Burgess. They were ordered accordingly.

The result of this consultation being delivered to us, we gave it to the commissioners of Georgia.

June 21. Extract from a note to the commissioners of Georgia: The commissioners of the United States expect to see the Indians this morning, at their square in the Indian encampment, at the request of the Indians, and they will call on the commissioners of Georgia to accompany them.

June 22. One of the commissioners of the United States requested captain Eaton to wait on the commissioners of

Georgia; and conduct them to the Indian square of negotiation.

Extract from a letter of the commissioners of Georgia relative to the stoppage of their Secretary:

"A circumstance gratifying to our feelings, &c. which we are sorry for; as Capt. Tinley has been so polite as to wait on us, to assure us it was contrary to orders." "Altho' we are of opinion with Capt. Tinley, and thank him for his attention; we cannot forbear to express, &c."

The commissioners of Georgia attended, and the council opened.

The commissioners of the United States by Mr. Hawkins—

Representatives of the Creek land, this paper which I now shew you, is the paper you sent us, in answer to the beloved men of Georgia. We have shew'd it to them, you are now together face to face; I shall read it to you, that you may know whether it is your talk, and your determination.

The talk was read paragraph by paragraph, and interpreted. The commissioners enjoined it on all the interpreters to be particular, as they were on oath, and then put a question to the chiefs.

Q. Is this the talk which you made in council, and sent to the beloved men, commissioners of Georgia?

A. Yes; it is the very words we spoke.

Q. By the commissioners of Georgia.

Why did you not say this face to face to us, in the square, when we spoke to you?

A. The chiefs would give no other reason, than that they chose first to sit down together in council with their interpreters, and reduce their talk to writing. But that they were ready to give it verbally when digested at any time, and in the square, face to face; if the commissioners choose they should do so.

Q. By the commissioners of Georgia.

Is this your usual custom, to carry on talks in writing; or do you always give them from the voice in the public square?

A. There are no rules reduced to system; when they talk among themselves, it is usual to talk face to face, and to lend beads to assist the memory. But as we had, in this instance, a talk to deliver to white people, and having our linguists all present, we chose to send our answer in writing.

As to the charge of evasive conduct, we might rely on the conclusion of the charge, for an acquittal, altho' we were not acquitted.

We did offer our services and continued them; but we had no wish, that the Creeks should part with their lands without their own consent. By the manner of stating this charge, one would suppose the gentlemen of Georgia had such a wish. We told the commissioners of Georgia we were instructed, had the means, and were disposed to further the objects of their mission. We did at one time, expect they would come forward and make a serious offer; and that we, with the funds at our discretion, should be able to obtain the object they had in view, by demonstrating to the Creeks, that the sum was an equivalent for the lands, and as this accommodation might have a tendency to remove all misunderstanding between the parties, that it would be for their interest to part with them.

Third and fourth. We refer to the superintendent to answer for himself.

Fifth. Needs no comment.

Sixth. This is unintelligible to us. The commissioners of the United States are of opinion, that, under the old confederation, the authority to make treaties was vested in Congress; and as to the construction relative to the treaty of New-York, we gave the words of the treaty, and the same are again inserted in the treaty we have recently concluded.

The gentleman commissioners set out with an assumption of power unwarranted, and close their mission in like form. Being unwilling to pay a debt contracted at the request of the state, they protest against the payment or liability of payment of the state of Georgia. They charge, that "the answer of the Indians, one party thereto, if so it can be called, has been dictated to them in secret council by undue influence." This the gentlemen in the same sentence deny themselves. They say, "the plea of the chiefs, openly declared by Aleck Cornels and the Bird Tail King, their speakers, now being that the refusal to giving up the lands was fully determined on in the nation, and that the chiefs came instructed to abide by that determination."

To this declaration we may add from our diary of the 25th, the following:

"The commissioners then took a retrospective view of what had been said, recapitulated the most material parts and concluded, we hope you will think seriously on these things, we have come a great way to settle your difficulties, and we wish you would to-morrow come and sit down in temper and talk over your affairs with the beloved men of Georgia. We will hear you, and arbitrate between you. Your great father has sent us here for that purpose."

FUSATCHEE MICO replied,

We do not know what more can be said to the commissioners of Georgia. We have given a decided answer to the requisition for land. If Georgia has any other business to introduce, let them mention it, that we may know what business will come before us. If we were to talk again, it would be the same thing over again. The talk already given is the determined voice of the whole representation, and not one of them can be dissuaded from his determination.—Any proposition on the subject of land, will meet the same answer; therefore this subject is done with, and I cannot see the propriety of further conference. I have already told you that our lands were so contracted, that we hardly have ground to hunt upon; and that the nation would not agree, at all, to part with any more land.

We deem it unnecessary to say any more on this subject, but to conclude, that it is remarkable, throughout the protest, that every sentence is at war with some other, and the conclusions drawn, always destroy the premises.

With our best wishes for the prosperity of Georgia, we have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servants,

(Signed)
BENJAMIN HAWKINS,
GEORGE CLYMER,
ANDREW PICKENS.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR }
of Georgia.