

CHEROKEE INDIANS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

In reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives of 21st ultimo, calling for information respecting the number of Cherokee Indians now residing in North Carolina, &c.

FEBRUARY 27, 1839.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 26, 1839.*

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 21st January last, calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to the number of Cherokee Indians now residing in North Carolina, their means of subsistence, &c.; I have the honor to submit the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 23d instant.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. J. K. POLK,
Speaker Ho. of Reps.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office Indian Affairs, February 23, 1839.

SIR: In relation to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 21st January instant, referred by you to this office, and requiring information as to the number of Cherokee Indians now remaining in North Carolina, &c., I have the honor to submit the following report:

The operation of removing the Cherokee Indians was in the spring of the past year committed to General Scott as a military service. That officer, in pursuance of his instructions, collected these Indians, and despatched them, from time to time, for their destination west. This office has been informed that the last party of Cherokees, under the direction of John Ross, left the rendezvous east, on the 4th of December last; and, in consequence, it has been considered that the Cherokee emigration was closed.

As it relates to the Cherokees now in the State of North Carolina, this office has no specific information. A part of those Indians are pre-

sumed to claim the right to remain in their present position, as reservees, by treaties previous to 1835, and are supposed to be embraced in the last clause of the 8th article of the treaty of 1835. No measures have been adopted for the removal of Cherokees in North Carolina, other than those prosecuted for the emigration of the whole nation.

I have to add, that this office has no data upon which to state the number of Cherokees in North Carolina subject to the treaty of December 29, 1835.

In relation to the expenditure, and application of the money appropriated under the act of last year, I have the honor to state, that the sum appropriated for removal and subsistence remains on the books of the Treasury as undrawn, but is subject to drafts to reimburse the general fund for carrying the treaty into effect, on the settlement of agents' accounts; out of which latter appropriation, a sum equal to that appropriated for removal and subsistence was advanced. The moneys drawn were placed in the hands of Captains Page and Collins, military disbursing agents, by whom advances were made to other agents, to be applied in payment for supplies and expenses. The larger portion has been turned over to the authorized individuals of the nation, in conformity with the agreement entered into with the Cherokees, by General Scott, for their removal by agents of their own appointment.

That part of the resolution requiring "how, to whom, and for what, has the money appropriated, under that act, for subsistence and removal of the Cherokees, been expended and applied," cannot therefore be answered until the accounts are all received and settled; these will be voluminous, and, when received, will require much time and labor to complete.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.