

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT FOR INDIAN TRIBES.

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE

COMMITTEE ON THE TERRITORIES,

TO

*Inquire into the expediency of establishing a territorial government over certain Indian tribes.*

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JANUARY 13, 1870.—Read and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. J. R. McCORMICK, on leave, introduced the following resolution :

Whereas the Cherokee and Choctaw Indians are a civilized people, following agricultural and manufacturing pursuits, governed by written laws and evincing other characteristics of capacity for self-government; and whereas in their tribal relations they hold their lands in common and not by individuals in fee simple, which circumstance leaves their land at any time subject to be disposed of by treaty, rendering uncertain their permanence, prosperity, and perpetuity; and whereas it is desirable to give to these people a government republican in form, to secure them individually in their right to lands, and to incorporate them with the citizens of the United States under a territorial form of government, thereby securing to them full protection as citizens of the United States and securing to them a more rapid development of their civilization and country: Therefore,

*Be it resolved,* That the Committee on the Territories is hereby instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a territorial government over the civilized Indians inhabiting that portion of the country known as the "Indian Territory," and so denominated upon the map of the United States.

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