

THE CHIEFTAIN

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THE CLOSE of the year 1883 is suggestive of retrospection. The opening of the year 1884 encourages anticipation. The experience and observation of individual life for the last half century are full of impressive scenes and stirring incidents. Those of a small community like the Cherokee Nation much less than those of a great nation like the United States, and infinitely less of the world of mankind, are too many, too varied and too important to be numbered or epitomized. Fifty years ago the Western Cherokees were new settlers in this portion of the coveted Indian Territory set apart for their homes, while the majority, the Eastern Cherokees, were still east of the Mississippi River, among the hills, along the valleys and beside the streams and bubbling fountains where dwell their ancestors from time of which there is no record. They were then experiencing the fast-appealing throes which, a half-dozen years later, ended in their removal and union with those who preceded them in their arrival in this country. Of the bitter fruits, the sad experiences, the appalling trials, and the almost overwhelming dangers of that memorable period in their history, neither space nor inclination allow us to speak. They are historical. Their actions, with their faults, their frailties and their many virtues, have passed from the stage of action, and their spirits dwell in the silent beyond. Friend and foe are alike low and powerless there, while their actions and motives will be judged in the hereafter. Succeeding these trials and conflicts was an era of quiet repose, in which the Cherokees increased in numbers, wealth and intelligence. It was but the calm that went before the storm. The War of the Rebellion, with its strife, its violence, its devastation, its blood, its privations, its death, burst upon them with resistless fury, and threatened to destroy them from the face of the earth. But such was not destiny. Diminished in numbers, impoverished in means, but abounding in resources and vitality, they survived it all and still live. Live, the possessors of an ample domain, of fruitful homes and prolific herds, of free schools, of self-chosen institutions, of civil and religious liberty. Behind are shoals, and towering rocks, and seething whirlpools which have been passed. Around is the shore, with its rich pastures, its clear sky and refreshing breezes. Beyond is the future, whose horizon is unbounded, whose depths are unfathomed, whose dangers are unknown. What voyage lies ahead, time alone can reveal. But it will be, in all probability, largely such as we ourselves direct. Prudence, industry, intelligence, private and public integrity, and enlightened fidelity to our highest national and individual interests may yet add untold years to our existence as a community. But this we know—the absence of these qualities will forever decay. When gambling and drunkenness take the place of manual and mental labor; when virtue, and truth, and modesty cease to distinguish our wives and daughters; when venality and falsehood, and deception possess our executive and legislative authorities; when perjury, and corruption, and cowardice disgrace our judges and juries; when tricky indolence, falsehood and personal spite shall characterize our citizens of whatever race or color; when these become familiar to our people, and meet not with stern rebuke and condemnation, then we may know that demoralization dominates the land, that degeneracy prevails, and that so fair a heritage as belongs to the Cherokees is unworthily held, and nothing left worthy of its defense. May the kind Providence which has so long kept us in the hollow of its hand avert so sad a fate from a people of such a brilliant history as ours, and continue to direct our pathway through a long time.

Cherokees, again the CHIEFTAIN wishes you, and all humanity, in its broadest and highest sense, a happy New Year!

The seats of fourteen Democrats and eleven Republicans in the Senate of the U. S. will expire 1883.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ago the 23d inst., Gen. Washington resigned his commission as general-in-chief of the American forces to Congress in session at Annapolis, Md.

The Committee on Indian Affairs in the House of Representatives consists of Messrs. Welborn of Texas, Chairman; Graves of Missouri, Stevens of New York, Peels of Arkansas, Pierce of Tennessee, Fiperty of Illinois, Skinner of North Carolina, Smith of Pennsylvania, George of Oregon, Perkins of Kansas, Nelson of Minnesota, Oury of Arizona.

News of special interest on our first page this week.

ILLINOIS raised 1,000,000 bushels of corn less this year than last.

EL MAHDI, the false prophet is still continuing his victorious march, sweeping all before him.

We don't wish anybody any harm, but if anybody has to be water-bound and suffer from delays at ferries and by high waters, we hope it will be those who oppose the building of bridges.

THERE are now two great bridges over the Niagara River below the falls. That is all right but we would be better pleased to see one over the Arkansas, between Muskogee and Gibson.

MAJ. HOPKINS, President of the Board of Railroads for Kansas, who recently died in Leavenworth, Kansas, was the officer in command of the Government train captured at Cabin Creek, a few miles from Vinita, by General Gano of Texas, during the last year of the war.

THE CHIEFTAIN failed to get any provision for building new school houses last Council, but we have our tow line securely fastened and we are going to pull until we pull through. Think of children going to school in such weather as this in houses with dirt floors, without loft or windows. We must have better houses.

THE French took Sontay. The world chronicles the fact, but does not seem to shudder at the enormous, hellish wickedness of a great and strong nation destroying and murdering a weak people because they want their country. Other races besides the Indian have wrongs. Will the gospel of "Peace on earth good will to men" never prevail.

Chief Whirlwind, Sr., sports one of the noblest top spring wagons in the country, he having decided that riding in a vehicle is far more convenient than riding a sore-back pony, a la most Indians. This old chief, as well as the whole tribe, is fast abandoning the superstitious customs peculiar to Indians, and now believes the white man's road is the best way.—Cherokee Transporter.

For representation of the time on railroads, it has been deemed expedient to substitute for the current "A. M." and "P. M." a 24-hour scale, beginning the day from midnight and continuing for 24 hours, the 12th hour being noon, and the 24th hour, midnight. The minutes between the close of the day—the 24th hour—and one hour after midnight, will be indicated as so many minutes after midnight; thus four minutes after 12 o'clock, midnight, (current time) will be shown as :04; indicating that the day is four minutes old; and so continue till sixty minutes are reached, when the hour is 1; thereafter it will be shown as now, 1:10, 1:15, 1:45, &c., until it is 2. The same rule governs during the entire 24 hours. Stated in brief—all numerals below 12 indicate "A. M." All numerals above 12 indicate "P. M."

A Merited Compliment.

Our fellow-townsmen and deputy U. S. Marshal, Mr. J. C. Wilkinson, has so far gained the confidence of the Cherokee Indians, that at the present session of their National Council their delegates to congress were instructed to urge the appointment of Mr. Wilkinson as U. S. Agent for the Cherokees. For many years Mr. W. has operated as deputy marshal among the Cherokees, and by his honesty and gentlemanly bearing as an officer, has gained the universal confidence of those people. No better appointment could be made, than for the government to confer the honor upon our friend Jim Wilkinson.—Ft. Smith Ind. Democrat.

Nasal Catarrh.

Dr. Dio Lewis recommends the following treatment for this troublesome complaint to a person of sedentary habits. The idea is to improve the general health, and not to seek a cure in local treatment:

"Eat a dish of oatmeal, one baked potato, and one slice of bread, for your breakfast; a piece of roast beef as large as your hand, with one boiled potato, and one slice of bread for dinner; take nothing for supper, and go to bed early. Sleep if possible half an hour before dinner. Drink nothing with your meals, nor within two hours afterward. Drink as much cold water on rising in the morning and on lying down at night as you can conveniently swallow, and you may add draughts of cold water, if you wish, before eating your meals. Live four to six hours per day in the open air. Bathe frequently, and every night on going to bed rub the skin hard with hair gloves. In less than a week one handkerchief will do you. And yet you haven't touched your nose in the way of treatment. To cure nasal catarrh you have only to make your stomach digest well, only to make yourself healthier. Your nose will quickly find it out, and adapt itself to the better manners of its companions."

School Regulations.

The following rules and regulations are adopted in accordance with Sec. 5, Chap. 10, Revised Code, for the government of Primary Schools. Teachers will give them carefully attention. Post one circular in school room, and give each Director one.

RULE 1. All teachers are required to keep a register showing the name, age, sex, attendance, language and scholarship of all pupils who may enter their respective schools and, under oath, the average monthly and average and aggregate term attendance.

2. Averages shall be based upon the attendance of the children of citizens alone. To find monthly average—add together the daily attendance for the scholastic month and divide by 30. To find term average—add together the monthly averages and divide by the number of scholastic months in the term. The term aggregate is the aggregate enrollment for the term. The monthly reports shall be carefully filled out and promptly sent in.

3. School shall be opened with reading a selection from the Bible, and be taught six hours on each of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week during the term prescribed by law, not including recesses, between such reasonable hours as the Directors may prescribe. No text books except those adopted by the Board of Education, not any other branches taught. In Cherokee speaking schools, one entire hour, morning and evening, shall be devoted to the teaching of common English words with their meaning, to all Cherokee speaking children.

4. Teachers will not be required to receive into their schools children under six nor persons over twenty-one years of age, nor allow to confine a child under twelve years of age to the school room for a longer period of time than one hour and a half.

5. Teachers shall endeavor, by precept and example, to inculcate upon their schools the principles of truth, morality and justice, and the habits of cleanliness and genteel deportment in manner and speech. These lessons are infinitely more important than grammar. The text book "Good Morals and Gentle Manners" shall be taught to the entire school one half hour daily. Explain fully to the children, have them take notes and examine them each day on the preceding lessons, so as to cultivate their memory as well as to instill the lessons of this book.

6. Teachers will hold pupils to strict account for disorderly conduct during school hours and recess, while at play and on their way to and from school.

7. Discipline of the school shall consist of moral suasion, as far as practicable, but, when necessary, of corporal punishment, as approved by the teacher and expulsion by the Directors.

8. Drunkenness, profanity, gambling and carrying unlawful weapons are prohibited, and if practiced by a teacher will lead to the cancellation of his certificate, or by a pupil, to his expulsion from the school.

9. Teachers will be held strictly responsible for all school material delivered to their care. They will see that the books are carefully used by pupils, and not carried off by pupils or others, but safely locked up each evening at close of school, at the close of the term the teacher shall place the books, etc., in charge of one of the directors taking his itemized receipt thereof. If the law requiring book case, &c. (see Sec 26, Chap. X.) is not complied with, the teacher shall promptly notify Board of Education.

10. Teachers shall not exchange schools, nor—excepting in case of temporary illness or some extraordinary emergency—employ substitutes, unless by special permission of the Board of Education. Teachers besides the ordinary text-books now adopted for use in the common schools, will be examined on Ogden's "Art of Teaching," which can be secured of Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

The cost of the volume is, including postage, \$1.27.

Very truly and respectfully,
W. A. DUSMAN, President.
R. L. OWEN, Secretary.

BUSINESS CARDS.

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W. R. DAVIS, M.D.,
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Cherokee Orphan Asylum.
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JANE CAPTAIN.
Skiatook Post-office, C. N.
Horse brand same on left shoulder. Range on head of Pryor's creek Osage Nation.

Mrs. ISABELLA NEWMAN.
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R. M. WILLIAMS.
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Crop of left ear, underbit in right. OW on right hip. Brand, Range, Cabin Creek.

W. G. NELMS.
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