

## REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS.

It will be perceived by our readers, from the following extract from the journal of Congress, that the Senate of the United States, have passed the bill for the removal of the Indians by a vote of 27 to 20.

Though it is gratifying to see even a large minority ranked on the side of humanity, we view this triumph of cruelty and injustice in the halls of our national council with a degree of dejection and sorrow for which we have not language. We did not believe the thing would have come to this. Many were sanguine in anticipating such a result; but for ourselves, we did not believe, after our countrymen were possessed of the facts, and the subject came to be canvassed aloud in Congress, that the advocates of this monstrous policy would dare to stand by the side of it and father it;—that they would persist, when they found out what they were about, to incur the scorn of the world, and entitle themselves to the just retort and taunts of its most confirmed tyrants. We did not think, when the doctrines of this policy were pronounced audibly in the ears of our nation, that it could be made to tolerate them, or that it would, in the might of its power, go deliberately to the work of crushing the liberties of a feeble and harmless race of men. Smooth it over as you will with fine phrases of good will, sympathy and pity, all our late treatment of the Indians has been ruled by a policy, for a christian land, most monstrous and cruel;—it was begotten in avarice and has been carried on through deceit and violence.—This bill only provides for their removal, but the spirit with which the amendments were resisted, offered by Messrs. Frelinghuysen and Sprague, shows plainly that the conduct of the states who have oppressed them, is to be countenanced in Congress. Who they are that are thus voted and debated out of their most sacred rights, our readers may learn from the testimonies of the missionaries who have long dwelt with them, published in this paper, and in our last. Where have we, after this, any pledge for the integrity of our nation—or any security for the rights of those who are feeble and friendless? Is it in the solemnity of treaties, and the good faith of guaranties? Here are no less than sixteen of them violated at a vote in the face of the world. One of the sections of this bill guaranties for ever to the Indians the protection of the promised lands: it is not worth a straw! the land will be taken whenever it is wanted. Is there any security in the civilization and refinement of those with whom we have intercourse?—here is a nation that has stepped out from the deep darkness which enveloped their race, and, with an energy unknown in their history, set about the work of self-elevation, crushed at once in all its hopes;—at the very time, too, when it should have been met by the civilized world with an extended hand and a cheering voice; when it had begun, by an unexpected effort at self-preservation, to answer the hopes of philanthropists and patriots, and yield a harvest to the prayers and labours of christians.

The New York Advertiser has the following remarks on the subject:

The mild terms in which the Committee on Indian Affairs thought it prudent, indeed necessary, to couch

their meaning, will not blind the eyes of the country, any more than it did those of the Senators. The intention is but too well understood; there is the same appearance of determined injustice and oppression, with the same professions of humanity, which have marked the plan in its progress. No one can doubt that if this project be finally carried into effect, we shall acquire the character of hypocrites, as well as that of oppressors of the feeble and inoffensive. The few individuals who will be regarded as having held the vote in their own hands, and turned the scale on the wrong side, will not, we trust, soon be forgotten. If any evidence could be needed, to prove the true design of the bill, in placing the **Indians** out of the reach of protection, and without security, it would be abundantly furnished by the fact that the amendments offered by Mr. Frelinghuysen were rejected. Those amendments were only designed to give that security which the framers of the bill appear to have thought it best only to pretend to promise.

We add an extract of a letter, dated Washington, April 26th.

"I enclose you the bill concerning the **Indians**, with Mr. Frelinghuysen's amendment, and the ayes and nays on the first proviso. You will perceive that of the votes north of Mason and Dixon's line against these 'poor devils,' (as Mr. Forsyth repeatedly called them, in debating the question,) there were from New York two, New Jersey one, and New Hampshire one. I regret that one of the New England Senators could be so lost to his duties as a Senator, and so regardless of the feelings and sympathies of the people of the east, as to violate our faith, and strike this fatal blow upon this defenceless and unfortunate race. I consider their fate as sealed. They are destined to become extinct. As long as they occupy a single section of land which tempts the cupidity of any white man, means will be devised to wrest it from them.

"We pledge ourselves to guaranty them a title beyond the Mississippi; and what is our guaranty? The rights of the Cherokees have been guarantied to them by a succession of solemn treaties. Now, these treaties are all void, because they conflict with 'state sovereignty.' And when we shall want the country thus 'guarantied,' we shall find some other pretext, equally ridiculous, to take it. I reflect with solemn awe upon our treatment of these remnants of this noble race. These 'savages' have had no one to tell their tale. In our numerous wondrous conflicts with them, from our first settlement of the country, they have had no *Tacitus*, no historian, to rehearse their wrongs; it has been all *ex parte*—all a one sided affair. The account is fairly and impartially registered in heaven, and I fear the balance is sadly against us."

#### IN SENATE.

*Saturday, April 24.*—The bill to provide for an exchange of lands with the **Indians** residing in any of the states or territories, and for their **removal** west of the river Mississippi, was resumed in committee of the whole.

The question on Mr. Frelinghuysen's amendment was divided, and first taken on adding to the bill the following proviso: *Provided always*, That until the said tribes or nations shall choose to remove, as by this act is contemplated, they shall be protected in their present possessions, and in the enjoyment of all their rights of territory and government, as heretofore exercised and enjoyed, from all interruptions and encroachments.

The proviso was rejected by a vote of 27 to 20.

The question was then taken on the other proviso, which is as follows: *And provided also*. That before any **removal** shall take place of any of the said tribes or nations, and before any exchange or exchanges of land be made as aforesaid, that the rights of any such tribes or nations in the premises, shall be stipulated

for, secured, and guarantied by treaty or treaties, as heretofore made.

This was also rejected, 19 to 28.

Mr. Sprague then moved to add a proviso in the following words: *Provided always*, That until the said tribes or nations shall choose to remove, as is by this act contemplated, they shall be protected in their present possessions, and in the enjoyment of all their rights of territory and government, as promised or guarantied to them by treaties with the United States, according to the true intent and meaning of such treaties.

The amendment was negatived by yeas and nays, 20 to 27, the vote being the same as on the first proviso.

Mr. Frelinghuysen next offered the following proviso: *Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize the departure from, or non-observance of, any treaty, compact, agreement or stipulation heretofore entered into and now subsisting between the United States and the Cherokee **Indians**.

This amendment was rejected by yeas and nays, by the same vote as the preceding.

On motion by Mr. White, the blank in the eighth section was filled with 500,000 dollars, and the bill reported to the Senate with the amendments, which, having been concurred in,

Mr. Frelinghuysen moved further to amend the bill, by adding the following proviso, which was rejected:

*Provided*, That before any exchange or **removal** shall take place, the President of the United States shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint three suitable persons, and by them cause the country to which it is proposed to remove the **Indians** to be fully explored, and a report made to the President, and by him to Congress, of the extent of good and arable lands that can be obtained, and of the proportion of wood land in such country, and of its adaptation to the objects of this bill, and to the wants and habits of the **Indian** nations.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, by yeas and nays, 28 to 19.