John Harrell, who came early to the Indians and led many of them to espouse the cause of Methodism. It was he, more than all others, that influenced Checote to preach the gospel to his people. This he did with great fervor and zeal until the Creek Council passed a law forbidding any of the tribal members to preach under penalty of fifty lashes on the naked back. Checote with several others fled from the Territory, and remained until an appeal was made to Chief McIntosh, annuled the law and ordered the punishment and persecution of the preachers stopped. In the year 1852, he joined the Indian Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was actively engaged in preaching among his people until the outbreak of the Civil War. There are no doubt several reasons why he espoused the cause of the southern Confederacy. He was a product of the South, his early life was spent there, its history, traditions and customs were his, he was a preacher in that branch of Methodism that was then in sympathy with the South on the great issue that divided the Nation. The Indian affairs of our Government at Washington was then under the direction and control of men from the South who exerted their influence among the Indians against the North. But not all the Indians of the Creek Nation were engaged or sympathised with the South, for many were loyal to the North and after the close of the War, as these two factions returned to their homes, they were for a time the source of much