

marked and surveyed that it was their aboriginal home and that valid treaties, successive treaties one after another, signed by the emissaries of the President, successive Presidents of the United States guaranteed that title, guaranteed that right for the Cherokees to govern themselves, and also, in every one of those treaties were plain provisions, obligating the people and the Government of the United States to protect them from intrusions from outsiders except those whom the Cherokees invited. The battle was commenced then over the question of the right of the state government within its original charter limits to have it's sayso over all people within those charter limits regardless of their affiliation with Georgia or with the Government of the United States. The Cherokees were not then citizens of either Georgia or of the United States. They didn't want to be citizens of either government. They were forced to become citizens as late as 1901 here in eastern Oklahoma. They had never been a citizen till 1901 of any government except the government of the Cherokee Nation. The battle then, first was in the courts, and the case arose, as you remember when the Georgia legislature upon the adoption of, but the Cherokees of their little paper form of government, their little constitution, the battle arose when the legislature of Georgia by three different acts of the legislature affected our people, our rights, and our property. First act said that this little government of the Cherokees is of no force and effect and that the laws of Georgia both civil and criminal are now spread over the Cherokee Nation in Georgia. And every Cherokee citizen is to be responsive to those laws of Georgia. Second act provided for the surveying of our land, laying it off into lots to be later auctioned off, or by a lottery. And the third act, I regret to say, provided that no Cherokee could testify in court involving his rights, or his property in the courts of Georgia. Certain limitations