

THE TAHLEQUAH ARROW

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Waddie Hudson, Editor & Owner

LETTER OF ISPARHECHER

Chief Isparhecher of the Creek Nation
has issued the following letter to the
public regarding his views of the affairs
in the Indian Territory.

"Okmulgee, I. T.,

February 15,

I see in the public prints much surmising concerning myself. Some think I have retired to my country home to saw wood, others that I have accepted the inevitable without a further struggle, and still others say that I am planning either war or a general exodus of my people to Mexico. None of these surmises disturb me in the least, for I do not regard them as more than the idle, passing wind. Yet, inasmuch as my silence seems to annoy some people, I will now ask you to give the public my views of the situation as I now see it. The United States government has by its

late acts of congress abrogated the treaties heretofore made with the Indians of the Indian Territory, disregarding their wishes and ignoring their treaty rights. I feel that this is an assumption of power unauthorized by the organic laws of the American Union, and simply a declaration of war, which would be resisted as such if such treatment was attempted against the similar rights of any other nation other than the weak, defenseless tribes of the Indian Territory. In other words it is a challenge of power without affording the Indians any weapon of defense. The Indian is simply a target to stand up and be shot down. This is not fair. Let the Indian have an equal show and, if he then proves himself an unequal match, his defeat cannot be charged to unfairness. It has ever been the boast of Americans that, above all other things, they love fair play -- equal rights to the humblest of her citizens, at all times -- but I ask in all candor, is such the fact regarding the Indians at this time? Is it fair that the Creeks shall be denied the use of their money to use as they please? Are they not free born, and entitled to the exercise of the rights guaranteed to a free people? Yet we, the Creeks, are denied the use of the means necessary to

to protect our rights in the courts of the United States. The great president of a free people says we can't have the money to test our constitutional rights in the courts. Thus it seems that we, the Creeks, have no rights of self-control, and are to be dealt with as little children only.

ISPARHECHER