

**The committee consisting of Mr. Hardy, Mr. Houston, Mr. Read, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Holten, to whom was referred the report of a committee on the state of southern Indian affairs, beg leave to submit the following report.**

The **COMMITTEE** consisting of Mr. Hardy, Mr. Houston, Mr. Read, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Holten, to whom was referred the Report of a Committee on the State of **SOUTHERN INDIAN AFFAIRS**, beg leave to submit the following **REPORT**.

**THAT** commissioners, with the same pay that is allowed the commissioners for treating with the northern Indians, be immediately appointed to form a treaty or treaties with the Indians in the southern department, for the purpose of making peace with them, receiving them into the favor of the United States, and ascertaining the boundary lines by which the settlements of the citizens of the United States are or ought to be separated and divided from the Indian villages and hunting grounds; and thereby if possible extinguishing animosity, and preventing in future any contention or disquiet.

That the southern department be considered as extending so far north as to include the Cherokees, as so far south as to include all the other nations or tribes of Indians who reside within the limits of the United States, or have been at war with them, or any of them.

1. That the commissioners be instructed as a preliminary, to require that all prisoners of whatever age or sex among the Indians, and all slaves or other fugitives, shall be delivered up.

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2. That the Indians be informed that their former ally the king of Great Britain unprovoked, waged a cruel and bloody war against the United States;—that he equipped and sent forth powerful fleets upon our coasts to destroy our trade, and great armies amongst us to waste our country; but that after a conflict of eight years, during which two of those armies were defeated and captured, Great-Britain has been compelled to relinquish to the United States, by a treaty which was signed on the 3d of September, 1783, all claim to that vast country which is included between St. Croix and St. Mary's river, and between the ocean and the great lakes; that is to say, (here describe the bounds according to the 2d article in the treaty of peace.) That the Indians who taking the advantage of our troubles, have assisted the British king, and waged war against the frontier inhabitants, are now in our power and at our mercy;—that we might return their cruelty on their own heads, but that we prefer clemency to severity, and are perfectly willing to bury in perpetual oblivion, all remembrance of past injuries, and to consider them as friends and allies; —that we assuredly shall not violate our promises to them, or suffer others to molest them with impunity.

3. That the commissioners be instructed to enquire what are the true limits of the lands which have been purchased at different times from the Indians in the southern states, by persons having lawful authority to make such purchases; and when the limits are described and agreed on to the satisfaction of the commissioners, measures shall be taken for running a line of division where there is not any natural boundary, in order to prevent mistakes or the plea of ignorance.

4. That the commissioners previous to their holding any treaty, shall give due notice of the time and place where it is to be held, to the supreme executives of the four southern states, in order that they may each of them appoint one or more persons to attend during the treaty, to explain the extent of the different purchases which have been made from the Indian tribes for the use of their respective states.

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5. That the Indians be informed, that we shall not encourage any of our citizens who may presume to hunt or settle on their side of the boundary line, nor shall any of them cross it unless for the friendly purpose of supplying their wants and partaking of their trade:—That if any of our citizens shall settle on their lands, they shall immediately warn such person or persons to remove, and shall complain of the offence to Congress, or the commissioners of Congress, or to the governor of the nearest state: and if the offenders shall not remove within six months after such warning and complaint, the Indians may consider them as disorderly persons and compel them to retire. But the Indians are to be careful that they do not injure the innocent trader on account of the offences of disorderly settlers; nor are they in any case to injure one man for the crimes of another, not under any pretence to cross the boundary line to injure a citizen of the United States. For an offence against any state or any citizen of the United States, will be considered as an offence against all, and punished accordingly.

6. That the commissioners be instructed to encourage the Indians to give notice to Congress, or some of their officers, of any designs that may be formed in any neighbouring tribe against the peace of the United States, and if any persons shall come among them under the pretence of trading, or for other purposes, and shall propagate evil reports or endeavour to promote quarrels between them and the citizens of the United States, they shall consider such persons as enemies, who for private and wicked purposes wish to involve them in a destructive war, and they shall expel such persons from their country.—So shall peace be preserved, and a friendly intercourse maintained between the citizens of the United States, and the Indians who are their faithful allies, as long as the waters continue to flow, or the sun to shine.

7. That agents be appointed to reside occasionally among the Indians, to superintend their trade, to be informed of their wants, and to prevent frauds from being practised against them. Each of those agents shall attend to the affairs of such district as may be pointed out by the commissioners, and receive dollars per annum for their trouble and expence.

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8. That the commissioners be authorised to draw on the states of South-Carolina, for dollars, to enable them to carry the proposed treaty into effect: and that the said state be allowed credit for the same, out of the requisitions for year.