

staff.¹ Proceeding to Port Smith, the council was convened on the 8th day of September, and was attended by delegates representing the Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Seminoles, Osages, Senecas, Shawnees, Quapaws, Wyandots, Wichitas, and Comanches. In opening the council the Indians were informed that the commissioners had been sent to ascertain their disposition and feeling toward the United States; that most of them had violated their treaty obligations to the Government and, by entering into diplomatic relations with the so-called Confederate States, had forfeited all right to the protection of the United States and subjected their property to the penalty of confiscation,

They were assured, however, that the Government had no disposition to deal harshly with them. On the contrary, it was desirous of undertaking such measures as would conduce to their happiness, and was especially determined to grant handsome recognition to those of them whose loyalty had been so firmly and consistently manifested in the face of the most cruelly adverse conditions. The council continued in session for thirteen days. On the second day the Indians were informed that the commissioners were empowered to enter into treaties with the several tribes upon the basis of the following propositions:

1. That opposing factions of each tribe must enter into a treaty for permanent peace and amity among themselves; also between each other as tribes, and with the United States.

2. The tribes settled in the "Indian country" should bind themselves at the call of the United States authorities to assist in compelling the wild tribes of the plains to keep the peace.

3. Slavery should be abolished and measures should be taken to incorporate the slaves into the several tribes, with their rights guaranteed.

4. A general stipulation as to the final abolition of slavery.

5. A part of the Indian country should be set apart to be purchased for the use of such Indians from Kansas or elsewhere as the "Government should desire to colonize therein.

6. That the policy of the Government to unite all the Indian tribes of this region into one consolidated government should be accepted.

7. That no white persons, except Government employes or officers or employes of internal improvement companies authorized by Government, should be permitted to reside in the country unless incorporated with the several nations.

Reasons for Cherokee disloyalty.—The subsequent sessions of the council were largely taken up in the discussion of these propositions by the representatives of the various tribes. It is only with the conduct of the Cherokees, however, that the present history is concerned. The address of the representatives of the "loyal" portion of this tribe is especially noteworthy in this, that they charged the cause of their alliance with the rebel authorities upon the United States, by reason of the

¹Report of D. N. Cooley, president of the commission, dated October 30, 1865.