

pebbles in a pair of terrapin shells suspended from her limbs. A huge pot of meat and corn boiled together is then served by means of a large wooden ladle, which is passed around until all are satisfied. They believe in this way each person carries off a portion of the disease with which the patient is afflicted. During the performance everything must be done in a certain way, as they are very particular on this point. If the first dance does not effect a cure it is repeated, in some instances as many as three times.

The Chickasaws were, like their brothers the Choctaws, located in Mississippi previous to their removal to the Indian territory, and occupied the portions of the state which at the present time bear the names of some of their most distinguished warriors, such as Pontotoc, Pickens, Tishomingo, etc. The territory they occupied had been ceded to them at an early date, but as the country became settled up by the whites, a treaty was entered into by which they were to leave their lands in Mississippi and move to the Indian territory. This was in the year 1832. Arrangements were soon made and the majority of the tribe took their departure for their new homes.

The government of the Chickasaws in early days was very much like that of the Choctaws. The former were known by their distinctive house names instead of being divided into "iksas" or clans, as the latter were. The name was always taken from the mother's side, as, for instance, the mother and grandmother of Governor Cyrus Harris were of the house of Inhus-sha-wah-ya, consequently his name, according to their old customs, would have been Cyrus of the House of Inhus-sha-wah-ya. There are about fifty of these well-known house names among the Chickasaws, but they are rapidly falling into disuse. The name of their last king was Ish-tah-to-pah, and that of their queen Puc-caiuna (Hanging Grapes.)

When the Chickasaws came to the Indian territory they located among the Choctaws; but they immediately saw that they could not have a representation in the general council, as they were so few in number compared with the Choctaws. They accordingly entered into a treaty with the Choctaws in 1837 by which they were to have the privilege of forming a district of their own within the limits of the latter's domain. They were also to be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Choctaws with the exception of receiving a share of the annuities. When the Choctaws came from the East they settled in the eastern part of their country, not daring to venture into the western part on account of the raids made in that section by the Comanches, Kiowas, and other wild tribes. As a consequence they knew very little about the western part of their territory, and sold an area of about 7,267 square miles to the Chickasaws for the sum of \$530,000, to be paid by annual installments, thus placing them as a breastwork to protect themselves from their enemies. The Chickasaws had, on their arrival, visited all sections of the country, and when they were granted the western portion they were well pleased, knowing it to be the richest and most valuable land in the territory.

The Chickasaw government is conducted similar to that of the Choctaws,

the principal executive officer, however, being called "governor" instead of "principal chief." The nation is divided into four counties—Panola, Pickens, Pontotoc and Tishomingo—each of which returns three senators and eight representatives. The capitol is situated at Tishomingo, and here the legislature convenes annually on the first Wednesday in September, generally remaining in session about one month. The judicial powers of the nation are vested in a supreme, district and county courts. The governor's cabinet is composed of national secretary, national agent, treasurer and attorney-general. The first named three are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate; the latter is elected by the people.

The Chickasaws have a very good school system. A superintendent of public instruction, appointed by the legislature, devotes his time to visiting the schools and seeing that they are properly conducted. There are five high schools in the nation, viz: The Male Academy at Tishomingo, Bloomfield Female institute, Wahpucka institute, Lebanon academy and Collins institute; also a number of neighborhood schools, containing in all about six hundred children. The sum of \$50,000, interest on their money invested in United States bonds is semi-annually appropriated for the support of these schools, which are all free to the children of citizens. Having these educational advantages, the younger portion of the Chickasaws are becoming quite proficient in the English language, as that is taught exclusively in their schools. Non-citizen children are at a disadvantage, as they are not allowed to attend these schools. In localities where a sufficient number of them reside a private school is often carried on.

The first governor of the Chickasaw nation was Cyrus Harris, who was elected by a majority of one vote in 1856, at the time of the adoption of the constitution. Thrice was he re-elected, serving four terms, during which peace and harmony prevailed. At present no person can hold the office of governor for more than two consecutive terms.

There are about 6,000 citizens (including the whites adopted by intermarriage). The number of non-citizens who rent from the Indians is estimated at about 25,000 or 30,000. There are also some negroes living in this nation, but instead of being adopted citizens as they are in other nations, they are simply allowed to live there and cultivate what land they desire. Some of the citizens hold from 2,000 to 10,000 acres of land, on which they have placed improvements. The land belongs to the whole tribe, and the members thereof simply own the improvements they put upon it, but have control of all the land they have improved.

The law requires each laborer to pay to the Chickasaw government the sum of \$5, for which he receives a permit to reside in the nation and either rent land and cultivate it or perform any common labor. The sum is greater for merchants and other business men, varying according to the value and importance of their business. A man desiring to become a citizen by marriage is required to pay the sum of \$50 for a license. The couple may cross the line into one of the states and have the ceremony performed without paying this sum, but that would not constitute him a citizen.

The Chickasaw nation is different to the other nations in that it has more prairie land and is not so rough and mountainous. The land is principally very productive, especially that portion lying near Washita and Red rivers. Considerable wheat and other small grain is grown in this part as well as corn and cotton. Ardmore, the largest city in any of the nations, is located near the Washita river on the Santa Fe railroad.

The Chickasaws have no written language of their own, but there is such a similarity between theirs and the Choctaw language, that they use the books of the latter. This is a strong proof in favor of the tradition which exists among them to the effect that they were originally one tribe.

### DESERTED CITY OF DAKOTA.

A party of archaeologists, just returned from the northeast corner of North Dakota, tell a thrilling story of the abandoned city of West Lynne. The city is desolate and going to decay; no traffic goes on in its streets; no homes are in the dwellings. The streets are graded, have sidewalks, and trees and a scrubby flourish in the yards surrounding the residences, but all is silence and loneliness.

The town is opposite Emerson, just across the Manitoba line from St. Vincent. There, on two sides of the Red river, and within an area of 4 square miles, are four towns—Emerson, West Lynne, Winston and Pembina. West Lynne is on the west bank of the river.

The history of the place is one of the romances of town building in the boom period when Winnipeg was the metropolis of the north. Some schemers, with more fertility than scruples, plotted and exploited a city of Red river at a point where they claimed the Great Northern was to cross. Eastern capitalists were becoming interested and money was plenty. There was no sham about the actual construction of that town. It was not another Arizona desert farce, existing only in the minds and on the plate of its projectors, but a substantial reality.

A man named Murray of Chicago was the agent. He sold lots at auction in Chicago for \$5,000 each. While he would be selling a telegram would come notifying him of the sale of a certain plat, and it would be withdrawn. Then he sold adjoining lots at advanced prices. That was the broker feature. Meantime building was progressing. No board shanties, sod walls or canvas shells, but handsome structures of brick or lumber, thoroughly finished in approved style, and today the town is a handsome but useless monument to the credulity of some and the hardihood of others.

It has buildings which cost from \$5,000 to \$100,000, has a steel bridge which cost \$200,000, is capable of holding a population of 20,000, and yet not a human being lives in it.

The San Francisco police denounce as a fraud a club-footed man 45 years old who has been soliciting alms from church people on the ground that he was robbed on a steamer coming from Los Angeles. The man has black hair and moustache, and wears a heavy fur cap and brown overcoat. He has victimized a number of charitable persons.