

proof in one instance, his assertion should be so in another; and how glorious does not that nation appear who, for such a cause, would wage a war of extermination upon an ignorant people.¹

We know something of these matters from our own observation, and have witnessed outrages committed upon the Indians until in their rage they gnashed their teeth together, and full grown and bold men wept like little children, because they dared not to make any resistance. They were not afraid for themselves, but they trembled for their wives and children, well knowing that upon the slightest pretext the cry of Indian murders would be raised, and their tribes would be overrun in a moment. On one occasion a poor fellow, who had been most unmercifully beaten, was advised to appeal to the courts for redress. He did so; and notwithstanding he made out a clear case of the most wanton ill-usage, he was refused any compensation, and at the conclusion of the trial he had to fly to his nation to save his life. This occurred in a small village bordering on the Choctaw Nation. Upon this trial, a peculiarity in the customs of this tribe was disclosed, which we believe has never been taken notice of in any written account of them. It is the Choctaw mode of fighting a duel. The interpreter was introduced as a witness to prove the extent of injury which the Indian had received, and he stated that a messenger came to him from the Indian, urging him to come and see him. He did so; and on his arrival found the Indian in a sitting posture, with his blanket wrapped closely around him and rocking his head between his hands. The interpre-

¹ There is no other authority for this story of the whipping of Black Hawk's son. The old chief, in his autobiography, states that, in 1822, three whites met him, and falsely accused him of stealing their hogs—took his gun, fired it off, and divested it of the flint, before returning it to him, when they beat him so severely with sticks that he could not sleep for several nights; and subsequently, he adds, the whites "burnt our lodges, destroyed our fences, ploughed up our corn, and beat our people." His son may have been one of the number thus beaten. At all events, these club-law beatings were among the complaints of Black Hawk and his people.