

## PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

The following production, aside from its intrinsic merit, will, no doubt, be read with increased interest when it is known that the author is a "Cherokee Indian," born in the woods—reared in the midst of the wildest scenery—and familiar with all that is thrilling, fearful, and tragical in a forest-life. His own experiences would seem to have well fitted him to portray in living colors the fearful scenes which are described in this book, connected as he was, from the age of seventeen up to twenty-three, with the tragical events which occurred so frequently in his own country, the rising of factions, the stormy controversies with the whites, the fall of distinguished chiefs, family feuds, individual retaliation and revenge, and all the consequences of that terrible civil commotion which followed the removal of the Cherokee Nation from the east to the west of the Mississippi, under the administration of Gen. Jackson. When a small boy, he saw his father (the celebrated chief and orator, known among the Indians by the name of "Sca-lee-los-kee") stabbed to death by a band of assassins employed by a political faction, in the presence of his wife and children at his own home. While the bleeding corpse of his father was yet lying in the