

Lexington May 15th 55

To

Washington Irving Esq



Dear Sir

I have written a book and send it to you as my excuse for expressing the very great pleasure which I have continually derived from your writings since *Salmagunda*'s first made its appearance in the south. If you should look into it you will find that it is made of sketches of the first settlers on the frontiers of upper Georgia and their neighbors the Cherokee Indians the unparalleled success of the settlers in acquiring wealth and the confidence of the country how the Indians have been removed from Georgia as

crumblers of the ground to the
winds west of the Mississippi have Geo-
gia has been improved and the
Indians benefitted by means which
at the time excelled the most general
and unrestrained abuse against those
who used them.

The author who writes his first
book at forty four cannot expect
that his labours will attract readers
by its literary merits. He will
be satisfied if the simple truth-
fulness of its statements shall aid
history in describing the manners
and success of the first settlers
of upper Georgia the instincts
of the Cherokee and the necessity
which required that they should
yield to the progressive im-
provement of those who were
preying upon them.

The misconception of the conduct
of the Authorities of Georgia in
relation to the Cherokees was so
universal among the people of the
distant States that any effort at
the time to set the public opinion
right would have been unavailing.
As the abuse was specially directed
at the Governor who was the agent
for doing what was done I desire
to show that great injustice
was done him. Hoping that
my book may give pleasant
employment to a few of your
leisure moments.

I am very
respectfully
Yours &c
George R Gilmer



