

## Greenwood Leflore and David Folsom to Andrew Jackson

Council Ground Choctaw Nation March 18 1830—

To Our Father the President of the United States.

Your Red Children of the Choctaw Nation have heard the talk of their Father the President. We were told that the State of Mississippi would extend her laws over us, and, we are not permitted to look to our Father for protection. We are distressed. We see among us the aged warriors who fought for our white brothers many years ago; they tell us that our Great Father Washington promised them that our great father the President would always be the friend of the red people, and we see among us the widows and orphans of warriors who fought for our white brothers under our present father the President, and many of our warriors, yet feel the brotherly hand of our father, when he told them that our white brothers loved us: Our warriors were glad! Our white brothers have lived many years very near to your choctaw children, and when our white brothers told us that they were many in number, and wished land to make bread for their children our fathers heard the talk of their white brothers, and let them have land. Again our white brothers wanted land, and our fathers heard them and let them have land. Our white brothers told us that they were increasing and wanted land; we heard our fathers talk, but our land was small; most of our land we already had given up to our white brothers: where we now live is the place of our fathers homes. Here the bones of our fathers rest. We said we cannot sell our fathers homes, and leave the place of our birth. Our present Father the President told us that his white children would put their laws upon us. They have done so. Our Father tells us that we had better leave our land, and go to a land where he can protect us; and that he cannot protect us upon our present land. We love our land, but we cannot suffer our council fire to be extinguished by submitting to the laws of our white brothers, but to stain our hands with the blood of our white brothers we cannot consent. We never have done so. We know that our warriors are too few to defend ourselves; but our father knows that Choctaws are not affraid to die. Many of them have fought and bled by the side of our Father the President. We ardently wish to live in peace with our white brothers. Many among them love us. We could not think of injuring them were it in our power.

Most of our People have heard and are trying to obey the talk of the Great Spirit. This tells us to love even those who injure us; and that we may live in peace with our white brothers, we have determined to leave our homes,

and the land of our fathers, and go to the land were our father promises to protect us. We have sent a talk to our Father the President by our brother David W. Haley; we hope our Father will not think we ask too much of him. It is not the hope of money that influences us to sell our country, but that we may live in peace, and under our own laws. We hope that our Father will send our brother Haley back in haste to tell us, that our Father still loves his Choctaw Children; and that he will do all that we ask of him; and also that he will appoint our brother Haley to go with us to our new home, and live among us as our Agent. We wish soon to hear, as we wish and assure our Father, that in two years we will all, or most of us, be in our new homes if he sanctions our talk sent by our brother Haley. Signed in behalf of the National Council

Greenwood Leflore  
David Folsom

DS, National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 46, SEN 21B-C4.