

Council Grounds 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 ~~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 in any 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 hands
upon us. They have done so. Our Father tells
us that we had better leave our lands, and go
to a land where he can protect us; and
that he cannot protect us upon our pres-
ent land. We love our land, but we can-
not suffer our council fire to be extinguish-
ed by submitting to the laws of our white bro-
thers, 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 Chactaws are not afraid to die.
Many of them have fought and bled by
the side of our father the President. We
sincerely 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 say we 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
our father promised to protect us. We
have sent a talk to our Father the President
by our brother David W. Hooley; we hope our
Father will not think we ask too much of
him. It is not the hope of money that
influenced us to sell our country, but that
we may live in peace, and make our
own land. We hope that our Father will
send our brother Hooley back in haste to
tell us, that our Father still loves his
Chactaw 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
again our Father, that in two years we will
all, or most of us, be in our new homes if he
sanctions our take sent by our brother Haley.

Signed in behalf of the Na-
tion at Council

Greenwood. Leflore
David Holson