

Daniel W. Wright to Powhatan Ellis

Hamilton, April 11th. 1830

Dear Judge

This morning I received a communication from Majr. Pitchlynn of the Choctaw Nation, requesting me in behalf of himself Mushulatubbe Hihagotoba, the Talking Warrior, and the head men and Captains of the Northern and South Eastern districts of the Nation, to address the President on the subject of what they call their distressed situation

As my acquaintance with the President was at a period of my life when my years were few in Number it is possible that he may not now recollect me, and as I have heretofore written to you the subject of Indian affairs in our State I deem it most prudent to address you, and make their communication to you, and if you in your discretion may think it worth presenting to the President you can do so

you will recollect that Majr. Pitchlynn has been Interpreter for the United States in the Choctaw Nation of Indians for forty years, and that although he is a white man resident among them with an Indian family he has ever both in and out of the Nation, sustained a fair & reputable Character

I will give you their communication *verbatim*, with the exception, of adding a word or two to make it read intelligible

They request me to say to the President, that they are a distressed People and want the help of their Great Father the President who has never told them a lye

That a few half Breed Chiefs, and the Missionaries have robbed them of their rights and happiness. That they are all (Except the Majr.) full Blooded Indians

That they understand, Greenwood Lalfour, David Folsome and John Garland three half Breed Chiefs, has sent on by Majr. Hailey, propositions to the President to treat away their Country without their Consent or knowledge, and without hardly any of the Indians knowing any thing about it, and as they have heard upon such terms as will not benefit the Common Indians and give them Justice

That they have always had Chiefs of their own until now and have never been compelled to serve a Chief without their own consent, and that they are now determined not to do it, for they understand Fulsome & Garland the former Chiefs of their Districts have resigned in favor of Lalfour who is to be the only Chief for life This they say they can not bear

They say they the persons before named are the head men of the

Northern & South Eastern Districts and their Captains & warriors speak as they do. That they are ready if the President will send Commissioners on to treat with them for their two districts That they will, give the Government a better treaty than the half Breeds and Missionaries have offered them and that they will go west of the Mississippi river or any where the President may think best for them to go &c.

I set out by stating that I wold give the Communication *verbatim* but when I came to transcribe it I found that I had best give it in substance as it is made in the true Indian Stile of communicating Ideas

Thus you see the Condition of the Choctaws and it is now in the power of the United States to make a favorable treaty with them, one which will enable the Govt. to display its Magnanimity, towards those persons, for they are at this time entirely at the Mercy of the Govt. their own internal dissentions producing the effect

I have no doubt those two districts *en mass* will conform to the policy of the Govt. and the other will be compelled to come into the measure

you will pardon me when I give it to you as my opinion that the earliest action on the part of the Govt. in this respect will be most sure to effect the object of the Govt. & the interest of the Indians, as also it may prevent the effusion of Blood by those poor deluded and missguided people, for from what I can learn there is every probability that the 16th. Inst. will date the Commencement of a civil war among them

This fact I believe I mentioned to you in my last letter

I shall set out on wednesday next for Madison Court and shall stay on the Night of the Sixteenth in the Neighbourhood of the Council so soon as I hear the result of their meeting I will inform you

I am with sentiments of great respect your Friend

D. W. Wright

PS. Col. Pruett who passed through the Nation the other day, says he understood The Talking Warriar had beat his War Drum, and was performing the Indian Ceremonies usual preceeding *war* &c.

[Endorsed by AJ:] Colo. Wright to Judge Ellis—

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