

John Henry Eaton to William Ward

Department of War,
31st. July, 1829.

Sir,

I have received your letter, and approve the talk made by you to the Indians. The President is fully satisfied that the opposition produced amongst the Indians against emigration is ascribable mainly to the interference and bad counsels of vicious white men, who gain a place in the nation. These have no business there. None are to be permitted to remain in the nation, but under a written *permit* from the agent; which permit is to be revoked when good behaviour is lost sight of; and not to be given, except where the party is known to be of good character. White men, married to Indians, and who consequently, by their regulations are entitled to residence are not to be considered as requiring permits from you. But even these when found to be disorganizers, and seeking to thwart the policy and views of the government, must be reported to this Department, with the circumstances of their conduct, and an order will be forthwith given to remove them from the nation.

How can the Indians expect to remain where they are. They are surrounded by the whites. They are within the limits and jurisdiction of a State, whose laws may at any time be extended over them; nor can the general government here prevent it, because they have not the constitutional power to prevent it. But beyond the Mississippi, this government will possess the power, and can exercise it. It will be disposed, when there settled, to molest or disturb them no more, but leave them and their children at peace, and in repose forever. They will be interrupted by no one. The tribes that shall go there, and enter into peace and fellowship with us, truly and in sincerity, will have none to disturb or make them afraid, because their enemies would be our enemies. The United States would not look with indifference, upon any tribe making war upon another, but viewing the quiet and happiness of the whole, would with paternal care consult and maintain the interest of the whole.

It is desired and directed that you constantly in all your intercourse, with the Indians, urge upon them the utter inability of their Great Father to prevent the State of Mississippi from extending her laws over their Country; and of his earnest desire, as well for the interest and happiness of his Red, as white children that they shall make up their minds to remove, and become settled in the West.

You are requested to be vigilant and active, in enlightening the minds of the Choctaw Indians upon this subject, that they may understand the opinions of their Great Father. He wishes them at some convenient and early time, to meet in Council, and he will send some confidential friend amongst them to agree upon a treaty, by which the whole nation shall go off together, except those who shall prefer to remain, and come under the laws of the States.

The Seal of the War Department is attached that it may be known, that these remarks emanate from their Great Father. Very Respectfully,

John H. Eaton

National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 75, M21-6.