

David W. Haley to Andrew Jackson

Browns Hotel
8 October 1829

Sir

I have thought it my duty to mention to you by letter who those Gentlemen are that have written to me on the subject of the removal of the choctaws which letters I have had the honor this day to hand to you for inspection.

Rev. Alexander Tally is a Methodist missionary sent by that society from Mississippi to reform the indians. he is a Gentleman of high standing in that country. he resides with Col Leflore and in his letter he speaks the views of that chief. Leflore sees the fate of his nation unless something is done for them and there is but few of us (general) who are willing to give up our own lives to save others. the chiefs cannot prepair the indians for a Treaty this must be done by the Goverment through some person that the indians are well acquainted whith who has influence with them. this person must go through the nation and call the indians in council, in the different Towns and reason with them, and be plain and positive. this power must should be directly from you, which would autherise this counciler to assure them that his talk was the words of your lips. this would sende the indians to their chiefs to know what should be done to save them. then the chiefs could come out and tell them, they must go to the country they now own west of the Mississippi or come under the laws of the states, and by those laws they can only be treated as free persons of Colour, and on that point alone your counciler can fetch the whole nation to reflection. General I have contracted for the mail through the choctaw nation for a number of years, and believe I know what points the indians should be taken on to effect a refformation in their present views, as respects their remaining in quietude where they now are. (General) I have received many acts of Kindness and the strongest marks of friendship from a number of them and their chiefs amongst that number which gives me a feeling intrest for their happiness and prosperity which I know will be imposible to secure to them where they now reside. I am at your servis (General) at all times to give you my humble aid in facilitation your views in promoting the happiness of our Common Country, and the unfortunate Aborigines of america[.] I have the honor to be your obt sevt.

D. W. Haley

PS. Mr Reuben Harris who writes one of the letters is a brother in law to Col Leflore and a man who has influence and standing in the nation.

National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 75, M234-432.