

David Folsom to William Ward

Choctaw Nation Nov. 7. 1829

Friend, & Brother,

on the 17th. day of Sept last, you delivered unto us while we were assembled in council, a talk from the Secretary at war. The Chakta people in answer to that communication express their own views in a few words, We are sorry to hear that the Secretary of War has the impression, that the white men who reside among us, pervert our minds so that we are unwilling to remove toward the land of the west. And we are sorry to hear that the President of the United States has heard reports about us, which are false, but which he presumes to be true. It never so, that reports are allways true. We will mention what we consider to be the truth. None of the white men who are with us, have ~~any~~ the deriction of us: we are simply a nation of red men. Therefore, were it our wish to remove toward the land of the west, there is not a white man among us, who could prevent us by his vicious councils. We know of no white man residing in our Nation who has attempted to pervert our minds, or leads us to reject the propositions of the General Government. It is our establish'd usage when we sett in council to transact our own National business, altho, we are an ignorant people.

The Secretary of War says, "How can the Indians expects to remain where they are, surrounded by white people, and should the state of Mississippi extend her laws over them," We know of no way in which we can prevent it, And we say how can there be any question or any doubt on this subject? It is our own country, it was the land of our forefathers & as their children, we call it ours, and we reside on it, And whenever the great white men have come to us, and held treaties with us, they have ever said, "the ~~land~~ country is yours." The treaties were written for us, by the white men themselves, and we have, as a nation our own laws, and are governed by them, And now although white men have surrounded us, and settled on every side of us, here a lone can we reside, For it was the land of our fathers, and is now ours as their children. And has not the Amerrican Government allways sustained and proticted us, agreeable to the solemn treaties, with this Nation? And should the people of Mississippi wish to extend their laws over us, and distress us, such measures would be attended with misery and destruction to us. Will not the great Amerrican people who are men of truth and love justice, still love us Chakta red men? Surely we think they will love us. And although there are new thoughts about red people and a new language held ~~out out~~ out to them we can not think that the Amerrican Government will turn away from

us, and not even look on us. We have no expectation that if we should remove, to the west of Mississippi, that any treaties would be made with us, that could secure greater benefit to us, and our children; than those which are all ready made, We red people are of the opinion, that in a few years, the Amerricans, will allso wish to posses the land west of Mississippi, Should we remove—we should again, soon be removed by white men, We have no wish to Sell our Country, and remove to a land that is not fertile and good, ~~wherever were~~ wherever it be situated. It is not our wish that great ~~man may come~~ man altho a friend, should visit us to counsil with us about selling our beloved Country, and removing to another far off, we desire no such visit.

As the agent of the U. States Government speak to us, and tell us of another country west of the great River Mississippi, that is good, and where we and our children, may have a long and a quite home and enjoy maney blessings. In all this; you would act a faithfull officer under your superior, But here is our home; our dwelling places, our fields, our Schools, and all our friends, and under us are the dust and the bones of our forefathers This land is dearer to us than any other, why talk to us about removing? We all ways hear such council with deep grief in our hearts.

During your residence in our nation, as U.S. Agent, you have seen what improvment, we have made, in those things which are for our good & the good of our Children, and here it is in this very land that we wish to reside, and make greater improvment, till we become a happy people. our hearts cleave to our own Country, We have no wish to Sell this our beloved Country.

You will please to accept of my best wishes for your health, and happiness, and for the pease and prosperity of the United States, In behalf of the Chakta people, I have the honor to be, dear Sir, Your most dutiful friend
And Brother

David Folsom
Chief of the N.E Dist.
of the Chakta Nation