

Andrew Jackson to David W. Haley (Draft)

Washington. Octbr. 15th. 1829

Sir

you have kindly offered to be the bearer of any communications to the Indians amongst whom you will pass on your return Home. I place in your hands, copies, of a talk made by me last spring, to the Creeks; I wish you to shew them to the chiefs of the Choctaws, as you pass, and say to them, as far as this talk relates to their situation with their white brothers, and my wishes for them to remove beyond the Mississippi; it contains my sentiments towards the Choctaw, & Chikeseaw Indians, and if they wish to be happy, and to live in quiett, and preserve their Nation, they will take my advice, and remove beyond the Mississippi.

Say to them as friends & brothers, to listen to the voice of their father, and their friend: where they now are, they and my white children are too near to each other, to live in harmony and peace. Their game is destroyed, & many of their people will not work, & till the earth. Beyond the great river Mississippi, where a part of their nation have gone, their father has provided a country, large enough, for them all, and he advises them to remove to it. There their white brethern will not trouble them; they will have no claim to the land, and they can live upon it, they and all their children, as long as grass grows or water runs, in peace and plenty. It will be theirs forever. For any improvements in the country where they now live, and for any stock which they cannot take with them, their father will stipulate, in a treaty to be holden with them, to pay them a fair price.

Say to my red choctaw children, and my chikeseaw children, to listen—my white children of Mississippi have extended their laws over their country, If they remain where they now are they will be subject to those laws—If they remove across the Mississippi river they will be free from those laws of the state, and only subject to their own laws, and be under the care of their father the President of the united States—where they now are, say to them, their father cannot prevent them from being subject to the laws of the State of Mississippi. They are within its limits, and I pray you to explain to them that so far from the united States having a right to question the authority of any State, to regulate its affairs within their own limits, the General government will be obliged to sustain the States in the exercise of this right. Say to the chiefs and warriors that I am their friend, that I wish to act as their friend but they must, by removing from the limits of the States of Mississippi, and Alabama, and by being settled on the lands I offer them, put it in my power to be such—

There, beyond the limits of any State, in possession of land of their own, which they shall possess as long as Grass grows or water runs, I can, and will protect them and be their friend & father.

That the chiefs and warriors may fully understand this talk, you will please go amongst, & read it to, and fully explain it to them.

Tell them, it is from my own mouth you have recd it, and that I never speak with a forked Tongue—Whenever they make up their minds to exchange their lands where they now are for land across the river Mississippi, that I will direct a treaty to be holden with them, and assure them, that every thing that is liberal will be extended to them in that treaty—Improvements will be paid for, stock if left will be paid for, and all who wish to remain as citizens, shall have reservations laid out for them to cover their improvements; and every Justice due from a father to his red children, will be awarded to them & the chikesaws—again, I beg you to tell them to listen—The plan proposed is the only one, by which they can be perpetuated as nations & where can be extended to them, the right of living under their own laws. I am very respectfully your friend & the Friend of my choctaw & chikesaw brethren

Andrew Jackson

Library of Congress, Andrew Jackson Papers.