

Andrew Jackson to David W. Haley (Sent)

Washington City O[ctober 15, 1829]

Sir,

Having kindly offered to be the bearer of any communications to the Indians thr[o' whose] countries you will pass on your re[turn home] which I might think proper to make to the[m, I] take the liberty of placing in your hands [copies] of a talk made by me, last spring, to the [Creeks,] which I wish you to shew to the chiefs of the Choctaws. As far as this talk relates to the[ir] present situation and future prospects, it [contains] the best advice to both the Choctaws, an[d the] Chickasaws, whose happiness and peace [will] certainly be promoted by removing [beyond] the Mississippi.

Say to them, as friends & Brothers, to listen to the voice of their Father & friend. Where they now are, they and my white children are too near each other to live in harmony & peace. Their game is destroyed, and many of their people will not work & till the earth. Beyond the great ri[ver] Mississippi, where a part of their nation has gone, their Father has provided a co[untry] large enough for them all and he ad[vises] them to go to it. There, their white [brethren will not trou]ble them; [they] will have no claim [to the la]nd, and they & their children can live upon [it,] as long as grass grows and water runs, in peace and plenty. It will be theirs ~~together~~ forever. For the [im]provements which they have made in the country [wh]ere they now live, and for the stock which they [can]not take with them, their Father will [sti]pulate, in a treaty to be held with them, [to] pay a fair price.

Say to my red Choctaw children, and my chickasaw children, *to listen*. My white children of Mississippi have extended their laws over their country; and if they remain where they now are [t]hey must be subject to those laws. If they will [re]move across the Mississippi, they will be free [fro]m those laws, and subject only to their own, [under] the care of their Father the President. Where they now are, say to them, that their Father the President cannot prevent the operation of the laws of Mississippi. They are within the limits of that state; 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 its own limits, they will be obliged to sustain the exercise of this right. Say to the chiefs [a]nd 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.

That the Chiefs and warriors may fully understand this talk, you will pleas[e go] among them, and explain it; and tell [them] it is from my own mouth you have [received] it, and that I never speak with a [forked] tongue. W[henever they make up their] minds to exc[hange their lands where they now are for land] west of th[e Mississippi river, I] w[ill direct a] Treaty to be held with t[hem and that every] thing just & liberal s[hall be extended to them]. Their improvements [will be paid for, s]tock if left, will be paid for, [and all who] wish to remain as citizens [shall have res]ervations laid out to cover [their improvem]ents; and the justice due [from a Fathe]r to his red children, will [be awarded to] them.

[Again, I be]g you, *tell them to listen*. [The plan prop]osed is the only one by which [they can be] perpetuated as a nation, the only one by which they can expect to preserve their own laws, and be benefitted by the care and humane attention of the United States. I am very respectfully yr. friend, & the friend of my Choctaw & chickasaw brethren

Andrew Jackson

Letter signed, in the hand of Andrew Jackson Donelson. [The Raab Collection](#). The manuscript is badly mutilated; missing text has been supplied wherever possible from Jackson's draft letter of the same date.