

Daniel W. Wright to Andrew Jackson

Hamilton, Monroe County, Mississippi
4th. March 1829

Dear Sir

During the recent session of the Genl. Assembly of this State, a committee was raised (of which I was chairman) with directions to enquire into the Constitutional right and power which this State possessed, to extend her legal process into, and to exercise jurisdiction over, that portion of territory now occupied by the Chickesaw and Choctaw tribes of Indians embraced within her chartered limits. Without entering into a detail of the reasons by which the committee was actuated, they reported a bill which passed into a law declarative of the right. The committee with a view, that no collision of power, policy or interest, as respects the powers of the Genl Government, contrasted with States' sovereignty should take place—and knowing that the present policy of the Government, is, to remove, at as early period as possible, those tribes west of the Mississippi river, requested me to address you on the subject of their removal, which, I trust, will be a sufficient apology for this communication—

It was believed by the committee, and is the general opinion of those best acquainted with the present feelings and condition of those tribes, that if a delegation of their Chiefs and some of their principal head men, were called, by your Excellency to the city of Washington, during the ensuing summer, that a treaty or cession of their country may be made with them, favorably to the interest of the Government. A few designing individuals among them (that class of people called Missionaries not being the least conspicuous) operate most powerfully in thwarting the policy of the Govt. relative to their removal.

It is believed, that even at this time, if a suitable person were empowered, and sent among the Choctaws, who was authorized to give a reasonable price for their improvements and surplus cattle, two thousand of them, (at least) could be induced to remove before the first of December next—

There is another subject, to which I would respectfully call your attention, to wit, the importance of establishing a Port of entry at the Pascagola Bay in this state, for the purpose of protecting the revenue Laws of the United States. I have recently heard, that the Govt. contemplates appointing a revenue Officer to be stationed at that place; If the appointment of such an Officer become necessary or expedient, I take the liberty of presenting to the favorable consideration of your Excellency, an application

(through me) by Colo William Dowsing of this County. his qualifications are ade/*quate*/ to the discharge of the duties of the Office

As an evidence of the high estimate in whi/*ch the*/ citizens of this State hold Colo. Dowsing, I [*will*] refer you to the vote of our last electi/*on for*/ electors of President and Vice Preside/*nt of the*/ United States, by which you will asc/*ertain*/ that he was one of the successful candida/*tes*. I/ also refer your Excellency to our Senators [*and Rep*]resentative in Congress for further par/*ticulars*/ relative to the respectability and qualific/*ations*/ of the Colo. I will remark however, [*that*] Office is an object to him; he has a v/*ery nu*/merous family of children, and his view [*in*] settling in that section of the State wou/*ld*/ be greatly promoted by the appointment.

I hope sir, you will pardon the liberty I have taken, in addressing to you the foregoing in regard to the pretensions of Colo. Dowsing, as my acquaintance with you was at a period of life when my years were so few that I expect you scarcely recollect me—

I am sir, with sentiments of the highest respect, and friendly considerations, your Excellency's most Obt Sert.

D. W. Wright

[Endorsed by AJ:] refered to *the Sec. of War*

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