

Book 320.

Ante 291.

To Col:

William Ward,
Choctaw Agent, &c.

Sir,

Department of War,
Office Indian Affairs,
5th March, 1830.

A letter has been handed to the Department which expresses the willingness of the Chief, Folsom, to go in company with George Harkins, and others to explore the Country west; and he asks for aid to enable them to make the Tour. The Secretary of war believing that the future welfare of the Choctaws depends on their removal, and being deeply solicitous for the lasting happiness of their race, is willing to aid them in taking even a first step towards so desirable an end. He authorizes me, therefore, to say to you, that you are at liberty to draw on him at sight for five hundred dollars, to aid them in their proposed Tour.

Both the President and Secretary of War, rely, much on the good sense of the Chief Folsom, and on that also of Mr. Harkins, and they are convinced that after they shall have seen the Country west of the Mississippi which it is the good fortune of their people to have prepared for them, they will come back and tell their people that their hopes, and the basis of a permanent prosperity all lie there. It is there, alone, the General Government can help them; and when there it will shew that it has both the will, and power to do so. ~

I have &c. &c.
Thos. L. McKenney.