

Daniel W. Wright, John H. Hand and De La F. Roysdon
to Andrew Jackson

Columbus (Miss) July 26th. 1830.

Dear Sir

By the accompanying preamble and Resolutions setting forth the proceedings of a meeting of a large and respectable collection of the Citizens of this County; you will discover that the undersigned compose a committee, which they respectfully ask you to receive as the only appology for the present address.

Your Excellency will discover that the object and result of the meeting was to solicit the exercise of your personal popularity, and just influence; which your high character and personal acquaintance has given you among the Chiefs, and head-men of the two tribes of Indians; (the Choctaws & Chickasaws) occupying a large portion of the Territory embraced within our chartered limits.

The numerous feuds and turmoils which have latterly arisen in the Choctaw Nation, have assumed an aspect, foreboding of evil, and deliterious consequences. Between three and seven hundred armed Indians have within the last ten days been marched by one of their Chiefs, (Greenwood Leflour) in warlike array from the South Western to the South Eastern part of their Territory; spreading terror and alarm to their more peaceful and defenceless brethren, who did not join in the array. The consequences arising from a procedure of this kind cannot be foretold.

The State of Mississippi has recently made the Indians residing within her limits Citizens; and divested their Chiefs and headmen of power forever, and yet in defiance of her laws; we find one of their Chiefs daring enough to arm a force and march in all the terror and parade of war: The consequence is that the State of Mississippi must succumb and submit to the outrage of an Indian Chief or assert the supremacy of her laws. This from present appearances must eventuate in collission and disturbance; an event greatly to be deprecated, and one which should by all means be avoided. The only means of obtaining this desired object is to prevail on them to sell their Country and remove West of the Mississippi.

That you have had many hours of painful reflection on the best means to be adopted for the peaceful, equitable, and speedy removal of the Indians within the limits of the States; the Committee have no doubt. If a person in whom the Indians had implicit confidence; one to whom they could look as a father and friend were to make propositions of treaty: we have no doubt but

that they would accede. From our knowledge of the Indian character, and from their great faith and confidence (in common with their white brethren) in your wisdom and justice we believe there is no person whatever who could make with them a treaty so advantageous to the Government, and at the same time so satisfactory to them, as yourself in person. The Indians look upon you as a father and a friend; as a kind of mediator between them and the States; your presence would quiet all disturbance and allay all rancorous animosities: and we do not hesitate to say, that should you visit them in person, you could effect a treaty and induce them to remove.

The effectuation of this object by you, would be another great achievement in the cause of humanity, and would add another laurel to your brow—

We therefore in the name of our fellow Citizens; and by all the ties of humanity for those unfortunate beings the Indians, call upon and invite you to come in person and use your endeavors to effect a treaty with them. It is true that a request of this kind is, so far as the committee are informed, unprecedented in the history of our Government; so also is the crisis of Indian political affairs: and from our knowledge of the alacrity with which you discharge every duty for the good of your Country, whether in the Cabinet or in the field; in the Temple of Justice, or in the Indian wigwam, asking for a peaceable cession of his Country: we are not deterred by the novelty of the thing, from making the invitation; but on the contrary, we and our fellow Citizens rely with the utmost confidence on your compliance with the request, should you not be prevented by paramount official duties.

The wise and just policy prescribed by your excellency for the action of the Government towards the Indians, for their removal West of the Mississippi River; is, in the opinion of the Committee, the only course that can be pursued, which will redound to the honour of the American people as a Nation; and in its operation save those unfortunate remnants of a once numerous people from extinction. Think not that we would laud and eulogise any man whose measures were not in strict accordance with our views of a wise and just policy.

The Committee must close this address, which has from the importance of the subject been spun out to too great a length. In conclusion we have to request a speedy answer from your Excellency, informing us of the result of our application—

We have the honor to be with sentiments of great respect and consideration, your Excellency's most Obedient and humble servants—

D. W. Wright

J. H. Hand
De La F Roysdon

P.S. We have no doubt but that the County of Monroe will cooperate with us; so would the State generally; in the foregoing solicitations; but for fear that official duties might call you back to Washington, we have from the exigency of the case thought it best to forward on this communication immediately. We would also here mention, that should your Excellency think proper to come on; if you will inform us of the time, we will do ourselves the honour of waiting on you at the Hermitage, or any other designated point: and escort you to our State—

D. W. W.
J. H. H.
D. F. R.

[Enclosure]

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the citizens of Lowndes County, (Mississippi), on the 24th. of July Inst, Silas Mc.Bee Esqr. having been called to the chair, and De La F. Roysdon appointed Secretary; Colo. Daniel W. Wright offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, viz

Whereas it is understood, that our beloved and highly esteemed fellow-citizen, the Chief Magistrate of the U. States, is at this time, on a visit to the Hermitage, his former place of residence in Tennessee, and knowing that the brightest ornament in his truly illustrious character is his prompt and unwearied attention to any and every service, for the advancement of the interest of our common Country, which may be within his power to effect; And whereas we are aware that the all absorbing subject to the citizens of this State, and the union in general, that of the removal of the Indians, occupying a portion of the Territory within the chartered limits of our State, and sister States, forms a subject of the wisest policy of the present Administration, founded in the truest principles of humanity & philanthropy, towards the Indians, on the part of our beloved President; and whereas, from our intimate knowledge of the Indian character and their present politics, no person will so certainly, we believe, be able to effect the wisely devised policy of the present administration, that of the removal of the Indians by treaty, as the President himself in person;

Therefore, it is resolved, by the unanimous vote of this meeting, that a

committee of three citizens be appointed, to visit the President, at the Hermitage, or elsewhere, to confer with him by letter, or in person, and to entreat him by all arguments in their power, to attend the Indians in person, by calling upon the United States' Agents, to cause the reputed Chiefs, head men and warriors, to assemble at some designated point, for the purposes above expressed—

Resolved, that the citizens of our sister County (Monroe) be solicited to assemble, and co-operate, by adopting Similar resolutions.

Whereupon the meeting unanimously appointed Colo. Danl. W. Wright, of Monroe County, Doctor John H. Hand and De La F. Roysdon of Lowndes County, the committee, for the purposes expressed in the above resolutions—
When it was resolved that a copy of the foregoing proceedings be forwarded on to the President of the United States, at the Hermitage—

And then the meeting adjourned—

Silas Mc.Bee chm.

De La F. Roysdon secy

National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 107, M222-28.