

John Henry Eaton to John Donly

Hermitage Davidson 4th. augst. 1830
Wednesday

Sir

Last evening I recd. your letter from Columbus In answer I have to request that you will remain & attend the council on the 10th., and exert yourself to induce the Chactaws to meet the President; and arrange upon some plan for their departure west of the Mississippi. Their *interest, happiness, peace* and prospects depends upon their ~~choice~~ course. A great deal has been said and explained to them on this subject, and I forbear to say more.

To enable them to remove, & comfortably to arrange themselves at their new homes, Congress has done much in the liberal appropriations they have made. It was a measure the President sought to effect, because he was satisfied that the Indians could not possibly dwell under the laws of the state. If now they shall refuse to accept the liberal terms which are offered, they only, must be liable for whatever troubles and difficulties may arise. The President will feel a consciousness that he has done, all he could for his red children; and if any failure of his good intention arises, it will be attributable to their want of duty to themselves, not to him. The President requests that you will remain & attend the council & explain fully every thing as you have been instructed. He wishes nothing of concealment to be practiced, but a full and fair explanation of every thing to be made. Those people sent a treaty to Washington: the senate refused it, & rightfully; for they asked too much. The President is now near them agreeably to their wishes as expressed through their agent Mgr. Haley, having previously sent word by the bearer of that treaty (Mgr Haley) that he would be here, & confer with his Chactaw children, if they would come. But it seems, they are not willing; what then is he to believe, but that their whole design in sending Mgr. Haley on to Washington, was but mere pretence; and a disposition on their part to impose on their great father? It can be nothing else; and he can consider it in no other light—If they were sincere, they would not hesitate to meet him and asuage all difficulties—

Their great father is resolved, that if they now refuse, he will trouble them no more, but leave them to remove or not as they please, & when they please and at their own expense. If they believe they can live under the laws of Mississippi, he is perfectly willing they should do so; but should they find they cannot, & become desirous to seek a new home, let them understand, that they must seek it as they can, & in their own way; for no other application will be made to them for a treaty—If they will not listen and be advised, be all

the consequences which may follow on themselves.

Soon as you shall ascertain that they are resolved to refuse the offers sent them; and to live under the laws of Mississippi; write me; for we are anxious to prepare for a return to Washington; & to have this buisness ended in some way

To the Chactaws tell these things candidly and freely, for we have no desire but to tell them the naked truth—very respectfully

J. H. Eaton

P.S. We must leave here by the 10th. of Sept.

Library of Congress, Andrew Jackson Papers.