

Andrew Jackson to John Pitchlynn

[Words in italic brackets are insertions by John Henry Eaton.]

Hermitage August 5th. 1830—

Dr Sir

your letter of the 24th. of July has just been received. I would have been happy to have seen you at Nashville and ~~have~~ received your views as it regards the permanent settlement of the choctaws west of the Mississippi. I am aware of your friendship for them & the great anxiety you have for their future welfare; but great as I know it *[to be]*, it cannot be more so than mine. At the request of their confidential agent, Major Haley, who communicated to me the great desire the choctaw chiefs had to see me, & enter into arrangements ~~with them~~ to surrender their possessions ~~where they now are~~, & remove across the Mississippi to the country provided for them, *[& at his suggestion that the desired to see me,]* that they had great confidence ~~in me~~ that I would do them liberal Justice, ~~that~~ I am now here to meet *[& to confer with them]* their chiefs, agreeably to the promise made to Major Haley, ~~that at the requests of the chiefs, made thro him~~ The Secretary of War & myself ~~would~~ *[are here ready to]* meet them in the neighbourhood of Franklin. ~~We have been here since the 6th. of July, and have as yet~~ *[Of this they have for some time past been informed, & as yet we have]* heard nothing from them of a positive character. Whether they chiefs are coming to meet us or not *[we are not certainly advised.]* our official business urges a return to the city of Washington & we cannot stay much longer here to meet them. We therefore request that you will make known to them that we are now ~~here~~ *[present]* awaiting their arrival agreeably to my promise to their confidential agent Major Haley I beg of you to say to them, that their *interest happiness* peace & prosperity depends upon their removal beyond the jurisdiction of the laws of the State of Mississippi. These things have been *[often times]* explained to them fully and I forbear to repeat ~~them~~; but request that you make known to them that Congress to enable them to remove & comfortably to arrange themselves at their new homes has made liberal appropriations. It was a measure I had much at heart & sought to effect because I was satisfied that the Indians could not possibly live under the laws of the States. If now they shall refuse to accept the liberal terms offered, they only must be liable for whatever evils & difficulties may arise. I feel conscious of having done my duty to my red children and if any failure of my good intention arises, it will be attributable to their want of duty to themselves, not to me.

~~I enclose you a letter which~~ I have directed the Secretary of war to write
[you fully & finally on this subject so important to the interest of the Choct]
make it known to my red children—and tell them to listen well to it—it comes
from a friend and the last time I shall adress them on the subject should the
chiefs fail to meet us now. I am your friend

A. J

Library of Congress, Andrew Jackson Papers