

John Henry Eaton to John Pitchlynn

Nashville 5th. Aug. 1830

Friend and brother

The President has sent Magr. Donnelly to see you, and this day has instructed me again to write to him, and direct him soon as possible to see the Chactaws and explain fully every thing to them. It is time this buisness was in some way concluded. The President having the great and numerous affairs of the country to attend to cannot give his consideration time after time to the affairs of his red children, especially when they shew no disposition to receive and regard his advice. Before he left Washington the friend and agent of your people, Magr. Halley suggested that the chiefs of the Chactaw would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them by his visit to Tennessee to meet him and arrange all things as to a removal; but now that he has come, it appears they are indisposed to do so.

Have your people looked to all the consequences of a refusal? The laws of Mississipi are to constitute the rule of Indian action for the future, & your great father will not interfere to prevent this, because he has no right no authority to do so. What then? Can you live under these laws, and be governed by them? You all know that you cannot. In this situation, with the sanction of Congress, your great father approaches and tells you, to go, for your peace and happiness depends upon it, That he will treat with you upon liberal terms, and giving you absolute title to a country, larger than the one you have, & of better soil, place you in a situation where being out of a state; and where no state will ever be formed, you will find happiness and be able to live under your own laws. The means are within his reach too of paying the expences of the removal, & supporting your people for a year until their crops can be grown. And will you pass all these advantages by? Recollect that a little longer delay on your part may place it out of the power of the President to extend this kindness to you, and should this be the case, do not omit to bear in mind that the fault is all the Chactaws.

Justice and truth demands him to say and let it be explained to the nation, that he will no more trouble himself to render his Chactaw children happy on this subject. He has earnestly besought them to be so, & to remove, because, he foresaw that surrounded by the whites, & made subject to their laws a miserable state of ~~things~~ being was before them. If now they respect his offers, & refuse to act, he will interfere no more, but leave them to remain where they are; & when they shall find they cannot do so in peace, they must go, as they can, & at their own expense to their new homes. He will feel it to

be his duty at the next Congress to say, that he has persuded his Indian friends to remove and be happy; but they will not;¹ & to recommend accordingly that all appropriation be withdrawn, & they left to find their new homes as they can. Say these things to them, that they may understand, truly what their situation is—respectfully

J. H Eaton

Library of Congress, Andrew Jackson Papers.