

John Donly to John Henry Eaton

Columbus Augt 14th 1830

D Sir

I recd your favour an agreeably to your request communicated the wishes of the President to the Choctaws. I endeavoured to cause a general meeting, but the southern District did not attend at all. They are to have a meeting on the 16th to take the subject into consideration. The whole nation is in a state of confusion—and it is difficult to obtain any thing at present like the voice of the nation. Major John Pitchlynn has promised to forward the resolutions of the approaching meeting early as possible. From the conversation I have had with some of the Principle men (say Greenwood Leflore, David Folsome & Major Pitchlynn, it would be the unanimous wish of the Chotaws to have Commissioners appointed and send on to them immediately to treat with them on their own Land—by this means entire & general satisfaction would be given & no doubt the object of government would be effected. You will perceive by the enclosed Letter the state of affairs at present—this is owing to, no doubt, many misrepresentations. It would be most satisfactory that Gen Coffee & yourself be the Agents, but in the event of your not being able to attend, to appoint Mr Geo. S. Gaines—and to attend to the *Duties immediately by comeing forward*: there appears no objection to a treaty but the Indians are affraid to leave the nation. I expect to see you in a few days & will then communicate to you on the subject more explicitly.

There might be a very satisfactory change made by the removal of Mr Mackey the ~~one~~ of the present interpreters the Indians have not confidence in him—and more than that he refuses the duties imposed on him. You will be surprised to hear that he refused to come forward in the present case to interpret. The appointment of Col David Folsome would have a happy effect, in conjunction with the old & faithful Interpreter Major Pitchlynn. I am Satisfactorily informed that this Change would tend greatly to harmonise all parties. It is not my wish to implicate any one particularly in thwarting the views of the government by holding out false & unfavourable impressions to the Indians—this makes it the more essential for the U States to send on her commissioners—that they may see & hear & discover the intregue that I fear is working[.] Very Respectfully Your Obt Sert

John Donly