

Mushulatubbe et al. to Andrew Jackson

Council ground Chocktaw Nation

August 16th. 1830—

We the Chiefs, Captains, and Warriors of the northeastern and southern districts of the chocktaw nation, having met in open council, this day, for the purpose of listening to a talk which we understood had been received by the Agent from our Father the President—The Agent had made an appointment at Wilson's Stand in the Western district of our Nation (on the 10th of august) but on account of an unfriendly misunderstanding between that district and the districts to which we belong the people would not assemble at that place To remedy this evil we appointed a council in our districts on the 15th. of August five days later, so that the Agent might have the oppertunity of attending to both Councils, of this arrangement we gave the Agent timely notice—and we met on the ground with the hope of meeting him and Maj. Donelly, who we understood had been sent on as special Agent with a great talk from our father the President, explanatary of the vews of the Government on this important subject. But when we came there to our great mortification, neither Agent, Maj. Donelly, or the Presidents talk were to be seen, but instead thereof a Mesenger from the Western district with a letter directed to our Chief declaring that they would not send a delegation to meet our father the President. This news put the prospect of our sending a national delegation out of the question; for it could not be called a national delegation unless all three of the districts were represented, and we were instructed to come clothed with full powers &c.

The two letters which were sent to Maj John Pitchlynn one from our father the President, and the other from the secretary of War and bearing the date of 5th. August, were duly interpreted in open council, the contents of which we clearly understand<B9>But as we could not come clothed with full powers to do national business, we were compelled, though much against our will, to neglect the invitation of our father the President.

That our Father the President may not think that our nonattendance has originated from an unfriendly disposition in us, we have made out this report and sent it to him by our confidential friends, Maj John Pitchlynn, U.S. Interpreter, Peter P. Pitchlynn Pierre Juzan, Thomas Wall, and Mr. John Bond, who are instructed to wait on our father the President, and explain to him our views more fully than we can do by writing.

We wish our father the President would send us a talk by some good men, who will give us time to call a full council, and who will explain to us

the views of the Government on the subject of the removal of our people west of the Mississippi. We will all gather and meet them, listen to their talk and give them a positive answer, what we will do either to remove west or remain where we are receive the law, and abide by the consequences.

Respecting what Mr. Haley told our Father the President as to our meeting him in Franklin or any other place; we can say we do not know the man have never seen him, and therefore can assure our Father the President, that he was wholly unauthorized to make any propositions coming from us—

And further, We understand that the report which was sent on to our father the President from the Western district of our nation, contained an accusation against our Interpreters, Messrs. Pitchlynn and Mackey—Stating that they are dishonest men and at the head of all the disturbances in the Nation, and that except they are removed from office there cannot be any thing done with the people of this Nation &c. In justice to the Interpreters we feel it our duty to state, that we have always found them honest and true men, that they are much in favour of sending a full delegation to meet our Father the President, and that they have in all cases given impartial interpretations, so far as has come to our Knowledge—as such we wish them to remain in office so long as they live.

<B5>We sincerely hope that our father the President may not fault us for not attending to his invitation; for did he but know the difficulties which we have to encounter, we are sure he would pity sooner than blame us—

Done in open Council at Coon chitto, and subscribed to, the day and date above written—

Mu,shoo,la,tub,bee his X mark
Ne,tuk,ai,che X
J,ah,ho,ka,tub,bee X
E,ah,ho,pi,e X
Ah,ho,lub,bee X

[Eighty-seven additional signatures follow.]

[Endorsed by Andrew Jackson:] The Eastern & Southern chiefs of the choctaws talk to the President to be safely kept by the Sec of War—A. J

National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 75, M234-169.