

Andrew Jackson to William Berkeley Lewis

Franklin August 25th. 1830—

My Dr. Major—

I have just recd. your several letters with their enclosures. The one advising me of the death of Major George Graham, and the various applicants have been duly noted—no appointment will be made until I reach the city to which place I will set out the moment after I know whether ~~the~~ a delegation from the choctaws will come in; By the mail of this morning we expect to receive the result of their council, which was to have been held on the 16th instant.

The chikisaws are now here, & on this day we expect their answer on the subject of their election to cross the M. river, or to remain where they now are. If they agree to remove, we will make a treaty with them—the choctaws not being here in whose boundery we wish to settle them will produce some difficulty, as the chikisaws, are not acquainted with the land adjoining the choctaws on their north boundery, which is the only point where we can place them without interfering with other tribes. I have a sanguine hope the choctaws will be in to day—I will keep this open until the southern mail arrives & by a P.S. give you the news.

I have recd & noted the letter inclosed from the *Gentleman* in So.C. I was aware of the hostility of the influential character aluded to—I sincerely regret the course taken by Hamilton & Hayne. The people of South Carolina will not, *nay* cannot sustain such nulifying Doctrines They Carolinians are a patriotic & highminded people, and they prize their liberty too high to jeopardise it, at the shrine of an ambitious demagogue, whether a native of Carolina or of any other country. This influential character in this heat, has led Hamilton and Hayne a stray, and it will, I fear, lead to the injury of Hamilton & loose him his election. But the ambitious Demagogue aluded to, would sacrafice friends & country, & move heaven & earth, if he had the power, to gratify his unholy ambition. His course will prostrate him here as well as every where else. Our friend Mr Grundy says he will abandon him unless he can satisfy him that he has used his influence to put down this nulifying doctrine, which threatens to desolve our happy union.

The creeks have officially informed us, that they will not meet us—we have answered, that we leave them to themselves, & to the protection of their friend Mr Wirt, to whose protection they look, and to whom they have given a large fee to protect them in their rights as an independent nation; and when they find that they cannot live under the laws of Alabama, they must find, at

their own expence, & by their own means, a country, & a home. The course of *Wirt* has been truly wicked—it has been wielded as an engine to prevent the Indians from moving X the Mississippi & will lead to the distruction of the poor ignorant Indians. It must be so, I have used all the persuasive means in my power; I have exonerated the national character from all imputation, and now leave the poor deluded creeks & cherokees to their fate, and their annihilation, which their wicked advisers has induced. I am sure the stand the Executive has taken was not anticipated by their wicked advisers. It was expected that the more the Indians would hold out, and oppose the views of the Government, the greater would be the offers made by the Executive, and all they missionary, and speculating tribe would make fortunes out of the United States. The answer sent, has blasted these hopes and if I mistake not, the Indians will now think for themselves, and send to the city a delegation prepared to cede their country & move X the M.

I have just discovered that Major Haley has been acting the double part with the view to obtain large reserves for the Indians, and to participate in them—he is the tool of Laflour, & has advised him not to meet us here, expecting that we would send commissioners into the nation, when he would become the contractor for their supplies, and when we would be so anxious to treat that we would yield to any terms demanded of us. If the eastern & Southern section of the Choctaw nation send in a full delegation; being two thirds of the whole nation, we will treat with them & leave the halfbreeds & wicked whitemen disappointed & at leisure to comment upon their own folly.

The current in Nashville begins to change its course, and the prime movers in this wicked persecution will ere long be left in a ridiculous situation. If Mrs. E. would consent to remain untill midwinter here, she would obtain a complete triumph every where, & the enemies, *here*, of Major Eaton compleatly put down—but I fear that the admonition of her friends will not be able to prevail. Major Eaton must forthwith repair to the city. I will be with you as early as possible, I travel thro' Virginia, write & say so to Mr Van Buren, I will notify you of the time I leave here—say to Mr Ingham I have recd his letter & am delighted to find that ~~we can~~ the revenue will permit us to apply so much to the discharge of the national debt—present my respects to all the Heads of Departments & Heads of Bureaus, & to Major Barrys family—say to him I have recd. a letter from Mr Blair Frankfort Ky and that she has done her duty. Ky is herself again, & *will sustain the republican Doctrine of 98 & 1800*—I am respectfully yr friend

Andrew Jackson

New York Public Library, Andrew Jackson and William B. Lewis
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