

Andrew Jackson to the Choctaw Indians (Sent)

Franklin 26. Aug. 1830

Friends & Brothers of the Choctaw Nation

The talk of the Chiefs, Captains, and warriors of the North Eastern, & Southern Districts, of the Choctaw nation of Indians in full council assembled, has been presented to me by your trusty friend Major Pytchlyn. I have listened to your complaints; feel for your distress, & will immediately appoint trusty and faithful friends to you & me, to see, & to confer with you. If possible the Secretary of War, will come, to explain fully every thing for me, as if I myself was present. Your old & tried friends Genl. Jno. Coffee, & his Excellency genl. Wm. Carroll, in whom I have every confidence, will be present with you as Commissioners to speak my sentiments, & advise you to your true interests. Confide in them. They are charged to act justly towards you, & see, that no wrong is practised. They will be instructed to meet in the nation and make a treaty with you in Council, that those of the Choctaws who have a desire to remove, may have the means afforded to them of doing so. They may then settle upon lands, given to them by Grant, which shall be theirs, & their childrens forever

Friends & Brothers

I have directed my commissioners to receive & acknowledge as medal chiefs, those who have been elected & acknowledged such, by the warriors within their respective Districts. It is the right of a majority to rule; and those who are so appointed, ~~are~~ in reference to the rights of the people are to be respected

Friends & brothers

Hear well, & listen! The time appointed for my commissioners to meet you is the 15th. of September, at Dancing Rabbit Creek, near to where the trace crosses it, leading from the agency, to the Counsha Towns, where from the talk sent ~~him~~, your Father expects you all, both medal, & the other chiefs to meet ~~him~~. There he hopes a treaty may be made, which shall make you happy, & settle you finally on land west of the Mississippi, that shall belong to you by Grant always, & make you happy forever

Brothers Listen

You must now make a voluntary choice: remove—seek a home beyond the Mississippi, or else remain, where you are, under the laws of the State, & as good people endeavour to conform to them. No other alternative is

presented!

Andrew Jackson

[Endorsed by Andrew Jackson:] Talk of the President U.S. to the chiefs of the Choctaw Nation—to be forwarded to them by Major Pitchlynn

Document signed, text in John H. Eaton's hand, National Archives, Washington, D.C., Record Group 75.