

Andrew Jackson to Choctaw Indians, Oct. 3 1820.

Mr. Packard. From these and other circumstances, ^{verbal communications, and} ~~add to~~ the backwardness of the arrival of the head men and warriors of the nation, the Commissioners were induced to believe, that a combination had been formed by some of the white men and half-breeds, to prevent a general and full council, and if possible, to render an effort at negotiation abortive. Under these impressions, they despatched, this evening, ~~to~~ the six towns, Edward Holmes and Alexander Mackey, as the bearers of the following talk:-

(Copy)

Choctaw Treaty Ground, ⁵
October 3^d 1820

Friends & Brothers of the Choctaw Nation;

Your father the President of the United States has been informed, that many of your nation have ceased the elufisoppin, and that a number of others desire to remove. He has, therefore, appointed the undersigned Commissioners, to converse the head men and warriors of this Choctaw children, and when assembled in a general council, to deliver to them a friendly talk. He also desires to hear the wishes of your nation, and in treaty to do such things as will most promote the happiness and prosperity of all this Choctaw children.

With these instructions, we made known to the nation, through your agent, Col. John McKee, that a general meeting of the chiefs, head men and warriors was requested and expected at Doaki's stand, said nation, on the 1st day of October, 1820. On that day, the undersigned attended at this place, and expected, that the chiefs, head men and warriors of the

Memorandum on Choctaw Negotiations, October 3, 1820, Copy in Samuel R. Overton's hand, DNA-RG 75 (T494-1); Copy, DNA-RG 46 (7-1380).

Choctaw nation were on the road to the treaty place,
to meet us in council, and listen to the talk of their
father the President of the United States. This is the
third day we have waited to see you. Only about
sixty chiefs and warriors have attended, and we are
informed, that not more than one hundred are ex-
pected. We are told, that the chiefs and warriors have
been advised by some bad men, to stay away from
the council, and not come forward to hear the
talk of your father the President of the United States.
We have also learnt with much pain, that many
threats have been made, declaring that any one
should be put to death who attends the treaty, and
consents to sell or exchange any part of the Choctaw
land. Hear not these threats. The arm of your father
the President is strong, and will protect the poor
Indian from the threats of the white man and
half-breed, who are growing rich by their labor. They
make slaves of the poor Indians, and are indiffer-
ent to their sufferings. They care not whether the poor
perish, or are lost to the nation, if they can grow
rich by their labor, and by being on the main road
through the country.

Many of your poor Indian brothers
have gone over the Mississippi. It is represented to
your father the President, that a number more
wish to go to that country. He has, at much expense,
purchased it for you. He invites you to come for-
ward, and tell him your mind freely, and without
fear. You shall not be injured. He will pro-
tect you. Those who choose to move beyond the
Mississippi, there is a good country for a small
part of their lands here. Those who wish to stay
and cultivate the earth, your father the President

wants to remain here. He therefore desires to see you
all at this place, so that each may make a choice
freely, and all be happy. You are all interested,
and must be heard. As the friends and brothers
of the whole people, you cannot refuse to listen to
the counsel and advice of your father the President
of the United States. As soon as you are assembled at
this place, we will deliver his friendly talk to his
Choctaw children. If you will not come and hear
it, he may never speak to you again.

This talk is sent to you by your
friends and our friends, Edward Holmes and
Missotow Oklathey, by whom you will send us
an answer, informing us whether you will or
will not attend at the treaty, and hear the talk
of your father the President of the United States.

We are your friends & brothers.

(Signed)

Andrew Jackson,
His: Hndg.

Treaty Grounds, October 4th 1820.

About 80 head men and warriors of the
nation arrived at this place, on to-day, and re-
ceived their rations.

October 5th 1820.

The Red Foot, a chief and warrior of the Six
Towns, came in today, bringing with him about
80 of his men, all of whom drew their provisions.

[Transcription Page 1]

(Copy)

Choctaw Treaty Ground,
October 3rd. 1820.

Friends & Brothers of the Choctaw Nation;

Your father the President of the United States has been informed, that many of your nation have crofsed [crossed] the Mifsifsippi [Mississippi], and that a number of others desire to remove. He has, therefore, appointed the undersigned commifsioners [Commissioners], to convene the head men and warriors of his Choctaw children, and when afsembled [assembled] in a gen-eral council, to deliver to them a friendly talk. He also desires to hear the wishes of your nation, and in treaty to do such things as will most promote the hap-pinefs [happiness] and prosperity of all his Choctaw children.

With these instructions, we made known to the nation, through your agent, Colo. John McKee, that a general meeting of the chiefs, head men and warriors was requested and expected at Doake's stand, in said nation, on the 1st day of October, 1820.¹ On that day, the undersigned attended at this place, and ex-pected, that the chiefs, head men and warriors of the

[Transcription Page 2]

Choctaw nation were on the road to the treaty grounds, to meet us in council, and listen to the talk of their father the President of the United States. This is the third day we have waited to see you. Only about sixty chiefs and warriors have attended; and we are informed, that not more than one hundred are expected. We are told, that the chiefs and warriors have been advised by some bad men, to stay away from the council, and not come forward to hear the talk of your father the President of the United States. We have also learnt with much pain, that many threats have been made, declaring that any one should be put to death who attends the treaty, and consents to sell or exchange any part of the Choctaw land. Fear not those threats. The arm of your father the President is strong, and will protect the poor Indian from the threats of the white man and half breed, who are growing rich by their labor. They make slaves of the poor Indians, and are indifferent to their happiness. They care not whether the poor perish, or are lost to the nation, if they can grow rich by their labor, and by living on the main roads through the country.

Many of your poor Indian brothers have gone over the Mifsissippi [Mississippi]. It is represented to your father the President, that a number more wish to go to that country. He has, at much expence, purchased it for you. He invites you to come forward, and tell him your mind freely, and without fear. You shall not be injured. He will protect you. Those who choose to move beyond the Mifsissippi [Mississippi], there is a good country for a small part of their lands here. Those who wish to stay and cultivate the earth, your father the President

[Transcription Page 3]

wants to remain here. He therefore, desires to see you all at this place, so that each may make a choice freely, and all be happy. You are all interested, and must be heard. As the friends and brothers of the white people, you cannot refuse to listen to the council and advice of your father the President of the United States. As soon as you all assemble [assemble] at this place, we will deliver his friendly talk to his Choctaw children. If you will not come and hear it, he may never speak to you again.

This talk is sent to you by your friends and our friends, Edward Folsome and Middleton Mackey, by whom you will send us an answer, informing us whether you will or will not attend at the treaty, and hear the talk of your father the President of the United States.

We are your friends & Brothers,

(Signed)

Andrew Jackson,
Tho: [Thomas] Hinds.