

JACKSON AND CHICKASAW DELEGATION

Through the Secretary of War and General Coffee, to the Chickasaw Delegation, at Franklin, Tenn. on the 22d August, 1830. [excerpt]

Notes

Friends and Brothers: - Your Great Father is rejoiced once again to meet and shake you by the hand, and to have it in his power to assure you of his continued friendship and goodwill. He can cherish none but the best feelings for his red children, many of whom, during our late war [War of 1812], fought with him in defense of our country....

By an act of Congress it was placed in his power to extend justice to the Indians--to pay the expenses of their removal--to support them for twelve months, and to give them a grant for lands which should endure 'as long as grass grows or water runs' ...Your Great Father rejoices to tell you, through his commissioners the truth, and point you to a course which cannot fail to make you a happy and prosperous people...

Brothers: - You have long dwelt upon the soil you occupy, and in early time before the white man kindled his fires too near to yours, and by settling around, narrowed down the limits of the chase, you were, though uninstructed, yet a happy people. Now your white brothers are around you... Your Great Father...asks if you are prepared and ready to submit yourselves to the laws of Mississippi, make a surrender of your ancient laws and customs? If so, your Great Father has nothing to say or to advise. He has only to express a hope that you may find happiness in the determination you shall make, whatever it may be. His earnest desire is that you may be perpetuated and preserved as a nation; and this he believes can only be done and secured by your consent to remove to a country beyond the Mississippi.

...Reject the opportunity which is now offered to obtain comfortable homes and the time may soon pass away when such advantages as are now within your reach may not again be presented. If from the course you now pursue this shall be the case, then call not upon your Great Father hereafter to relieve you of your troubles...your national character will be lost, and then like other tribes who have gone before you, you must disappear and be forgotten.

Brothers: - If you are disposed to remove, say so, and state the terms you may consider just equitable. Your Great Father is ready....Should you determine to remain where you are, candidly say so, and let us be done with the subject, no more to be talked of again. But if disposed to consult your true interests and to remove, then present the terms on which you are willing to do so, to my friends, the Secretary of War and Gen. John Coffee, who are authorized to confer with you, and who in the arrangements to be made, will act candidly, fairly, and liberally towards you.

Source: Jackson, A. (n.d.). *Talk of the President of the United States* [Speech transcript]. Cherokee Phoenix. <https://www.wcu.edu/library/DigitalCollections/CherokeePhoenix/Vol3/no20/talk-of-the-president-of-the-united-states-page-4-column-1a-4a.html> (Original work published 1830).