

Washington, Arkansas

13<sup>th</sup> May 1864

My dear old friend & Brother:

I am camped 24 miles west of Columbus, or 14 from this place. I have been in hopes our troops might retake Little Rock, and let me go home once more; but I now fear there is no prospect of that, and we & I shall have to live in a camp another year.

I have just been writing to Sampson Tolson and the Chief, and now write to you on the same subject.

I think now, and have thought from the first, Cooper's object to be, to make me unpopular with the Indians, so that he may, when peace comes, have the sole management of the Choctaw claim, and finger most of the fee. As you know, he insisted on having \$15.00 out of the first fee, while Crook and I received but \$10.00 each; and year before last he got \$15.00 more. I suppose he also wants to manage the Chickasaw claim, and as Sampson would be in his way there, makes war on him.

Now I do not want to bring General Cooper, nor mean he shall annoy me. He shall receive as much as I do, of any fee hereafter realized, but is entitled to no more.

You are also interested in this matter. So never few words between you and me. Get your Council to renew the old contract, with me, and our old bang and stand. I will act fairly to Crook and Duke Lea. I only want my own share. So far, my share has not more than paid my expences. The profit, to me is to come hereafter. There are still three millions and a quarter due you people. The account has started among under

the award of the female. Cockane reduced it, and put in impre-  
cations against the nation, on purpose, to bring it below three millions,  
lest the amount should scare Congress. I can state it correctly,  
and recover the whole, and without me it cannot be done.

This matter should be fixed now. Cooper is strong  
enough to get the advantage of us if we do not take care. You must  
see to it he does not. Sir Chief, Sampson and yourself can have  
it so fixed that he cannot harm us. Let the Comml委 renew his  
old contract with me, by a law. That will secure all.

Write to me at this place. Is there any pay hawking  
in your region? How are you protected? I lived rather lame and  
camped near you this summer and even into fall and winter, than  
any where else. Can I get corn? I have a great mind to  
come any how, in less than four weeks. I am very dull and  
lonely here, and would rather be in your country than in my  
own State, and near you than near any one else. Do write me  
as soon as you receive this

Always truly & paternally yours

Athena Rice

M. Bro. P. P. Pitchlynn

Eagletown, C. N.