

Good Land 17<sup>th</sup> July 1872

Dear General,

This will inform you that on the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst I went up to Armstrong Academy to meet Genl Shanks & Co, and waited there two days, when I was notified by him, to meet them at Boggy Depot, which I did - I found the sub-Committee, quite plain, and gentlemanly - We went into business - and they interogated me on various points - First on what I knew of the Treaty of 1830 - and what I understood as the Basis of the charter - not proceeds Claims - I told them I was of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty, was one of the Committee or Comiss. appointed by the Chiefs to agree upon terms of the Treaty, & that the Nation having exchanged a portion of our lands in Illip for this, in the West, under the Treaties of 1820 & 1825, this Country belonged to us before the Treaty of 1830 - & when we made the Treaty 1830, many of our people were offered to come to this Country, and it was supposed at least of one half of our people would take Residence - & become citizens of Illip, hence their provisions in the Treaty, granting lands to certain classes under certain Reserves &

and other grants of lands, but all this in a  
great measure wholly failed to benefit  
our people, and when the white people  
commenced to move into, & settle the  
country, they paid no regard to the rights  
of the Indians, and the Chertaws were  
in a great measure forced off from their Reservations.  
The Government Agent (Col Wood) neglected to Register  
their names within the time prescribed by the Treaty  
of 6 months, hence the Reservation system whereby  
the Indian was to be benefited failed, and the  
Chertaws came off without getting any benefit  
from their lands, save a little annuity of  
20.000<sup>00</sup> for 20 years & subsistence for 12 mos.  
Then being compelled to leave their homes  
within a limited time, they could not dispose  
of their improvements, stock &c &c and  
came off and derived no benefit, even from  
their own property. Many lost their Ponies on  
the road, many of them bore their own  
expenses to this country, & arriving too late  
to be subsisted 12 months at their new homes  
as provided in the Treaty, they were com-  
pelled to live the best way they could, and  
for all this, they set up, the Basis of the net  
proceeds claim; The whole matter was then  
referred to the Senate of the United States,  
under the Treaty of 1855, to decide whether the  
Chertaws were entitled to be compensated for

for their sales or not, and if entitle to  
anything, How much & And after the senate  
had metnely & deliberately considered, and expound  
into the Claims of the Chactau people, they  
made them the a sword of the net proceeds of  
their lands in Mississippi; - & side from  
this, at the Treaty of 1830, Genl Eaton made us  
a public address, in which he stated, he did  
not come to buy our lands, as a land specula  
- tor, but came as a friend to relieve  
us from our difficulties with the state  
authorities in Miss, and that as we had a  
fine country in the West, already secured  
to us by former Treaties, that if we would  
consent & make a Treaty with the U.S.  
and emigrate to our new homes, the  
Government would guarantee to us the  
full value of our lands &c. - All this I considered  
the Basis of the net proceeds claim -

I was interrogated about the Lotrobe &  
Cooper Contract, I knew of it, but never under-  
stood it to include the net proceeds claim  
because, the old Delegation, and Attornes were  
on hand, to attend to that matter - besides it  
was my understanding that the Contract with  
Lotrobe & Cooper have never been approved  
by the Chactau Genl. Council - The Committee  
have examined the secretaries of the nation  
Ed Dought, & John P. Turnbull & demanded for them

were to produce their books before the Committee to ascertain if possible, if the Contract ever was ratified or approved by the Council but I think they will fail to find where it ever was recognized by the Nation - I was next questioned as to what the Chertons thought of the Sectionizing & Territorial, also Rail Roads & Freedmen in the Country &c - I told them, the great Majority were opposed to all these measures - Let me know if my statements were in harmony with your own statements to their

Politics are passing hot in this Country - The Cooperites are making desperate efforts to have a majority in the next Council & also to elect S. B. Turnbull Chief of the Nation - If they can succeed in this, they will have it all their own way - I expected to be elected to the House from this County, & Robuck to the Senate - I heard a Chertons state the other day, that Joe P. Tolson had stated that the Council had never approved of the Contract with the old Delegation and Attornies, and that it was only made by the Chief or Chiefs - Inform me on this, so I may defend your rights if need be -

I wish you to write me also, with as your  
understanding as to the amount of funds turned  
over to you by Allen Wright in 1865 Was  
it for me, or was it an advance made  
you for the Nation, to enable you to pro-  
- ceed with your net proceeds claims. What  
was the amount? - When was the Latrobe  
& Cooper Contract with the delegation of  
66, signed? Was it not in May 66? - I fear  
the Chief Warrant did not meet Genl Shanks  
as requested by Col Temple & I fear he is too  
slow for the times - but as he is the best man  
we have, we must try to rectify him.

I am not in good health at present -  
your last letter came whilst I was gone  
to meet Genl Shanks & was sent to me up  
to the Academy & it missed me, so I  
have not seen its contents, when I do, I will  
reply to it - your early reply will confer  
a favor -

your friend

R. M. Jones