

Opie

Near Jackson Mi. July 26. 1856

Dear P.P. Pitchlynn. Tolson, Garland and Lewis

Most distinguished delegates from the Choctaw to the federal
Government of the United States.

I discover by the action of your General
Council that you have been delegated with plenaportentous
powers to fit them to a final close all the outstanding
claims of your people and nation with the govern-
ment and people of the United States. having acted
a prominent part by the authority of President
Jackson in preparing the minds of the Choctaw
people to sell their lands east and emigrate
to the West of the Mississippi. at the conclusion
of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty my mission ceased
and from that day to the present I have watched
the action of the Government of the United States
in carrying out the designs and intentions of
that treaty and in my judgment but few
of its provisions have been strictly complied
with. one of the errors in the government was
the sale of the lands before the claims under
the 14 article had been complied with by sending
proper agents throughout the entire nation
and ascertain the claimants and locate their
lands and then by reserve them from sale
as the right to secure the benefits of this
important treaty belonged to the United States

after the further sales of the land in 1833 the
United States discovered their error and to do
justice to the Cherokees Congress attempted to pass
relief laws and the result was that the poor
Indians became a prey to Speculators, and
the government lost much and the Indians
secured but a small part of their just rights
and every act to do justice to the rights of
of the Cherokees have helped others in
the Union and in the end the just claimants
have receive a small part of what was
honestly and justly due them. the only cause
that the United States could have acted to avoid
Speculation when they discovered their error may
to have given the Nathan money and not
Leedy who knew the claimants and their rights
and had the knowledge and will to have
done their own citizens justice.

I have no doubt as to President Jackson's
will and good intentions to do justice but
like all other Presidents had to select others
to act for him and his great mind may
lead to believe that his friends were not
like himself strictly honest.

I do pray and hope that my great
and noble Country will do your Nathan
and people ample justice not because
^{falling} your friends try over lady in own ways
while others nothing of red skin friends are

side of our enemies and have been amply
rewarded for their rights by Treaty. I claim
it for you as a right guaranteed to you
by the last Treaty ever contemplated to be
asked of you when it was signed seated
and delivered to John A. Eaton Secy of War
and Genl. John Coggs.

In the person of President Pierce I have
no doubt you will find an honest man
and a man of a noble soul in whom
you can with perfect safety trust but
there is a Congress of American Citizens
that have to unloose the purse string
of the Treasury for your ~~rights~~ this
I hope they will do to the last cent of
your rights.

There are many facts I could state
to you in person not necessary to put
on paper. I have wrote this letter to you
as an act due to you and your nation
having been personally acquainted with
many of your fathers for near forty years.
I have the honor to be
Your friend, and tract of
the Christians

O. M. Saly

David M. Steele
Letters to the
Delegation