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A. Z. Stirling, Editor

IMPEACHMENT OF JACOB HARRISON

The impeachment of Jacob Harrison, chief of the Seminoles, was the first instance of its kind in the history of the five tribes. Politics were in a peculiar state in the Seminole Nation. At their last election a sentiment prevailed among them that they wanted as their last chief a man of themselves, so they elected Hulputta Micco, a full blood who could not speak English. The second chief was a negro. For sixteen years prior to that time the Seminoles had been ruled by John Brown, who was the best governor they ever had, and he was regarded by them as both a father and a brother. The second chief died shortly after election, and Jacob Harrison was elected to take his place. Not long since Hulputta Micco, the principal chief, died, and left the affairs of government in the hands of Harrison. The people were dissatisfied, and the council at a special meeting impeached him. It is believed that there was little ground for this other than that the council wanted

another man. No sooner did they officially behead Harrison than they turned back to the strong, guiding hand that had brought the Seminoles to a better state of civilization than any of the other tribes, and they elected John Brown as their principal chief. Brown is only half Seminole. His father was a Scotchman, and in the early history of this country was a famous doctor among the Indians. He married a full-blood Seminole woman and was adopted by the tribe. John Brown is the son of these parents. He was reared near the old agency hill, two miles west of Muskogee. He is now one of the wealthiest men in the Seminole nation, but there is not a man there whom the Indians believe to be more honest. He will wind up the affairs of the Seminoles. The government authorities here are well pleased with the election of Brown. They found it difficult to transact the business of a nation with a chief who had to use an interpreter all the time. Brown is a progressive business man, and will handle the affairs of the nation with credit and the government will have no trouble in dealing with him. He has handled thousands of dollars for the Indians, and to this day many of them take their money to him without a security of any kind, preferring to let him keep it to putting it in a bank.