

as we might; that you may thereby receive their decision and answer at our hands agreeably to promise made to you as stated. In doing so we ask your patience and kind indulgence to make a few observations, which we desire to submit as embodying some of the reasons that impel our people to this course, though we feel and greatly regret our inability to adequately express our views thereon.

We are not unconscious of the great dangers that surround us; nor do we underrate your friendship, or question the honesty and sincerity of your motives, but we are deeply in sympathy with the feelings of our people, and must show fully in the responsibility of their refusal to treat.

In continuing, we shall not lose sight our entire helplessness -- if not hopelessness -- in this hour of gloom and great trial, which of itself, should entitle our views to some degree of consideration as expressive of deep-seated conviction in our minds.

We believe there is no subject with which the officers of your Government, having charge of Indian affairs, are more familiar than the various treaties existing between the Five Tribes and the United States. Their binding force and sacred character have been vouched for by the United States, and relied upon by