

THE MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, I. T.  
Friday, August 19, 1898  
Vol. 3. No. 47  
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EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAW PROCLAMATION

There promises to be serious trouble in the Choctaw Nation over the following proclamation just issued by Governor McCurtain, and which disfranchises 700 freedmen:

Whereas, At the election to be held on August 24, for the ratification or rejection of the agreement made and entered into at Atoka, on April 23, 1897, by the commissioners on the part of the Choctaws and Chickasaws and the United States, the real question is what is to be done with the annuities, moneys and public domain of the two nations; and

Whereas, The law adopting the Choctaw freedmen expressly denies to the said freedmen any right, title or interest in said annuities, moneys and public domains; and

Whereas, In said agreement said freedmen are given their forty acres of land.

Therefore, This is to notify all election judges in all



counties of the Choctaw Nation that they will refuse to allow any freedmen to vote on said agreement on August 24.

That the proclamation will precipitate a desperate resistance on the part of the freedmen, assisted by those Indians opposed to the Atoka agreement, there is little doubt. The freedmen have always voted at every election, and it is stated that they, aided by members of the union party, will try to force the judges to take their votes. The feeling is intense, and some of the best informed state that a detachment of soldiers will be asked for to prevent an uprising.