

Washington D. C.  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Hon S.A. Mays

Pim Chief

Cherokee Nation

Tahlequah. I. T.

My Dear Sir,

Referring to the late agreement made by the Choctaws and Chickasaws, it is quite evident that these Nations have abandoned all their agreements made with the other tribes with respect to a unity of action, and it only remains for the Cherokees, Creeks and Seminoles to adhere to those covenants as heretofore, or act independently as ~~the~~ have the C + C~~s~~ Nations, In either event, I cannot agree that allotment of our lands should be made a condition precedent to negotiations, I can't see how the allotting of our lands will remove or correct the conditions complained of, or will

in any ~~wise~~ hasten the U.S. Government to fulfill its former agreements with our Nations, but I can see, as a final result from allotment, a transition of the greater portion of our lands, from the Indian to the White man. It is a settled fact that such a transition of our lands can never be made while we hold under Tribal Patent. I therefore, for one, shall insist upon no change as to our land tenure for the present; and in the event of negotiation making any changes of our former Treaty relations, care should be taken that this new Treaty shall not be operative until fulfillment of all former, as well as present stipulations, are complied with <sup>by</sup> the Government. Such are my views, and I shall urge them, when the subject is presented to my people.

I have the honor to be

your friend and Brother

Isparhecher

Prin. Chief, Muscogee Nation

SM Callahan

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