

Washington D.C.

July 6. 1883

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Hon. H. Price
Commissioner of Indian affairs

Dear Sir:

The undersigned representatives of the Creek nation respectfully invite your attention to the unsettled condition of things in that nation arising from insurrectionary movements inaugurated last winter by a comparatively few of ~~the~~ citizens ~~of that~~ under the leadership of Spa he oha and others. In order to convey a proper view of these troubles in their entirety we must be indulged in reciting something of their origin and history ~~up to the present time~~. You will know then that there was a time in the ~~past~~ past when the Creek people possessed a system of government and religion on which all were united and under whose influences the ^{interests} ~~people~~ of peace and good order seemed to ^{be perfected} ~~thrive~~ ^{unite} in the strength and happiness of the people. This was their condition when the ~~people~~ representatives of the U. S. Govt met them, and as is natural in human nature, ^{they at} ~~you at~~ once arrived at the conclusion that the Indian's polity and religion was ~~a~~ defective and inadequate to the purpose of bringing them up to their highest ~~and more elevated~~ possibilities, and therefore it was a duty owed in charity to them to teach them the better way. They were advised and entreated to forsake the teachings, the traditions

and adopt the methods of the white man.²
and customs of their forefathers, How difficult it was for them to accept
this new doctrine, ^{and} with what reluctance they submitted to these foreign
innovations is abundantly attested by the many hard fought battles
and so-called massacres ^{which} mark the history of the Creek people.
It was indeed asking too ^{much} in too short a period, but despite their preju-
dices it became evident ~~to the Creek people~~ that a graceful submission
would now be the better part of valor, and burying deep all the trappings
of war the Creek people determined solemnly and faithfully ~~to~~
with the aid and encouragement of the United States to try the virtues
and advantages of the new way — After generations of experiment
and faithful application the Creek people have long since
learned to adopt, love and respect many of the principles of government
and religion that have been so industriously and persistently taught
them by your diplomatic agents and Christian missionaries until it is
now no longer an experiment. The Creeks as a whole have forgotten
the customs and traditions of their ancestors, and feel that their exis-
tence and progress inseparably centres in a proper protection of the
principles of civilization as taught and accepted by them to day.
Under these, they have built up many institutions of learning where
the young are taught the sciences as they are taught in the surrounding
States, while the religious element of our people have not been satisfied
with preaching the truths of the Christian religion to Creeks alone
~~but~~ ^{but some} have gone as missionaries to the wild tribes of the ^{far} west.
But while this is undoubtedly a favorable state of affairs, it has
not been without its obstacles and oppositions. A people ~~called~~

of such radically ^{different} views customs and habits, cannot be expected to
 take on these great changes without opposition from the conservative
 element among them, and so it has been with the Creeks. There has
 ever been present in our body politic sufficient of this element to af-
 ford material for disappointed politicians and opposers of progress to
 impose on and produce dissentions and trouble to the nation. These ^{dissentions} have
 occurred heretofore ~~but~~ and when they seemed to reach such proportions as to
 require severe measures to suppress them, rather than mete out the chastise-
 ment thus merited, the Creek nation has invariably appealed to the agent
 of the Dept. to ~~to~~ interfere. This interference was usually afforded,
 but has invariably been so tardy in the coming as to have the effect
 each time of causing the uninformed to suspect that the United States
~~felt~~ certainly ^{felt} very little interest ~~or~~ or sympathy for the government
 the acceptance of which we had been lashed into by the unceasing
 solicitations of herself and people. Such is the condition of things
 in our nation today. Spah he cha the agitator and malcontent is
 neither more nor less than a disappointed office seeker; he served
 as a member of the Creek national Council under the present constitu-
 tion and laws for one full term of four years. Going out of this
 office he was elected judge of his district and during all this time
 he was a zealous supporter of the present government of the Creek nation
 and proposed violent measures of punishment for persons who at
 that time showed a disposition to act the role ~~that~~ he is now playing.
 He was impeached for cause finally and deposed, when he at once iden-
 tified himself with the little conservative element then existing, which

however are but the legitimate incidents of times of high and stirring excitement, and are in proportion so nearly equally divided on both sides in this case as not to be a subject of complaint on the plea of enormity. — It is not true that these people are being oppressed by Southern Creeks because of their loyalty to the United States in the last war. The fact that the homicides and other excesses against them have, in almost every single instance been committed by persons who were with them in their adherence to the United States, but who now choose to be good and law-abiding citizens of the Creek nation, will fully bear us out in this statement, and we challenge the fullest investigation of its correctness. ~~In conclusion permit me to state~~ As a remedy there for

our national troubles, we are authorized to ask, and earnestly urge

- 1st That you will in plain and emphatic terms cause Spachecha and party to be informed that under no conditions will the Interior department consent to a partition of Creek land or other interests —

- 2nd That the military order providing for stationing troops in the Creek nation be rescinded.

- 3rd That you cause all criminals and other violators of law ~~now~~ ^{the number} now included in ^{the number} now under guard at Fort Gibson against whom indictments are pending in the courts of the Creek nation, to be surrendered to Creek authorities for trial and disposition according to law

- 4th That you cause the balance of the Spachecha party to be disarmed and returned to their homes in the Creek nation. — The Creek nation can offer no premium on disloyalty, but we are authorized in saying that to those returning to their homes under the above conditions, every protection of the law and all rights thereunder will be extended,

and no indictments will issue because of their late treasonable acts. This course it is believed by the wisest of our nation will restore respect for law, heal up our differences and establish the peace so much desired. — We have now done our duty; we have endeavored to give as faithful and correct ^{an} account of the affairs of our country as we can, ^{and} earnestly trust that we have succeeded in enlisting your sympathies in favor of the great interests here presented. We leave the question with you, only asking that after carefully considering all the phases here presented, you will favor us with a reply.

Very Respectfully
G. W. Grayson

Special Creek Delegation