

Washington D. C. June 11th 1884.

Hon. Henry M. Teller,
Secretary of the Interior - Sir:

By treaty proclaimed April 4, 1832 (7 Stat. 366) ninety principal Chiefs of the Creek Nation of Indians were allowed the privilege of selecting one section of land each, and every other head of a Creek family one half section each out of the lands belonging to said Nation east of the Mississippi river; and said tracts so selected were to be reserved and set apart from the main reservation for the use and benefit of said Indians and their heirs.

Article three of this treaty is as follows:

"These tracts may be conveyed by the persons selecting the same to any other person for a fair consideration, in such manner as the President may direct.

The contract shall be certified by some person appointed for that purpose by the President, but shall not be valid, till the President approves the same.

A title shall be given by the United States on the completion of the payment."

Article four provides as follows:

"At the end of five years, all the Creeks entitled to these selections and desirous of remaining, shall receive patents therefor in fee simple, from the United States."

By an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1837 (5 Stat. 186) the President was authorized to cause all of the said reserves which remained unsold on the fourth day of April 1837 to be sold at public auction and to issue patents therefor.

The President was also authorized by said act to confirm the

sales made by the widows, children and administrators of Creek Indians who died prior to April 4th 1837, without having legally disposed of their reserves, and to receive the purchase money and make proper disposition thereof, under such regulations as he might deem proper.

The provisions and requirements of the treaty and act of Congress mentioned, have not been complied with, in so far as the United States are concerned.

Many of the reserved tracts, as the record will show, have never been sold by the reservers or their heirs. Many other reserved tracts were purchased from persons who had no authority to act for the rightful owners.

Many other tracts were bought, but never paid for, and still others were bought, for a nominal price.

In short, many of the reservers or their lawful heirs have been defrauded out of their just rights, solemnly promised and guaranteed by the treaty and law above quoted, ample proof of which is believed to be among the archives of the government.

Patents, in most cases of this character have been withheld by the United States.

In behalf of the few surviving reservers, and the heirs of others we the undersigned would respectfully ask and request the Hon. Secretary and Commissioner of Indian Affairs to cause an examination of the record and the facts to be made, and the undersigned informed, as to the number and description of reservations sold and unpatented; the number and description of reservations remaining unsold; and the number and description of all such reservations as have not been sold and paid for, together with such other information bearing upon the case as may be deemed proper,

to the end that all parties in interest may be secured and protected in their rights, and the treaty and law fulfilled according to the letter and spirit of the same.