

OUR BROTHER IN RED

Muskogee, Indian Territory  
Saturday, December 10, 1887.  
Vol. 6. No. 15.  
Rev. Theo. F. Brewer, Editor

MESSAGE OF L. C. PERRYMAN

Okmulgee, I. T.,  
December 5, 1887.

To the Honorable Members of the  
Houses of Kings and Warriors:

Gentlemen:-

I fully appreciate the great responsibility you have placed upon me in electing me to the high position of Chief Executive of the Muskogee Nation. If I did not feel grateful to my countrymen for this very flattering expression of their confidence in me, I should be recreant to those natural instincts that should characterize every human being. It is a matter of no little concern to preside over one's household and shape and direct its interests: but when that household is increased

to a Nation, an active, conscious body politic, with an unlimited future, and a perpetual interest in the soil upon which it is located, the responsibility and concern of the person chosen and charged with the duty of directing its affairs becomes almost immeasurable.

All permanent political institutions must be founded upon a solid basis, and that basis is the soil. The manner in which that soil is to be appropriated to the use and profit of the individual occupants thereof is a matter of minor importance; but the sovereign and inherent right in the soil as the basis of the whole political superstructure is the question that demands our most diligent and unceasing care.

The Muskogees have been a sovereign Nation from time immemorial, and their inherent right to the soil has not, and can never be questioned. They had the absolute and exclusive right to the country they occupied in the old Nation east of the Mississippi river, by virtue of priority of possession and occupancy, and that title has been approved and accepted by the whole civilized world, but that is

not all; the very people who founded and established a magnificent government upon the American soil, have recognized that title in the judgment of their highest tribunal, and by appropriating to their own use and benefit lands acquired in a similar manner. While we have emigrated from the lands of our original possession, we have by so doing relinquished nothing of our right to a permanent home.

We have merely exchanged land for land with the United States government through conventions composed of duly authorized agents from the contracting parties.

Our lands in the old country were exchanged for lands purchased from occupants whose right to the soil was acquired and held in a manner similar to ours.

The policy of this administration will be to diligently watch and oppose any infringement upon, or attempt to curtail our rights as a Nation to these our landed interests, and to transmit to our successors a free and unencumbered estate.

In regard to the so-called Oklahoma land, the treaty of 1866 must be our guide. Any variations from the terms and stipulations of said

treaty, either by the United States Government or the Muskogee Nation, without the consent of the other would be but a species of bad faith.

Our Government is modeled after that of the United States. It is essentially Republican, and our citizens enjoy a large measure of liberty; but liberty must not be confounded with license.

The safety and perpetuity of all governments depend upon the vigorous and impartial execution of law. The law is no respecter of persons; and no criminal need expect special clemency or favor from the Executive by reason of his affiliation with this or that political party. I have a right to expect and will expect your co-operation in the enforcement of the laws of our country.

Having associated and labored with you many years in the Council, and having enjoyed your friendship and confidence, I assume the duties devolving upon me as the Executive with the hope and assurance that our relations with each other will be mutually pleasant, I am

Your obedient servant,

L. C. PERRYMAN

Prin. Chief M. N.