

Executive Department
Choctaw Nation

May 17th 1865

General

Reports and rumors have reached me, and still are reaching me, of the disasters to the Confederate Arms, East of the Mississippi River, and though not official are of such a reliable nature, that they are generally believed to be true. From the same source, I have also information, that Commissioners are now or have been, in Shreveport, demanding the surrender of the Trans Miss. Department.

The several Indian Nations in this Territory were before the war, in alliance by treaties with the Federal Government, those treaties were annulled by reason of the expulsion of the Federal troops from the Territory by citizens of the Confederate States. It then devolved upon us in self-protection, to enter into new treaties with the Confederate States, to the stipulations of which treaties we have ever proved true.

The object of my now writing, is that if it should be your intention of surrendering the Trans Miss Dept to the Federal Authorities, that you give me the earliest information possible of the fact. And I would also take upon myself the responsibility in behalf of the several Nations and Tribes of Confederate Indians to respectfully request that in any

terms of surrender you may enter into, that you do not surrender the Indian troops as prisoners of war, as we prefer making our own terms, and that a Representative from the several Nations be permitted the opportunity of an interview with the Commissioners.

It is not our intention or desire to act in this matter so long as there is any determination on the part of the Confederate States to continue the contest. But if the fortunes of war compel a surrender we desire to know it as early as practicable that we may be enabled to take steps for our own safety and welfare.

I am Respectfully

Yr Obedt Servt

P. P. Pitchlynn

Principal Chief

Choctaw Nation

Genl C. Kirby Smith

Command Trans Miss Dept

Shreveport, La.

T Y P E S C R I P T

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I am respectfully
Yr obedient servant
P.P. Pitchlynn

Principal Chief
Choctaw Nation

General E. Kirby Smith,
Commanding

Trans-Mississippi Department
Shreveport, Louisiana