

Copied

Dear Col. P. P. Pitchlyno Jun 19th 1861

Sir I consider very proper
time to do some things for our people;

It may in the event of a dissolution of
the Union, be proper to take some steps
to secure the Bonds and other securities
of the Choctaw funds now held in trust
by the United States. Should the Government
of the United States go to pieces, there will
be no Trustees to hold those bonds &c,
and it will be absolutely necessary to
obtain ~~or in possession of these funds~~
for the Nation - or, if that cannot be done,
to serve notice upon the States in whose
the Bonds the Choctaw funds are invested,
not to pay the principle or interest to
any party, unless fully authorized by the
Choctaw Nation to receive a payment
thereof. Upon ~~the~~ consultation with friends,
it is thought best, that no time be lost in
obtaining a full and accurate descriptive
list of all Bonds, Coupons & other securities
belonging to the Choctaws.

And that you immediately obtain said List, you can do this, of course without letting the object of the application for it being known, The late fraudulent use of some of the Indian trust funds, this will furnish a sufficient excuse to ask the list; as the Choctaws naturally would desire to know whether any of their Bonds have been so used,

Try to get this list before we arrive, It is also thought prudent for the Choctaws to keep quiet, until matters in the U. States assumes a more definite condition, there at present. But at the same time, the delegation should be on the spot authorized to act for the Nation according to Circumstances. It is ^{not} considered politic to take a leap in the dark - we should wait and see, what is to be probable result of the present unhappy difficulties among our white friends. Our true policy at present is that of "masterly inactivity". I think all proper steps will be taken to preserve order in our Country.

and to enable us to act promptly and
effectively at the right moment.

If it is possible to get the award of the
Senate made final, by some action on the
Report of the Secretary of Interior under
the Senator's Resolution; it would be important
points gained, even if no appropriation
be made. The amount due the Choctaws
would then be acknowledged and would
constitute a valid claim against the
United States or, in case of dissolution,
against the disjoined members of the former
government. A division of public property
and the National obligations of the Government
of the U. States must follow, if a permanent
disruption of that Government takes place,
and, we must have our matters in such
shape as to allow no caviling or dispute
about our claim.

(P.S.) I concluded to start for Washington
next week, you look for me couple
weeks if God spared us fare well
Peter Johnson

To Col P.P. Pitchlym for Washington

(P.S.) our agent Cooper will start in a few days