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Fort Smith, C.M.
June 27th 1865-

Col. P. P. Petchlym,
Principal Chief C.M.

Dear Sir,

At the request

of ex Gov A. Wade who is now at this place, I have sent you this Communication. Myself and all the Citizens of the Choctaw Nation that are at this place were much delighted on the receipt of the Communication which you addressed to J. Ward, you have my Sincere thanks for that benivolent act of kindness and regard. This awful war which has just now passed over has had its effects all over the United States, and its ravages has not passed by without giving our own little happy land a touch of devastation, -

We are not left in half as bad a condition as some of the Southern States, the Northern States are not injured at all. - - -

We have many advantages over the Southern

States in regard to our future relations with the Federal government. From all the information that I have obtained since I have been here, I do not think there will be any difficulty in reestablishing our relations with the U.S. as they were previous to the war, I am of the opinion that the Government will respect the old Treaty, but we certainly do need a delegation at Washington City; and I would think the sooner the better. We will also stand in great need of having the intercourse law enforced, and also our own Civil Law I would think ought to be resurrected as soon as possible, our County is depopulated in such a manner that we will have trouble about holding elections and Courts unless the old Citizens return.

The work of reconstruction is going on very fast in the States, and we ought to try and not be left to fare behind. Those of us that come to this place could not well do otherwise, and we are now broke up and reduced to poverty. --

The object of that Convention which we people over here held at New Hope on the 14th of March 1864 was this, We wanted to send one or two

delegates to Washington City for the purpose of representing the Condition of the Nation to the Government of the U.S. also to lay before Congress the Claims which the Choctaw people have on the U.S. by Treaty stipulations for protection &c &c and to endeavor to have the old Treaty respected whenever the U.S. got in possession of our Country, and also to Contest any attempt that ~~the~~ might be made to take our Country by virtue of Confiscation, also to prevent a military Governor from being appointed over our Nation, I was very certain if the Condition of the Nation was made known as it really was we would not have any trouble to maintain our nationality whenever the Government of the U.S. got possession of the Country, which I was certain would soon be the case, there was a great many of the Kansas people that had their eye on our Country, and I did not know what they might influence Congress to do during the time that our people was in a state of Rebellion, But on account of our not having a suitable man to lead the whole attempt did

not do any good, only I believe it did
Scare the Russians a little ---

In regard to Tom Edwards being appointed
Governor I would say his name was nominated
Subject to the future vote of the people of the
whole Nation, but Edwards proclaimed fare
and name that he was Governor, but I don't
expect any person regarded him as any great
things either here or any where else, he is so
detestable that it is with bad feeling that I make
mention of his name.

Well I hope you will excuse me for impos-
ing this letter on you, but I thought some little
explanation was better than none.

Yours Respectfully,
Wm. T. Stephens.

P.S. I would say in behalf of all the
Choctaws that are here, that they
together with myself have used all ~~our~~ their
exertions in behalf of the whole Choctaw
Nation at large, and have not been working
for our own individual interest as some
of our brothers down South may suppose.
My greatest desire was for the Federal army
to go to Texas and establish a line of post
on Red River, so that the whole Choctaw
Nation would be relieved and entirely
Clear of the Southern Confederacy.

Yours Fraternally }
from information }
Received } 3

W. T. S. ---