

P. P. Pitchlynn, Esq.  
Big Prairie, Chakta nation

Natchez, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1831.

Copies

Much esteemed Sir:

You have doubtless heard before this time, of the unfortunate decease of Mr. Jas. L. McDonald. Talents & genius, by this accident, are lost forever to the world which cannot easily supply the void. I admired his transcendant abilities, while I regretted the little restraint he imposed on his evil genius. But he is gone past recall: he is returned to the source of things, far beyond human scrutiny or mental ken. How much good he might have lived to effect! — What an imperishable fame he might have established! The act that precipitated him recalled — ~~for~~, before the throne of the Omnium, was the result of derangement. He was too brave to seek such a death in his senses. His aspirations were far too noble & his patriotism too fervent to deliberately abandon the stage of human action.

You are doubtless busied in preparing for removal. How long before you will cross the Mississippi? When shall I set out? You are now without any one competent to tread with you the noble path of emulation directed to the regeneration of your Country. Poor McDonald! Could you and he have reached arm in arm in the effort, you are making to establish an undying fame, doubtless your task would be more cheering. But you have now all to do; for I fear you have none near, warm, ardent & enthusiastic as yourself, to promote the welfare of your nation. There is much to do, but you are competent to it all. What a proud era would it be, if the Choctaws would, one & all, devote themselves to the arts & sciences! Why may they not perpetuate their

name to the latest generations? Why may they not become  
the manufacturers of the south and the carriers for the  
remote west? ... Unity is every thing; without it, the proudest  
nations must fall, as Assyria, Babylon, Judaea & others,  
to rise no more.

I should much like it if you could furnish  
me with a census complete of the three districts, and  
the number of those who will stay.

I intend writing occasionally in some of the papers,  
in order to fix the public eyes upon the proceedings  
of the Chertans, and you will always receive  
copies.

I have seen a man who is a hatter, and is desirous  
of going over. Persons in that business might do very well,  
as there will be abundance of fur. I think it will  
be easy to induce many mechanics to go, but I much  
fear that those who would are not too sober, and  
of course, not too industrious.

This town is going backward. It contains  
2,800 souls. In 1810 it had 1511 of which 469  
slaves. Vicksburg will soon equal it. There is a  
very fine Presbyterian Church here, which is the  
only building entitled to be called elegant.

Please remember me affectionately to your brother,  
and respectfully to your father & mother. Receive from  
yourself & family my most cordial good wishes.

Your sincere friend

Henry Vose

P. S. A certain great writer has said that  
the first letter may contain anything so as  
to break the ice, and that study & ornament  
are superfluous in it. I have written  
accordingly, but such others as may follow  
shall be a little longer & I hope more inter-  
esting. Please address

Henry Yose,  
Woodville,  
Wilkinson Co.  
Miss.

I have just seen the census of the  
State, which exhibits 71,000 whites  
& 65,000 blacks. The United States  
contain 12,900,000

H. V.

A printing press can be had here, with sufficient  
materials, for \$500 or \$600. If you could get Govern-  
ment to grant 3 or 4 floating sections, or even two,  
a paper might be advantageously started.

*Pitchlynn, Esq.*  
(Chief Arkansas District)

Choctaw Agency,  
Choctaw Nation  
Miss. Ter.



*June 1831*