

copied

Caddo. I. T. Feb 13th 1879

Honble P. P. Pitchlynn

Dear Friend Bro.

There is a matter transpiring in the Choctaw Nation which it seems to me, ought to be looked after by some one. It is well known that the County has been well nigh depleted of its timber for R. R. ties - Now there is a raid being made upon the black locust ~~and~~ cedars, Pecans, especially the black locust.

Some few weeks since it was rumored that under some contract parties were coming to cut 17. to 20 - well last week Choppers commenced at the mouth of the Birch (that is not spelled right) abt 20 S. E. of Caddo. They calculate cutting at the rate of 15,000 feet per day - rafting it ^{in the Red River} in logs to New Orleans at from 75 to 80 dollars per thousand, when cut in boards - they intend to work along towards Mountain Fork - where I think your place is taking all in their course - of those three kinds of timber worth any thing -

It seems that some ought to look into this - I have always understood all on

surface belongs to the Indians. Now the last Council pass'd an Act to prohibit the cutting of timber.

The Sheriffs do not know what to do, as I am informed. If no one interferes all the best timber will be gone very soon.

I write this to you in Confidence, as to my name, for the interested parties will say it is no business of mine - but I feel as a Missionary, it is my duty to pay some regard to the temporalities of those labor among -

You will know whose business it is - whether the Indian Commissioner, Sec. Schuy - or P. Ch. Garwin - The Judge - I presume must know something of it - My Boys were denouncing it at home yesterday, so I concluded I would write to you - If necessary it is easy to make enquiries without reference to me.

I was informed by one man who knows (professedly) that while the men were at work on the timber - the Principal man in charge was prospecting for a silver mine

Yours fraternally

Edward Morris,