

Acts and Resolutions passed at the called Session of the General Council of the Choctaw Nation, in June 1861

Report of the Committee on the Principal Chief's Message

Your Committee to whom the Principal Chiefs Message was referred after a careful and mature examination and consideration of the same would respectfully offer the following Preamble, Act and Resolutions - viz -

Allen W. Carney, Clerk

Edmund Perry, President of Committee

Whereas, the Union formerly existing between the United States of America has been dissolved owing to the differences of opinion upon questions arising under the Constitution, eleven of the States who were members of the Union have confederated themselves together into a separate and independent government. They have formally asked for a recognition of their independence based upon the idea that a Republican form of government "can only exist by the consent of the governed". This has been denied them, and a bloody and cruel war proclaimed against them. The Choctaw Nation were under Treaty stipulations with the old Union for certain defined purposes: and the destruction of the Government of the United States leave the Choctaws without any binding contract upon them. The Government of which Abraham Lincoln claims to be President have utterly refused to abide by solemn covenants and Treaty Stipulations. We trusted and sincerely hoped that this event would be averted. Our money has been refused us, The Military Posts placed in our country for our protection have been abandoned, and we are left to the tender mercies of Kansas cutthroats and higher law leaders from all quarters of the North, Whereas, we fully believe that all our rights, immunities and privileges will be completely guaranteed to us by the Confederate States of America and Whereas we feel that the war waged upon them is unjust inhuman and without a parallel in the annals of history and that their cause is our cause, We so far as interest is concerned are identical, and Whereas we hold that the Confederate States are contending for self preservation, the right of self government and that we had rather see a general conflagration sweep over our land or an earthquake sink it than one iota of this right denied. Therefore, Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

That the dissolution of the Government of the United States leaves the Choctaws free to act for themselves and deem it that the first act we should perform is to declare ourselves absolutely and unconditionally free and independent people, aside from any earthly power which we hereby do-

Be it further Resolved: That in consideration of our want of physical power, our exposed condition and the identity of our institutions, etc., we are ready and willing to enter into a Treaty of Alliance and Amity with the Southern Confederacy

Be it further Resolved: That the choctaws are threatened with invasion by the abolition hordes of the North, and as free men it behoves us to use every effort in our power to defend ourselves against their aggressions and we cordially unite with all Tribes who are opposed to this threatened invasion for common defense and mutual safety

Be it further Resolved: That the Principal Chief is hereby authorized and required to appoint one Commissioner out of each County and with the advice and consent of the Senate, with full power on the part of the Nation to meet the Commissioner of the Confederate States to negotiate a Treaty of Alliance and Amity and adopt all measures necessary for the common defence and safety--a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum to do business

Be it further resolved: That the Principal Chief is hereby authorized to appoint the same set of Commissioners to act as Delegates with full power to go and meet the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles and Chickasaws in Convention, to be held at Perryville on the 24th day of June 1861 to enter into a League for mutual protection,

Be it further Resolved that the Commissioners who shall be appointed to meet the Commissioners from the Confederate States for the purpose of making a Treaty, shall be and they are hereby required to submit the Treaty, and every article of agreement made between the said Commissioners to the General Council for its ratification or rejection of the same.

An Act entitled an Act making all offences, civil and criminal committed by whitemen, Indians of other Tribes, or persons of whatever---punishable by the Laws of the Choctaw Nation,

Section, Be it enacted, etc. That all offences, civil and criminal committed by white men, Indians of other tribes, or any whitemen whatsoever, resident or nonresident, who may commit any offence or violate the Laws of this country, shall be subjected to arrest, trial and punishment according to the Laws of this Nation.

An Act to provide for the organization of an efficient Military force, within the Choctaw Nation and for the election of certain officers.

(6 Articles)

Approved June 13th 1861

Geo. Hudson, P.C.C.N.

Stephen Holsten

Chairman of Committee

5 other Acts approved June 14th 1861

Acts and Resolutions passed by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in October 1861.

An act entitled an Act ratifying the compact entered into between the Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws and Chickasaws at North Fork Village, Creek Nation, on the first day of July 1861.

Approved October 23rd 1861

E. Loman, Acting P.C.C.N.

3 other acts

Whereas articles of agreement and convention were made and concluded on the 12th day of July one thousand eight hundred and sixty one at the North Fork Village on the North Fork of the Canadian River in the Creek Nation west of Arkansas between the Confederate States of America by Albert Pike Commissioner with plenary powers of the Confederate States on the one part and the Choctaw Nation of Indians by R. M. Jones, Sampson Folsom, Forbis Leflore, Geo. W. Harkins, Jr., Allen Wright, Alfred Wade, Coleman Cole, James Ryley, Rufus Folsom, W. B. Pitchlynn, McKee King, William King, John Turnbull and William Bryant, Commissioners appointed by the Principal Chief of the said Choctaw Nation in pursuance of an act of the Legislature thereof, and the Chickasaw Nation of Indians by Edmind Pickens Colbert, James Gamble, Joll Kemp, William Kemp Colbert, Henry C. Colbert, James M. McLish, Martin Wa Allen, John M. Johnson, Samuel Colbert, Abner Wilson Frazzer, Columbus Ashala--tubbi and John D. Anderson Commissioners elected by the legislative of said Chickasaw Nation of the other part, the preamble whereof is in the words and figure to wit.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America having by an act for the Protection of certain Indian Tribes approved the 21st day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty one offered to assume and accept the protectorate of the several Nations and Tribes of Indians occupying the country west of Arkansas and Missouri and to recognize them as their wards, subject to all the rights, privileges, and immunities titles and guarantees with each of said nations and tribes under Treaties made with them by the United States of America and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations of Indians having each assented Thereto upon certain terms and conditions." Now Therefore Be it known that the Choctaws in General Council assembled, having duly considered such articles of agreement, Convention and each and every article thereof and being satisfied therewith do upon their part hereby assent to ratify and confirm

Be it further ~~xxx~~ resolved That we will agree to place in the field for the space of twelve months, and to be under the orders of the proper officers of the Confederate States to do whatever may become necessary in the defence of the Country one Regiment of Choctaw Troops consisting of one Thousand men rank and file if the Government of the Confederate States will furnish now the above sum of five hundred thousand dollars to arm and equip said Regiment and maintain in the field for that length of time, and after the war and peace is established to reimburse the Choctaw Nation, in said amount by the said Government of the Confederate States

etc., etc.,

Approved Nov. 5th 1861

E. Loman, A. P. C. C. N.

7 other Resolutions passed in November 1861

Acts and Resolutions passed at the called session of the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in February 1862.

9 Acts and Resolutions passed.

Acts and Resolutions passed at the Regular Session of the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in October 1862. (passed)

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives

I have convened you in Extra Session for the purpose of communicating to you the fact that the Government of the Confederate States, to which we had under peculiar and unavoidable circumstances become allied, has ceased to exist, and by this event we now find ourselves in the same situation we were four years ago, when the United States withdrew their troops from our country, and left us without any protecting power whatever.

Owing to our geographical position, and entire inability to maintain strict neutrality between the contending parties, we were necessarily forced to attach ourselves to those of our neighboring States, or to incur the terrible penalty which they inflicted upon their own people who adhered to the Union. Men lost their reason, and the demon of war--ever insatiable with blood and discord, drove the Americans people to fratracidal deeds--and the reign of terror prevailed throughout our hitherto peaceful and happy country. Thus suddenly and most unexpectedly we were subjected to the worst of tyranny--that of anarchy; and the alternative of two evils was presented, that of immediate extermination as a people, or to aid and abet that party who had engaged in a crusade against their own Government. Common prudence and the instinct of self-preservation dictated that we should choose the latter of the two evils, as presenting the only hope of prolonging our existence.

Owing to the dispensations of the Almighty Guardian of National justice, we have been thus far most wonderfully preserved; and as we know not what awaits us in the future, let us humbly trust and pray that He will still hold us in his right hand and continue to bless and preserve us as a people.

As the Southern States have failed to achieve their independence, I would respectfully recommend that a Delegation, in conjunction with one, from our Chickasaw brothers, be appointed to visit Washington City for the purpose of renewing our former friendly relations with the Government of the United States. This seems to be the only policy left us to pursue by which we can preserve ourselves as a people.

Let us now unite in restoring our country to law and order--and see that justive prevails and good men made secure in person and property--whether they be citizens of our country or not; and as a means of effecting this end I would recommend the organization of an efficient Militia force in each county of the Nation whose duty it shall be to aid the Civil Officers in the enforcement of the Laws, and in preventing bad men from coming into our country from the States.

I herewith transmit copy of letter addressed to Gen. E. Kirby Smith in relation to the surrender of the Indian troops to which I receive no answer.

Let us for the sake of all that we hold sacred and dear on earth stand unitedly together as a band of brothers, for without Unity we can do nothing. Divisions among us now would soon end in certain destruction. Let us do our whole duty to our people trusting in God to guide us. Let us counsel together in the spirit of brotherly love, in the spirit of conciliation and forebearance. Accept gentlemen, my earnest assurances that you shall have my full and cordial co-operation in any manner or measures that will look to the honor, welfare and prosperity of the Choctaw people. May the God of hosts abide with us and guide us in this our time of trial and preserve us in the future.

Executive Department

June 15th 1865.

(s) P. P. Pitchlynn

No. 5

Chahta Tamaha C. N.

June 15th 1865

Indian Council

Resolutions of Grand Indian Council held at Chahta Tamaha, C. N.

Resolutions of the Grand Council passed at Chahta Tamaha C. N.

June 15th 1865.

Whereas at the Grand Council held at Camp Napoleon on the 24th day May 1865, the Cherokee Choctaws Creeks Chickasaws Seminoles Comanches Caddoes Osages Cheyennes Kiowas Arapahoes Sipans the northern Caddos and Annada kos, did enter into a solemn league of peace and Friendship And Whereas the object of this Confederation of these Indian Nations is to maintain the integrity of the "Indian Territory" as the present and future home of our race to proserve and perpetuate the National rights and franchises of the several Nations to cultivate peace harmony and fellowship

And Whereas it is the earnest desire of this Grand Council that all strife feuds and hostilities among Indians should cease, And that our great principal "and Indian shall not spill another Indians blood" be universaly adopted by all Nations and Tribes of Indians therefore,

Resolved by the Grand Council of the United Nations of the Indians Territory, That the Principal Chiefs and Governors of the Nations here ~~xx~~ represented constitute a Committe who are requested and Authorized to~~s~~ extend in the name of this Confederations the hand of fellowship to all Nations of Indians
that

Resolved further/the said executive be requested and authorized to communicate the wishes and intentions of this Grand Council to the proper authorities of the Cherokee, Seminole Creek Osages and all other Nations of Indians now in Alliance with the Government of the United States And to invite the said Cherokee, Seminole Creek, Osages and all other Nations of Indians to become parties to this

Confederation and to cooperate with this Council in its efforts to contract anew friendly relations with the United States Government.

Resolved further that the Governors or Principal Chiefs of the Cherokees Creeks Simnoles Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations by and with the consent of their respective Councils be and they are hereby authorized to appoint one or more Commissioners not to exceed five from each Nation to represent the interest of such Nation at the City of Washington and who shall be clothed with full powers to negotiate with the United States Government, such treaties as the exigencies of affairs may seem to demand. Resolved further that any one or more of such persons authorized to be appointed may act as proxies for the remainder should it be out of their power to proceed in person to Washington City, Said Delegates will be authorized and directed to invite the United States Government to send commissioners within this Territory to treat with Tribes of this Confederation who may not be represented at Washington City,

Resolved further that no treaty made under the provisions of these resolutions shall be binding until ratified by the National Council of the respective Tribes making the same-

Resolved further that said Delegation be instructed to communicate with the proper military Authorites of the United States for the purpose of effecting a cessation of hostilities in order that there be time and opportunity to negotiate with the United States Government, Also to obtain from said Military Authorities a passport to the City of Washington and further urge upon said Military Authorities in order

to avoid collision the propriety of sending no forces into the Indian Territory until they, the said Delegates, may confer with the United States Government for the establishment of permanent peace,

Approved June 16th 1865

Tuckalatchll Micco Chief Creek Nations

Tarkinham Micco 2nd Chief Creek Nation

John Jumper Principal Chief Simonls

Black Dog Chief Osag Nation

Stand Watie Chief Cherokee Nation

Winchester Colbert Gov. Chickasaw Nation

Samuel Chicoto 3rd Chief Creek Nation

Isreal Folsom Principal Chief Choctaw Nation, ^{Pro}_{TEM} ~~? TERM~~

Clamant Chief Osage Nation

True Copy

Respectfully furnished to Hon. James Harlan Secretary of the Interior for his information

J. J. Reynolds

Major General, Commanding.

No. 6

Doaksville Ark
June 19th 1865

Pitchlynn P. P.
Gov. & C.

Proclamation of
Gov P. P. Pitchlynn & C
of Choctaw Nation.

Copy of Treaty Stipulations made and entered into on the
19th day of June A. D. 1865 at Doakesville, C. N. between Lieut.
Col. A. C. Mathews and Adjutant William H. Vance, commissioners
appointed by Military authorities of the U. S. and P. P. Pitchlynn
Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw Nation on the part of
said nation as follows, to wit:

Art. first.- All acts of hostility on the part of both armies
having ceased (by virtue of a convention entered into on the 26th
day of May A. D. 1865. between Major General E.R.S. Canby U. S. A.,
commanding Military Division of West Mississippi, and General E.
Kirby Smith, U. S. A., Commanding Trans-Mississippi Department)
the Indians of the Choctaw Nation here represented (lately allied
with the Confederate States in acts of hostilities against the
Government of the United States) do agree at once to return to their
respective homes, and there remain at peace with the United States,
and offer no indignity whatever or commit any acts of hostilities
against the Whites, or Indians of the various tribes who have been
friendly to, or engaged in the service of the United States during
the war.

Art. second.-It is stipulated by the undersigned commissioners
on the part of the United States that so long as the Indians
aforesaid observe the provisions of Article first, of this agreement,
they shall be protected by the U. S. authorities in their person
and property not only from encroachments, on the part of the Whites,

but also from the Indians who have been engaged in the service of the United States.

Art. third.- The above articles of agreement to remain and be in full force and effect, until the meeting of the Grand Council, to meet at Armstrong Academy Choctaw Nation on the first day of September A. D. 1865 and until such time as the proceedings of said Council shall be ratified by the proper authorities, both of the Choctaw Nation and the United States.

In testimony whereof the said Lieut Colonel A. C. Mathews and Adjutant William H. Vance Commissioners on the part of the United States, and P. P. Pitchlynn Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw Nation hereto set their hands.

(Signed) A. C. Mathews Lt. Col. U. S. Vols.

(Signed) W. H. Vance, Adjutant (Commissioner

) Signed) P. P. Pitchlynn, P. C. C. N.

(Copy of Commissioners Letter of instructions)

Headquarters Northern Louisiana
Shreveport La. June 9th 1865

Col. A. C. Mathews-Commissioners

My Dear Sir:

You will proceed with as little delay as possible to Fort Towson, and from that point to Council Grove, where a Grand Council is now being held at which the different tribes of Indians in the Territory and Western Texas are represented, and will present to Genl Thorckmorton and Col Reagan the Commissioners of the Confederate States, the official documents in your possession addressed to them. These Commissioners will give you every assistance in their power in accomplishing the object of your mission which is to make a temporary treaty or alliance with the Indians in behalf of the United States.

You can state to the council that the war between the Confederate States, and the United States is at an end, the entire Confederate army having surrendered and turned over all arms and public property to the agent of the United States, that hereafter the Government at Washington will control the entire country as formerly; that it is the desire of the United States to be on terms of friendship with all the Indian Tribes: that the object can be accomplished by their returning to their homes and remaining quietly, not interfering in any way with the whites or with the Indians who have been in the U. S. service; that if they do so the United States will not interfere with them, that they can prepare an address to the Government at

Washington and hand it to you for transmittal, or send a bearer in whom you confide to this place to be forwarded to Washington, you will also suggest that another Grand Council be held about the first of August at some point in the Territory, at which council commissioners direct from Washington will meet with the council and arrange a full and complete Treaty. These are the main points and you will use every exertion in ~~mka~~ making an agreement with the tribes for peace and quiet. The ~~savakxxfixxx~~ cavalry force now being prepared for operation in the Indian Country will not be sent if the council will agree that the different Tribes shall keep quiet. Upon completing this mission you will return to this point and report.

Respectfully ---

(Signed) F. (?) C. J. Herron
Major General.

Executive Department
Choctaw Nation June 19th 1865

Whereas:

Commissioners duly accredited by the United States Military authorities were sent to the grand councils of all the tribes of Indians lately convened at Armstrong academy with authority to treat on the subject of peace between the Indian Tribes, and the United States Government, and

Whereas, said commissioners did not arrive in our Country, in time to take a part with the authorities of said council but have arrived at this place and conferred with authorities of this nation, and

Whereas, It is the earnest desire of this people to have an honorable and lasting peace, and to resume their former and friendly relations with the United States authorities

Now therefor I P. P. Pitchlynn Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw Nation to make and publish this my proclamation,- That by the authority in me vested and by and in accordance with our agreement entered into this day between the said commissioners on the part of the United States and the undersigned

There will be a Grand Council of all the Indians of the Indian confederation, and the Indians of Prairies to be convened and held on the 1st Day of September A. D. 1865 at Armstrong Academy in the Choctaw Nation at which time and place there will be duly authorized commissioners from the authorities of the United States to treat on the subject of a permanent and lasting peace.

It is earnestly recommended and requested that the various tribes meet at their respective places of meeting at the earliest practicable date, and appoint their commissioners to attend said Grand Council. It is also agreed with the Commissioners aforesaid that there shall be an immediate cessation of all hostilities on the part of the contending parties that the Indians of the various tribes who have been engaged in war against the United States shall at once disband and return to their respective homes that they may return to their usual avocations, and that they shall not be interfered with or disturbed by the United States authorities so long as friendly relations exist. The importance of a grand council of the character of the contemplated at this juncture of our history under the circumstances that surround us cannot be overestimated.

Our late allies in war, the confederate armies have long since ceased to resist the national authorities they have all either been captured or surrendered to the forces of the United States, It therefore becomes us as a brave people to forget and lay aside our prejudices, and to prove ourselves equal to the occasion, let reason obtain now that the sway of passion has passed, and let us meet in Council with a proper spirit and resume our former relations with the U. S. Government.

(Signed) P. P. Pitchlynn

True Kopy

Respectfully furnished to Hon. James Harlan, Secretary of the Interior for his information.

(s) J. J. Reynolds

Major General, Commanding

Resolutions of the Grand Council passed at
Chahla ^{or} Taizaha C. St. June 15th 1865.

Whereas at the Grand Council held at Camp Napoleon
on the 24th day May 1865, the Cherokees Choctaws Creeks
Chickasaws Seminoles Comanches Caddoos Osages
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Whereas the object of this Confederation of these
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of Indians therefore,

Resolved by the Grand Council of the United
Nations of the Indian Territory, That the Principal
Chiefs and Governors of the Nations here repre-
sented constitute a Committee who are requested and
Authorized to extend in the name of this

of generations the hand of fellowship to all Nations
of Indians.

Resolved further that the said executive be
requested and authorized to communicate the wishes
and intentions of this Grand Council to the proper
authorities of the Cherokee, Seminole Creek, Osages
and all other Nations of Indians now in alliance
with the Government of the United States and to invite
the said Cherokee, Seminole Creek, Osages and all
other Nations of Indians to become parties to this
Confederation and to cooperate with this Council
in its efforts to contract amicable friendly relations
with the United States Government.

Resolved further,
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okee Creek, Seminole Chickasaw and Choctaw
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point one or more Commissioners not to exceed
five from each Nation to represent the inter-
est of such Nation at the City of Washington and
who shall be clothed with full powers to negotiate
with the United States Government, such treaties
as the exigencies of affairs may seem to demand.
Resolved further that any one or more of such
persons authorized to be appointed may act as
proxies for the remainder should it be ant-

of their power to proceed in person to Washington City. Said Delegates will be authorized and directed to invite the United States Government to send commissioners within this Territory to treat with Tribes of this Confederation who may not be represented at Washington City.

Resolved further that no Treaty made under the provisions of these resolutions shall be binding until ratified by the National Council of the respective Tribes making the same.

Resolved further that said Delegation be instructed to communicate with the proper Military Authorities of the United States for the purpose of effecting a cessation of hostilities in order that there be time and opportunity to negotiate with the United States Government, Also to obtain from said Military Authorities a passport to the City of Washington and further urge upon said Military Authorities in order to avoid collision the propriety of sending no forces into the Indian Territory until they, the said Delegates may confer with the United States Government for the establishment of permanent peace,

Approved June 16th 1865

Indalalchell Miccos Chief Creek Nation
Yankinhar Miccos 2nd Chief Creek Nation
John Lampier Principal Chief Seminoles
Black Dog Chief Osage Nation
Gland. Wallie Chief Cherokee Nation
Winchester Colbert Gov. Chickasaw Nation
Samuel Checolis 3rd Chief Creek
Isreal Tolsom Principal Chief Cherokee Nation ^{Pro Temp}
Clenant Chief Osage Nation

True Copy.

Respectfully furnished to Hon. James Harlan Secretary
of the Interior for his information

J. J. Reynolds
Major General
Commanding

N^o 5.

Chalata Tamaha C.N.

June 15th 1865.

Indian Council,

Resolutions of Grand
Indian Council held
at Chalata Tamaha.

C.N.

Yan against all enemies whether they be white or black, there no State or Territory will be created, and he will have it in his power to protect you fully in your usages laws and customs. How he cannot do those things, because neither the nor Congress paper ~~can~~ ^{can} hardly to prevent the States from extending their jurisdiction over you, and within their limits.

Brothers. In the country to which you go trust, the United States will protect you from enemies. Their object will be to preserve you at peace with yourselves and with all mankind, to propagate you as a nation, and to render ^{you} a happy and a prosperous people. Were you cannot be so. It is folly to indulge such dreams of your fancy, dreams which are entirely exceptive, and from which nothing of pleasing reality can ever come. Every days observation shows, that wantonness and distress will be yours, to remain where you are. The kind and friendly feeling of your great Father, will be insufficient to preserve you from those inevitable results.

Brothers. A portion of your nation sensible of these things, and anxious by removing to get rid of them, sent a Treaty during last winter to their great Father, but it was such a one as he could not agree to. He laid it however before his great Council, the Senate, for their consideration, and they too refused to ratify it. It asked more than could be granted, and introduced principles which could not be recognised. Your great Father while he is willing to be kind, and even liberal to his chosen children, cannot condescend to them terms which would be considered exorbitant. The Senate would not consent. In 1820

Brothers. In 1820 by a treaty made with you
at Doakes Blana, by Yam present great Father, an
extensive and fine Country was given to you
for the use of Yam people. It was a gift to
Yam for the Country you ceded to the United States
was bona fide for fully. It was the understanding at the
time that the Shoklans would remove, and
on that account was it, that a large valuable
and fertile Country was provided for Yam
nation and Yam people. Ten years have
passed by, and you are still here. The Country
intended for Yam, yet remains wild and
unoccupied.

Brothers. A fertile Country beyond the Mississippi,
and an other perhaps here, is more than Yam
Shanka expect. If Yam will not remove, other
Indians tribes may desire to do so; and where
they shall settle to little, a home must be furnished
Others wanting it. The Country ^{not} Shanka remain
a desert. Yam must decide which Yam will
take, and which Yam will live upon. Both
Countries Yam cannot possess, it is unreason-
able to expect it. If Yam prefers to live upon
our Laws and Customs, remain and do so; and
surround the Lakes assigned to Yam west of the
Mississippi, or otherwise remove to them. There
Yam great Father can protect you, and there,
undisturbed and unmolested, by the whites you
can enjoy yourselves and be happy, and for
years to come. Rest assured Yam cannot be
so here. But if Yam think differently then
continue where Yam are. After the present-
time we shall no more offer to treat with
Yam. Yam have been Commissioners in Yam
Country for the last time. Hereafter Yam

Will be left to yourselves and ^{to} the Laws of the
States within which you reside and ^{when} weary of
them, your Nation must remove as
it can, and at its own expense. Whatever
you may determine upon, whether to remain
or to remain, our earnest and sincere
wishes are, that you may be happy and
Contented. For years we have the best policy.
Our Complexions are different—but our
hearts and our nations are the same. The
great Spirit above is our common Father
He has made us all, and we are his

Your Friends & Brothers

J. H. Eaton

L. Hopper

We can do nothing. Divisions among us now
would soon end in certain destruction.
Let us do our whole duty to our people,-
trusting in God to guide us. Let us consult
together in the spirit of brotherly love, in the
spirit of conciliation and forbearance.
Accept gentlemen, my earnest assurances, that
I shall have my full and cordial co-operation
in any manner or measures that will look
to the honor, welfare and prosperity of the
Cherokee people. May the God of hosts abide
with us and guide us in this our time of trial,
and preserve us in the future.

Executive Department } P. P. Pitchlynn
June 15th 1865. /

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dian of National justice, we have been thus far
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Let us now unite in restoring our Country to law and order - and see that Justice probate and good men made secure in person and property - whether they be citizens of our country or not; and as a means of effecting this end I would recommend the organization of an efficient Militia force in each County of the Nation whose duty it shall be to aid the Civil Officers in the enforcement of the Laws, and in preventing bad men from the coming into our country from the States.

I herewith transmit copy of letter addressed to Genl Kirby Smith in relation to the surrender of the Confederate troops, to which I received no answer.

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and of the House of Representatives

I have convened you in Extra Session, for the purpose of communicating to you the fact, that the Government of the Confederate States, to which we had under peculiar and unavoidable circumstances become allied, has ceased to exist, and by this event, we now find ourselves in the same situation we were four years ago, when the United States withdrew their troops from our country, and left us without any protecting power whatever.

Owing to our geographical position, and entire inability to maintain strict neutrality between the contending parties, we were necessarily forced to attach ourselves to those of our neighboring States, or to incur the terrible penalty which they inflicted upon their own people who adhered to the Union. When lost their season - and the demon of war - ever inseparable with blood and discord, drove the American people to fratricidal deeds - and the reign of terror prevailed throughout our hitherto peaceful and happy country. Thus suddenly and most unexpectedly we were subjected to the worst of tyranny - that of anarchy; and the alternative of two evils was presented, that of immediate extermination as a people, or to aid and abet that party who had engaged in a crusade against their own Government. Common prudence and the instinct of self-preservation dictated, that we should choose the latter of the two evils, as presenting the only hope of prolonging our existence.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

In a state of war events so rapidly transpire that the exigencies of years of peace and tranquility are compressed in a few brief months. It also suspends the civil law, destroys the moral force and organic structure of society and subjects the citizens rights to military rule, or physical force, and lawless violence; conflicts of right and interest occur, person and property are insecure and the necessities of life are scantily produced. The citizen becomes selfish and unprincipled, the soldier licentious and profligate and such state of affairs needs but the presence of the public enemy to produce anarchy, desolation, ruin and famine. To such condition we, as a nation, are rapidly approaching. The northern districts has been deserted, citizens, despoiled, of their property by lawless violence, have been compelled to abandon their homes and seek south of the mountains refuge and subsistence. These people have been forced on their more favored fellow citizens at a time when there was not sufficient raised in the uplands, in consequence of the summer's drought to support the resident population. Besides that, the collection of cavalry on Red River, at points where supplies are to be found, is rapidly consuming the substance which is the only hope of preventing famine from visiting the land. To alleviate present suffering, provide against absolute want, to inaugurate some policy that will, in the future, secure the production of ample subsistence for our population, to adopt some concerted plan which the civil department may be continued in force, and a security to persons

and property felt, tranquility and unity maintained among our own people, and also our allied friends. And to submit for your consideration other subjects affecting the present and future welfare of our constituents, I have deemed it an imperative duty, to convene you in extraordinary session.

The presence of the enemy on our borders, the impossibility of obtaining the necessary accommodations, the proximity of Armstrong Academy to contagious disease and the public interest, in my judgment requiring an extra-session of the General Council, I deemed it not only constitutional, but prudent to convene you at Good Water Seminary. Here we are not only relieved from those apprehensions of danger and the scarcity of the necessities of life to which I have referred, but the opportunity will be afforded, which has been very much desired of conferring with the Military Authorities in relation to the general welfare of the country.

Civil government derives its force from those social and moral institutions which create a public opinion, that imparts to law all its virtue and power. These civilizing and moralizing influences are ineffective when civil government is not permanent in its own sphere of action, to the military; and especially is this the case when the soldier is not subjected to the most rigid discipline. When discipline is lax, the soldier becomes licentious, the citizen unscrupulous and selfish, and too many embrace the opportunity presented by such state of society to act as though the public misfortune legalized the invasion and robbery of private rights of individuals. Such acts constituted

by our own professed friends, are not only illegal and oppressive, but they lead to anarchy and a species of despotism more intolerable to the minds of some than the public enemy. True liberty is the subordination of all classes to the rule of justice — to those wholesome and salutary restraints, civil and military, which give ample protection, secures social order, preserves and magnifies the popular mind and operates on the individual character by increasing his abilities to contribute to the general welfare. Properly considered, there is no subject of equal importance to that which embraces the consideration, and adoption, of some policy by which the national Government may be continued in all its vigor, person and property protected, our resources developed and economized for the preservation, of our people and the strengthening of the national arm of defence. To obtain an object so desirable and patriotic, it is suggested that such legislation be adopted as will enoble the civil and military authorities to cooperate in the most efficient and determined enforcement of law against all offenders. Whether in or out of the army. Such obnoxious characters are to be found in the camps, but the brave and patriotic soldier respects and obeys his superiors and the rule of discipline by which all should be governed; and by his conscientious regard for law and private rights of individuals produces cheerfulness and hope by such honorable and true soldierlike bearing. While the petty thief — the horse thief of the country — who flees on the approach of danger, produces anxiety in the home of toil, and despair in the breast of the patriot by

This disregard of law, human and divine,
The Nation, has continued to appreciate the Confederate money by receiving it at par value. It is for your wisdom to determine whether it can be received as an equivalent of gold and silver or not. Such policy would lessen our means and diminish our ability in contributing to the common defense. It is the experience of every one that few articles can be purchased with Confederate paper and then only at ruinous rates of discount. In fact the articles in which our people are most in need, are generally of foreign production, the purchase of which requires specie, or those staple commodities which are readily convertible into specie. It would appear, at first view, that patriotism and liberality should induce us to receive those funds at par value, but the question is not one of patriotism, but of dollars, and bearing in mind the necessities of the people, can we afford to make the heavy sacrifice in order to give an exhibition of our loyalty and liberality; especially so, when the Confederate People upon whose property that paper credit is based, have done more, by speculation, to depreciate its value and weaken their Government, than any other known cause. Besides that, the Confederate States has by law or regulation governing in the collection of taxes on gold and silver coin, fixed the permanent value of the Confederate money at the rate of one of the former for twenty of the latter; and in the states, no individual who holds an obligation of indebtedness, payable in gold or silver, or par funds, will receive payment in Confederate paper at any discount. If the Congress that issued

those bills of credit and the people who really owe the amount due on the face of the paper, depreciate its value; it is natural that others will secure it at the value thus assessed. Further more the confidence of the Choctaw people, in the financial abilities of the Confederate Congress, has introduced and continued in circulation, as a medium of exchange, the Confederate paper; and that confidence has subjected them to a tax of thirty three and one third cents on the dollar, which in spirit and in fact, con-travenes that article of the Treaty, which negatives the right of congress to tax the Choctaw people for the support of the present or any future war in which the Confederate States may engage.

The scarcity of agricultural implements in the Nation requires some legislation for the supply of that want, that the earth may be forced to yield of its bounty for the subsistence of the population; and furthermore, the adoption of some system that will secure to the families of soldiers such an amount of subsistence as will guard them against the possibility of want or suffering.

In complying with that provision of the Treaty with the Confederate States which requires the Nation to furnish additional troops on requisition of the President but not out of a fair proportion to the population, it is necessary to ascertain what is a fair proportion of the population, for it would be unwise to call all the male population to the field, unless they were the owners, like citizens in the States, of slaves who could produce

The necessary supplies for their families while they were battling with the enemy. But such is not the condition, of the Choctaws, but few, comparatively, own slaves, while hundreds have but one horse with which to make a crop; and when such persons are engaged in the service of the country their families must look to the surplus produced by those who remain at home to sustain them. It is therefore wise and prudent that a sufficient number remain at home to produce the necessary subsistence; yet in case of invasion, it is recommended, that some plan be devised by which every man capable of bearing arms can be made available in repelling the enemy.

In the fifty first Article of the Treaty with the Confederate States, the Nation is bound to furnish additional troops upon the requisition of the President, yet the manner of raising, officering and the law that shall govern formations, is to be determined by the Choctaw Nation, through the General Council. In this you are acting as a sovereign Nation. I would, therefore, recommend the passage of a general Military law which recognizes the volunteer system as just and efficient, that secures to members of companies the right to choose all their officers by popular vote, that secures to the officers and privates of Regiments the right to choose by popular voice their brigades or general officers, and in filling vacancies that exist or that may occur in any company, regiment or brigade of Choctaw troops, merit alone should be the rule of action, to be determined by the popular vote of the company, regiment or brigade in which such vacancies

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may exist. The soldier is more competent to select his commander than any other can be, who need the trying associations of the camp, the march, the bivouac and the battle, where merit is discovered and qualities of command thoroughly tested. Appointments over men without their consent, is illiberal and anti-democratic; and promotions by seniority is a relic of ages past, but the rule of merit is one of justice which would greatly increase the efficiency and invincibility of the army. In such cases fall should regard gallant and meritorious conduct on the field, soldierly bearing in camps and respect and obedience to civil law as the chief qualities that should govern in conferring promotions.

In connection with the accompanying letter (marked A) from the Cotton Bureau addressed to Genl Maxey referring to the interview with our Agent, Col. Sampson Holsoe, I will submit for your consideration some fundamental truths which underlie and govern the political systems of the South, with such inferences, as the facts assumed seem to justify, in relation to the subject matter embraced in the interview, to which the letter refers. Is this nation a sovereignty or a territory in an inchoate or forming state. It is assumed, that this nation is a sovereignty; a proposition at once self evident and also susceptible of proof; for it is declared in the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, that all power is inherent in the people. There is the source of sovereign power; and in General Council you act under that instrument which is the limitation of your power; and all

power not delegated in that constitution, nor located away in stipulations with the Confederate States, inheres in the people of the Choctaw Nation, the original source of sovereign power. That sovereignty acting nationally or constitutionally through its commissioners, formed a defensive alliance with the Confederate States of America by treaty stipulations. Those stipulations place the nation under the protektorate of those states, and also binds the nation to furnish troops for defensive warfare within the limits of the nation. There is not, however, any power granted in the treaty, nor denied to the nation, which places the organization and direction of its troops, when cooperating with, and under the general officers of the Confederate States, beyond the control of the Choctaw authorities. And there is no power or right delegated in the treaty, which authorizes the Confederate States Congress to impose a tax on the people of this nation; nor is such right or power to be obtained by any ordinary rule of constructive implication.

Taxes are either direct or indirect. They are direct ~~as~~ when assessment is made on property of individuals, personal and real, and collected per capita; and indirect when duties are imposed on exports which the producer or owner pays. It is conceded by all who have examined the subject, that there is no power conferred on the Confederate Congress, either by express grant or implication, to impose a direct tax on the Choctaw people, and by a parity of argument no ingenuity can devise any rule of construction, that will, by implication, confer the power on Congress to impose any indirect tax on the labor or products of this people. But fortunately for the interest

The virtue and intelligence of the people being the foundation, on which liberal government relies for strength and durability. It is recommended that the common schools, that have been suspended, be re-opened whenever practicable, and in furtherance of an object so important to the future of our people, I call your attention to Article Seven, section, seventeen, of the Constitution, and recommend such legislation, as will assure permanency and efficiency to a system of common schools.

Under Article forty nine of the treaty between the Choctaws and Chickasaws and the Confederate States, the former nations bind themselves to raise, jointly, a regiment of ten companies to serve in the Confederate army for the term of twelve months. That Regiment was raised and served out the time for which it was engaged, but it was almost entirely composed of Choctaws. Whilst nothing should be detracted from our Chickasaw friends, it is a matter of fact which should be known in the history of the contest, that, that Regiment was the first Choctaw. Such being ^{the} fact, I protest against the future application of the term, "Chickasaw," to that Regiment.

After several years delay, I regret, I cannot report the reception of the arms promised us, by the Confederate States. Insurmountable difficulties, have, doubtless, interposed, yet neglect of duty or improper interference with the supplies destined for the Indian country has been the principle cause of detention, and consequent disappointment. However, I have the assurance of Genl Maxey, that no effort will be wanting on his part to furnish, at an early day as possible,

the arms required to place the Choctaws on a war footing.

In compliance with the Act providing for the enrollment of indigent families and the families of soldiers, I commissioned the enrolling Officers last October, but I have received no report from them. In consequence of the failure of the enrolling Officers to make a report, I was induced to address Maj Genl Claxton, soliciting his aid and co-operation in regard to the object contemplated in the Act to which I have referred. A copy of which letter, I herewith transmit (Marked B).

The Agents elected at your last session for the purchase of Cotton Cards have complied with the law by executing the necessary bonds and are as, I learn, on the way to the point where the articles are to be purchased.

In raising troops, the volunteer system operates so efficiently and expeditiously, that few can be found who would substitute the draft or any other arbitrary mode of raising troops. Whilst that system leaves the defence of the Country to the patriotic and voluntary will of the citizens; it also enables the selfish to shirk their portion of the public service. All honor then to the patriotic volunteer, and shame on those who have the health and strength, but not the will, or courage, to serve their country.

The Nation having secured the right to export the National Cotton. The propriety and expediency of having a regular Agent who will keep our people supplied with articles of foreign productions and of absolute necessity at the lowest possible cost, is suggested for your consideration. The Agent ^{should} be a man of general benevolence, energy and integrity of character, and not a man, whose individual wants, alone, recommend him for the position.

Not having received the Treasurer's Report, I am unable to make you any statement of the financial condition of the Nation. If there are no funds on hand some financial policy should be adopted that will supply the deficiency, and provide for all contingencies anticipated. Such funds, when provided, should be honestly, judiciously and economically expended.

It will afford me, on all occasions, unqualified pleasure, when conferring with the General Council, in relation to such public measures as will redound to the present and future happiness of the Nation.

The communication, (Marked C) is submitted for such action, as you may deem necessary. I also, herewith transmit communications (Marked D and E) relative to the Indian Friends.

The Confederate cause was never in a more prosperous condition. Success has attended our arms in every Military Department. And in the Spring campaign, the South will be able to Marshall the veteran Army of the Continent. Our prospects seem to brighten with the increase of days. But notwithstanding our cause is hopeful for the victory and determination, of the South, we should remember that northern fanaticism has reaffirmed its purpose, in the re-election of Lincoln, to continue this war to the bitter end - our subjugation or extirmination. We must expect, therefore, if we are unconquerable in our determination to be free, that this war, with all its incidents, will be prolonged to an indefinite period.

Let us, therefore, Choctaws, in this great crisis which involves the welfare of the present and future be united as one man. Let us reverence the Religion of the Bible and obey the laws, civil and military. Let us, calmly, survey our situation, in all its bearings, immediate and prospective. Let us act calmly, wisely, and bravely. Let us take Council of our duty and our honor, and not of our danger and our fears. Let us invoke the guardian spirit of our ancestors virtues, and the blessings of Almighty God and, sublimely, accept that condition the future may assign us. Let us, if we are

Fellow Citizens of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives

The emergencies of our national affairs again require me to convene you in Extra Session. — My Proclamation was issued convening the General Council in Extra Session on the 25th of June last, which was thought by all to beeminently necessary and required at the time.

But the arrival of Military Commissioners of the United States in the Chedchar Country, and the agreement made with them to send Civil Commissioners from their Government to treat with us in our Country, did away with the necessity of the Council at that time. The Proclamation was therefore revoked. It was desirable on the part of the Federal Authorities to meet us at as early a day as possible, owing to the unsettled state of affairs, and to get the advantage of grass &c. You will perceive that the convocation of the General Council could not be dispensed with at this time, as the 1st of September was the time fixed for the U.S. Commissioners to arrive, therefore it was necessary that the Council should be in session for the purpose.

of appointing Commissioners to meet them at
the time designated, I apprehend that there
is no constitutional impediment to this Session
extending into the regular Session, should events
and our Affairs require it. The time has now arrived
Gentlemen for us to meet and contemplate questions
and principles in which the future destiny of
our people is involved. Let us meet them with
calmness, firmness, and deliberation and prove
ourselves equal to the occasion; and evince an
unyielding determination to be guided by the
precept of Truth and wisdom. We are bound to
place upon public record and which will
become future history, the motives and causes
that activated the Octarian faction in the late
momentous struggle between the citizens of the
United States. The causes that led to that
illfated and unhappy struggle had been
in agitation with more or less violence and
contention for the past forty years and that was
nothing more or less than the institution of
African Slavery. This is essentially the "Milk
of their woes" This question is at the bottom
of the whole of it. The great Pandora box from

which all the evil sprung. It is not necessary for me to enter into a discussion of the merits of that question, from the fact that it is now effectually settled, once and forever. And settled in such manner as leaves no ground for appeal no demurrer can be filed, the arbitration of the sword has forever consigned it to oblivion.

It is a well known historical fact that the hand of hostility, has never before been raised against the citizens of the United States by the Choctaws, on the other hand they have ever been faithful, trustful and confiding, and many battle fields have illustrated their devotion and fidelity to the white people of that Government, and the hostile hand would not have been raised in the late war, had not impulsive circumstances over which they had no control impelled them. We regarded the contest as a white man's war - a matter to be settled by themselves and in which the Choctaws had no wish to interfere, We regarded it as a ~~simply a political war among the great powers~~ fuss among the pale faced family to be settled in their own way and what ever may have been the action of the Choctaw Nation

at the commencement of the war, impartial history will show that they acted from motives of self preservation and national protection. We were told we could not occupy a neutral position in the contest, and that we were compelled to take sides. Our feeble physical force could offer no resistance. ^{We were without arms &c} Our proximity to two powerful Slave States, Arkansas and Texas, was such that it was declared that our neutrality would be the portal through which they would be assailed. They said those who rose not for them, was against them. ^{and friendless and forsaken} Now ^{as always they comes out this principle towards those & their} appeal to every candid man and unprincipled man in the United States, was it not better for the Choctaw Nation to join hands with the Southern States, and thereby avert the deluge of war from their Country, to a considerable extent, than to have attempted neutrality, and thereby had the country seized and taken possession of by the South, and the battle field with all its smothering desolation brought to our doors. This was the position in which we were placed. The Government of the United States was at that time

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was powerless to protect us, such was the magnitude of the revolution, they abandoned the Military Posts established in our Country for our protection, It is not for me to enquire into their motive for this, We know that we were left to work out our own salvation, We were left under fire, and no ~~attempt~~ alternative left us but to fall back behind the entrenchments of the South to avoid annihilation. The entire argument can be placed in a nutshell. The Choctaw Nation was compelled to pursue the course she did, A regard for those who were near and dear to us prompted it, National safety prompted it, self defence prompted it, and lastly the protection of our homes, families and friends prompted it, such are the force of circumstances in National as well as individual affairs, I feel assured that the Government of the United States under these statements of facts, and in consideration of our past history, will treat with us in a liberal and generous manner, no good could be derived from pursuing a different policy - She has ever done so in the past

and we trust will continue to do so in the future. ~~and~~ God ~~knows~~ we have suffered enough

The result of this war has left our once prosperous and happy country in an impoverished and almost helpless condition, ^{thousands} Our people have been brought to ~~the stage of~~ want and suffering. Our stock has been driven off and mostly destroyed and that by those who should have been our friends, a large number of our homes have been burned and fencing destroyed. Our agricultural interest have been necessarily neglected, and farming implements have been worn out, and without material for more. This lamentable condition of affairs, Gentlemen demand your immediate and grave attention. We must make up our minds to fall in with the great current of human thought, which has in the last few years undergone a great change. Old things and systems are being laid aside and new ones are rapidly taking their place. We must bend to the ^{civilized} world, we cannot expect the world to bend to us. Great changes and innovations

are being made in the moral social and political world. If we would avoid being left behind or dragged along in the rear of this great car of progress we must take our position upon its platform and do all in our power to land it at a point of ^{Safety} perfection, as near as it is possible for human efforts to attain. The old fountains of thought and feeling are being filled up and destroyed, by the errors and inconsistencies of the past, and new ones are springing and bursting into life and vigor. We must bring our minds to think of things as they are, not as they once were, we must get rid this new channel and keep in it. We must go to work and keep at it, ^{and work as we never worked before} This will insure competency, respect and happiness.

Such Policy on the part of the Nation should be immediately adopted as will as near as possible repair past damages and bring security for the future. This is your province and our people earnestly look to you in this their time of National calamity.

Now as peace has been made every
good citizen will do all in his power to
restore order, confidence and harmony.
It has been said that "when the wicked
reign the people mourn". Let not this ~~not~~
be said of us. Good men must combine
to keep down the bad ones.

To perform this greatly desired object
no better plan can be adopted than a
strict and unflinching administration
of the civil laws of the Country. This must
be done. We must show ourselves capable
of our domestic and internal Government.
We are not entitled to the protection of
Law if we cannot have the Law enforced.
Our citizens have a right to expect that
they will be protected in their person and
property. This is the highest object known
to Governments and they are failures if
they come short of this. If we expect good
men to remain among us, who are capable
of helping and assisting us we must protect
them and let them feel that they are and
will be protected. We should encourage —

intelligence and ability, and exclude ignorance
and ~~jealousy~~^{from} and ~~prejudice,~~ ^{as will enable} rendering them

We sincerely trust that the United States
will pursue such policy towards us to ~~us~~^a as will enable
reestablish our system of Common Schools.
~~in the Christian Country.~~ What we most
need is the general diffusion of light and
knowledge among our people. Let the
principles of a liberal education be propaga-
ted broad cast through out our Country
and our people encouraged to send their
children to School.

Christianity and enlightenment are the
great corner stones of a nations stability
and durability. Let the divine teachings
of the Bible be ~~again brought out~~^{acknowledged} and relied
upon and we are safe. We need good
Schools in every neighborhood in the Nation,
taught by competent and elevated instruc-
tors.

Open wide the doors and earnestly
invite good moral and capable persons
from every quarter, from every direction to
come among us, and train and develope the

minds of our children. In this policy is embodied the perpetuation, safety and well-being of our people. A liberal effective and well-regulated system of Common Schools are to a nation what the heart is to the body, the source of vigor, strength and life.

Rivers and Industrial Missionaries should be encouraged to come and live among us in every County. Nothing has such an effect to refine and elevate the morals of our citizens as the habitual and regular preaching of the Gospel. Judging the future from the past great good would be derived from the general establishment of these Christian men among us.

A large number of persons (women) in the United States I am satisfied would willingly come and locate among us for a small compensation and instruct our women in the now all important and useful art of domestic manufacture, weaving, dyeing &c This question is now of great importance and interest to the Choctaws, they should earnestly turn their attention to it we have all the

material elements in our Country of clothing
our population, much better and cheaper
than by importation, besides the moral ad-
vantages derived from regular and constant
employment. It has been truly said "that
an idle mans brain is the devils work shop"
Habits of patient industry, bring health
wisdom and happiness. Let the people learn
to supply by their labor their own wants and
demands.

A large area of the Choctaw Country is
well adapted to the raising of stock. Much
attention should be given to this subject.
We should endeavor to improve upon our stock
and labor to attain the greatest perfection.
Stock in this Country is our chief and principal
reliance, and its value could be greatly in-
creased by care and proper attention. The
blood should be extensively intermixed
to prevent degeneration. Stock raising
could be made a source of great profit
and advantage if the proper means are
brought to bear, to render it so.
Sheep raising should more particularly

engage our attention. Wool is much needed
and has always been in active demand,
If we would have comfortable clothing when
the chills of winter come we must have ~~wool~~
to get the wool we must have raise the
sheep. We can and certainly ought to produce
an ample amount of good wool for all pur-
poses of domestic manufacture. Our people
are sadly deficient in ^{all} the improvements
and labor saving elements of modern agri-
culture. We must learn the principles of
the economy of production. We can always
produce an abundance of every thing neces-
sary for domestic consumption. Our land
is productive and yields a generous return
for ordinary labor the seasons are generally
regular and uniform. Why then should
we not have every thing in profusion in
the way of subsistence? Ball Playing can
be much better performed with a stomach
full of wholesome meat and bread drawn
from the bountiful stores at home than
otherwise. It is to be greatly hoped that
these practical suggestions will meet the

approbation of our citizens, and it may now
be hoped that they will without delay put
them in practice.

I lately received a very frank and
cordial communication from the Federal
Commander at Fort Smith Ark to the effect
that as far as was in his power the Cherokees
should be protected in person and property
and it was desired that those who had
left their homes should return, and that
all stock taken out of the Nation for the use
of the United States Government should be
paid for. I recently issued an Amnesty
and pardoning Proclamation to those of
our citizens who had placed themselves under
Federal protection during the war, which
has been gladly and gratefully accepted
and I find that a number of these persons
have been of use to us in keeping an accurate
list of the Marks and brands of Stock taken
out of the Nation and drove to Fort Smith

I would recommend that competent Com-
missioners ^{be appointed} by you immediately to meet the
Federal Commissioners for the purpose of
entering into ^{permanent} Treaty stipulations with the

I would further recommend that you select some competent person to collect, arrange and codify the laws of the Nation. Our acts of Council are in a deplorable condition, it being difficult to ascertain what laws have been enacted for the past four or five years, and if suffered to remain longer in this condition every thing will get into inextricable confusion. The laws should be collected, codified and printed, and they should be translated into Choctaw. This subject should receive your early attention, and appropriations made therefore, and in such amount as will secure the services of a faithful and competent person or persons.

I would further recommend that you adopt some measure for the establishment of a printing press in the Nation. A good newspaper is greatly needed not only as an organ of the Government but a source of value and instruction to our citizens. And we can surely have our own printing done in both languages much cheaper.

Now that peace is made let us all exert ourselves to make it permanent.

It is much to be lamented that during this unnatural strife the Choctaws were brought by the fortunes of war in deadly array against their brothers of other tribes. This should never be. Let there be fraternal and kindly feeling between all.

"No more ~~the~~ ^{gusty entrals of} ~~fire~~ ^{fire} on the soil
Shall dab her lips with her own childrens blood
No more shall trenching war channel her fields
Nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hoofs of
Hostile paces, those opposed eyes,
Which like the meteors of a troubled heaven
All of one nature - of one substance bid'
Did lately meet in the intestine shock
And dubious close of civil butchery.
Shall now in mutual well be seeming ranks
March all one way - and be no more opposed
Against acquaintance, kindred and allies;
The edge - of war, like an ill sheathed knife
No man shall cut his master."

Now that peace is come let us all turn from the war path, and get in that of friendship. Let us learn the art of friendship peace, and convert the implements of war into those of usefulness and industry. Let us trust that kind Providence will henceforth ever avert from our beloved Country the ravaging and desolating hand of war. And humbly pray

that the time is not far distant when the
nations of the earth shall learn war no more
then and not till then, may we expect the
sun of the milenial morn to burst upon a sin-
cursed and blood-stained land in all ^{her} resplendent
and ~~resplendent~~ glory.

May the God of Nations ever be our shield
and tower of strength.

Executive Department

September 1st 1865.

P P Patchin

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Copy of Treaty Stipulations made and
entered into on the 19th day of June A.D. 1865 at
Doakesville C.H. between Lieut. Col. A. C. Mathews and
Adjutant William H. Vance, Commissioners appointed by
Military authorities of the U.S. and P.P. Pitchlynn
Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw nation
on the part of said nation as follows, to wit:

Art. first. All acts of hostility on the part of both
armies having ceased (by virtue of a convention entered
into on the 26th day of May A.D. 1865 between Major
General E. R. S. Canby U.S.A. commanding Military
Division of West Mississippi, and General E. Kirby Smith
C.S.A. Commanding Trans-Mississippi Department,) the
Indians of the Choctaw nation here represented (lately allied
with the Confederate States in acts of hostilities against the
Government of the United States) do agree at once to return
to their respective homes, and there remain at peace with
the United States, and offer no indignity whatever or
commit any acts of hostilities against the Whites, or Indians
of the various tribes who have been friendly to, or engaged in
the service of the United States during the war.

Art. second. - It is stipulated by the undersigned Commissioners on the part of the United States that so long as the Indians aforesaid observe the provisions of Article first, of this agreement, they shall be protected by the U. S. authorities in their person and property not only from encroachments, on the part of the Whites, but also from the Indians who have been engaged in the service of the United States.

Art. third. - The above articles of agreement to remain and be in full force and effect, until the meeting of the Grand Council, to meet at Armstrong Academy Choctaw Nation on the first day of September A.D. 1865 and until such time as the proceedings of said Council shall be ratified by the proper authorities, both of the Choctaw Nation and the United States.

In testimony whereof the said Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Mathews and Adjutant William H. Vance Commissioners on the part of the United States, and P. P. Pitchlynn Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw Nation hereto set their hands.

(Signed) A. C. Mathews Lt Col. U. S. Vol.

(Signed) W. H. Vance Adjutant } Commissioners

(Signed) P. P. Pitchlynn P. C. C. N.

(Copy of Commissioners Letter of instructions)

Head Quarters Northern Louisiana

Shreveport La June 9th 1863.

Col A. C. Mathews - Commissioner

My Dear Sir:

You will proceed with as little delay as possible to Fort Towson, and from that point to Council Grove, where a Grand Council is now being held at which the different tribes of Indians in the Territory and Western Texas are represented, and will present to Genl Throckmorton and Col Reagan the Commissioners of the Confederate States, the official documents in your possession addressed to them. These Commissioners will give you every assistance in their power in accomplishing the object of your mission which is to make a temporary treaty or alliance with the Indians in behalf of the United States.

You can state to the council that the war between the Confederate States, and the United States is at an end, the entire Confederate army having surrendered and turned over all arms and public property to the agent of the United States, that hereafter the Government at Washington will control the entire Country as formerly;

that it is the desire of the United States to be on terms of friendship with all the Indian Tribes: that the object can be accomplished by their returning to their homes and remaining quietly, not interfering in any way with the whites or with the Indians who have been in the U.S. service; that if they do so the United States will not interfere with them, that they can prepare an address to the Government at Washington and hand it to you for transmittal, or send a bearer in whom you ~~confide~~^{trust} to this place to be forwarded to Washington, you will also suggest that another Grand Council be held about the first of August at some point in the Territory, at which council commissioners direct from Washington will meet with the council and arrange a full and complete Treaty; These are the main points any you will use every exertion in making an agreement with the tribes for peace and quiet. The cavalry force now being prepared for operation in the Indian Country will not be sent if the council will agree that the different Tribes shall keep quiet. Upon completing this mission you will return to this point and report.

Respectfully etc.
(Signed) S. C. J. Herron
Major General.

Executive Department
Choctaw Nation June 19th. 1865

Whereas:-

Commissioners duly accredited by the United States Military authorities were sent to the grand council of all the tribes of Indians lately convened at Armstrong academy with authority to treat on the subject of peace between the Indian Tribes, and the United States Government, and.

Whereas. Said commissioners did not arrive in our Country in time to take a part with the authorities of said council but have arrived at this place and conferred with authorities of this nation, and
Whereas. It is the earnest desire of this people to have an honorable and a lasting peace, and to resume their former and friendly relations with the United States authorities.

Now therefore I P.P. Pitchlynn Principal Chief and Governor of the Choctaw Nation do make and publish this my proclamation, - That by the authority in me vested and by and in accordance with our agreement entered into this day between the said commissioners on the part of the United States and the undersigned

There will be a Grand Council of all the Indians of the Indian confederation, and the Indians of Prairie to be convened and held on the 1st Day of September A.D. 1865, at Armstrong Academy in the Choctaw Nation at which time and place there will be duly authorized Commissioners from the authorities of the United States to treat on the subject of a permanent and lasting peace.

It is earnestly recommended and requested that the various tribes meet at their respective places of meeting at the earliest practicable date, and appoint their commissioners to attend said Grand Council. It is also agreed with the Commissioners aforesaid that there shall be an immediate cessation of hostilities on the part of the contending parties that the Indians of the various tribes who have been engaged in war against the United States shall at once disband and return to their respective homes that they may return to their usual avocations, and that they shall not be interfered with or disturbed by the United States authorities so long as friendly relations exist. The importance of a grand council of the character of the contemplated at this juncture of our history under the circumstances that surround us cannot be

overestimated.

Our late allies in war, the confederate armies have long since ceased to resist the national authorities they have all either been captured or surrendered to the forces of the United States. It therefore becomes us as a brave people to forget and lay aside our prejudices, and to prove ourselves equal to the occasion, let reason obtain now that the sway of passion has passed, and let us meet in Council with a proper spirit and resume our former relations with the U. S. Government.

Signed P. P. Pitchlynn

True Copy

Respectfully furnished to Hon James Harlan
Secretary of the Interior for his information

J. J. Reynolds
Major General
Commanding

Executive Department

Choctaw Nation September 1st 1866

To the Honorable the Grand Council of the Confederate Nations.

Gentlemen

In June last I met Commissioners sent to the Indian Territory by the Military Authorities of the United States to arrange terms for a cessation of hostilities &c. between the Indians and that Government. At that time a temporary Treaty was made and concluded but without a ^{formal} surrender as prisoners of war. It was also agreed at that time that the Grand Council of the Confederate Nations should be convened at Armstrong Academy on the 1st of September to meet the Commissioners from the United States Government to make a permanent and lasting Treaty. In accordance with the above understanding I issued my Proclamation convening the Grand Council at Armstrong ^{on} the 1st of September for the purpose specified. I received on the 8th of August a communication from Brig Gen Cyrus Bussey Comdg at Fort

Smith, stating that he was directed by the Secretary of the
Interior to inform me that the Commissioners on the
part of the United States would meet the Delegates of
all the Indian Tribes at Fort Smith Ark on the 1st of
September and that subsistence &c would be provided
by the U.S. Government. This was the 1st intimation
I had of the change. It is a matter of regret in some
respects that we could not meet at Armstrong, but as the
time and place of meeting is definitely designated, we
will acquiesce in the arrangement. For the benefit
of those who have not seen my Proclamation issued
on the 18th of June last or heard it interpreted I will
here recapitulate its main points. The Military Commiss-
ioners of the U.S. were to meet the Grand Council which
assembled on the 10th of June at Armstrong Academy
but they did not arrive so late to take part arrived so
late for that purpose and therefore entered into agree-
ments with the National Authorities "It is the earnest
desire of this people to have a lasting and honorable peace
and to resume their former friendly relations with the
Government of the United States. That there will be a

Grand Council of all the Tribes of the Indian Confederation
held at Armstrong Academy on the 1st of September 1865 to
meet duly appointed Commissioners from the United States
to treat on the subject of a permanent peace. It was earnestly
recommended and requested that the various tribes meet
at their respective places of meeting as soon as possible to
appoint their Commissioners to attend said Grand Council.
It was also agreed with the said Commissioners that there
should be an immediate cessation of all hostilities on the
part of the contending parties. That the Indians of the various
tribes who have been engaged in war against the U.S.,
should at once disband and return peacefully to their homes
and resume their usual avocations and that they should
not be interfered with by the U.S. Authorities so long as friendly
relations existed. It was urged that the great importance
of a Grand Council of the one contemplated, and under
the circumstances that surrounded us could not be over-
estimated. Our late Allies in hostility the armies of the
~~United~~ States Confederate States had long since ceased to resist
the National Authority. They had either all been cap-
tured or surrendered to the forces of the United States.

It therefore becomes us to lay aside all prejudice and
prove ourselves equal to the occasion. I would earnestly
urge upon all the Tribes of the Confederation the necessity
of making peace with the Government of the United States.
Let peaceful avocations be again resumed. I would ^{say} ~~recommend~~
to our Brothers of the Prairies that agricultural
pursuits will have to be soon adopted as a permanent
means of obtaining subsistence, the Country North, South,
East and West is being rapidly settled by the enterprising
and ever progressive white man, and the precarious mode
of obtaining subsistence by hunting will soon have to be
abandoned. Let them learn to imitate their more adona-
a and civilized Brothers in the adoption of the Arts and
Sciences. Let them encourage the establishment of schools
Let them locate permanently at some desirable section
and cease to roam over large tracts of Country and
invite good steady Christian men to reside among
them and teach them the ^{mores and} manners of civilization.
Let fraternal and kindly feelings exist between all. Nothing is ever
to be gained by war. On the late war we were compelled by the force

of circumstances to participate, self preservation dictated our course of action. I would say to our Brothers of the Prairies and Mountains that they should use every effort to bring about peace and friendship between those of other Tribes who are now engaged in war with the United States and they should endeavor to bring about the establishments of a permanent and enduring peace between all the Indians and the Government of the United States. They could not interfere with emigrants and trains travelling over the plains, but show them every kindness in their power. Let every effort be directed to the reestablishment of Peace. Let the arts of peace be cultivated and developed and learn war no more, We have ever been the greatest sufferers in war, May the God of Nations be our shield and protection in this our time of trial,

P. S. Pitchlynn