

Mandeville, St. Tammany, La.

1850 or 51

Copies

My dear Sir,

Excuse me if I take the

liberty of writing you. Many years ago, you came to Louisiana, stopped and dined

at my brother's (Felix Rouquette) house, in St. Tammany parish, where you endeavored

to gather the scattered members of the Choctaw tribe. I am a great friend of the Indians

in general, and especially of the Choctaw. I am a black-robe missionary. I wish very

much to learn the Choctaw language, so as to speak and write it. I have seen some

members of the Choctaw Intelligencer, and no doubt there are books in Choctaw,

that might be very useful to me. Will you not be so kind as to write if there are, how

I may procure them, to whom I may write, and if possible, could you not send me

by mail the most elementary and a dictionary. In the doing, you cannot

wing me the service you would render me, and how grateful I would be.

Am I asking too much? Shall I be decried  
in appealing to a Choctaw gentleman and  
scholar? My confidence, has it been  
misplaced? Not so, I am sure!  
I am an American, a native of Louisiana,  
I have known and loved the Choctaws from  
my childhood; I would do all that is in  
the power of my charity to instruct and  
educate them, to evangelize and save their souls.  
If necessary to learn the language I will go to  
Doakville and pass some months among the  
Choctaw Nation. Yet, if I could have  
some books, a grammar, dictionary and  
class book, rudiments of the language, I  
might remain here, begin ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> achieve  
my sacred mission, my apostolic ~~and~~  
ministry. You will help me I am sure;  
or at least, you will write me, and tell  
me what I may do to procure what I wish.  
As I am uncertain whether my letter shall reach  
you or not, I will not prolong <sup>it</sup> <sup>the time</sup> and  
hoping soon an answer, believe me, Sir,  
your most respectful and obedient servant

A. Ronguetto

P. P. Pritchard, Esq

1813-1887

My address is:

Rev? Adrian Ronguetto

~~St. Tammany parish~~  
Mandeville

St. Tammany parish  
Louisiana.

P. S. Anything forwarded with that address  
shall reach me safe. A. R.