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Choctaw Agency, ^{Id}
August 31 1853

Dear friend

I have just received a list of members from your district to the next General Council. I don't think out of the whole lot more than one or two that have given any attention to the future welfare of the country - It was my hope Mr. Samuel Garland would be elected to Council. However I supposed one chief system operate against him. In this district every man who come out and advocated one chief was elected - we are far ahead of your district - Time has come that we must be a wide awake and be doing some thing for future prosperity of our nation, but how the nation can be safe when their council men are composed of uneducated incapable of doing any thing for the nation - It is really discouraging, and if it was not that I want you to go to Washington I would stay at home and let them see what they can do. There are several important matter which ought to be discuss at next Council for instance rail road project which is to pass through our county - efforts are now in progress to make rail road to California - and another to commence from St. Louis to Texas through some part of our nation.

The subject of worthy consideration, and our delegation
should be instructed to do some thing at Washington
now and in what manner it should be made, if
done at all — I have given some attention to
the subject and I can see to the conclusion that
to oppose the rail road passing through our
country would be doing serious injury to our
country — Suppose you and I speak on it
next Council at some night — and
another important matter which I have had
in view for some time passed — that is subject
of being four Tribes. the Choctaws. the Chickasaw.
the Cherokees and the Creek under one General
Government. It is a deep subject and my opinion
one of the most important matter of our day.
it would be the means of preserving the
race of red men for years to come, but
under the existing circumstances I can't see
how we can well remain long as nation
If I am wrong I wish to be put right
this ought to discuss to at Council —

Politics at home is becoming perfectly
odious — however we are pretty quiet over here
all aim for the general good of the Nation
our most able men are elected to the Council

I have been down somewhat under the weather
of few days back, but I am improving and
hope to meet you next Nov at Doakville
to talk more of the affairs of the Nation

Sought exceedingly to learn the death of
Lewis Gorlond - Nation have lost one worthy
young man. And the Community in which
he lived - please let me hear from
you occasionally about things generally
on your side of the Mountain

Your friend
Thomas McElhinny

Col. P.P. Pitchlynn