

Armstrong Academy  
March 28<sup>th</sup> 1856.

Judge Garland.

Dear Friend.

It is to be hoped that you will not be greatly insulted to hear from the nation! For it is always pleasant to receive a letter whether containing much or little news from one's native country or home - when absent from that which is called "home". No great or important event has occurred, since you left here - with the exception that several boats have been up to the "City of Doaksville", and one has been up as far as Preston - and has just gone down below - on this week's Tuesday. The arrivals of boats may not interest you much because you delegates fare sumptuously every day on City fare, but we Tafola folks at home think considerable of the arrival of boats - because we hope to have some coffee to drink - which is the only dainty we have in these parts of the "diggins". - We have made but very little progress at this school, for we all have been laboring under great many

disadvantages ever since I came here.  
With much truth the poet has said,  
"Dust thou art, to dust returnest—

Was not spoken of the soul."

For we have been living in the dirt through the whole of the past winter. We are creatures of the dust; but much more by practice. But in our case it seemed unavoidable for accident will happen even to the well regulated families. — I must stop discouraging on general subjects and dwell more on home-department which the philosophers call "self interested benevolence". It is your part to act with disinterested benevolence, but mine to act for self, which is first in order in nature. If your Choctaw delegation should offer me a good berth in the service of our common country, such as Commissioner, or Assistant Commissioner for surveying the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation — I would be too self interested as not to comply with your wishes, provided however, if a berth offered be respectable and responsible post. By saying this, I do not by any means dictate what you should do, but merely throwing <sup>out</sup> some suggestions what you may do for self interested persons.

I must again resume general subjects for the special benefit of all. In the first place - I would say that Mr A. G. Lansing who was stationed at Birmingham left here for home a few weeks since. He has gone to New Orleans at present but shall be in New York about the 1<sup>st</sup> of next June. - Tell Mr & Mrs Folsom that Mrs Garland and Gerina were here last week Friday - and said that they were all well at home. - And tell Mrs Garland for her edification that her son Leonidas and her illustrious nephew "Punch," (Peter) as he is called, staid with me last night and left for home this morning. They said that the folks about home were well and doing well when they left - that was about three weeks ago. I imagine from Leonidas' remarks that John and his lady's honey moon is not yet over. They had been up to their uncle Thomas' for some weeks past. They made very favorable report in John's case - and said every evidence was in John's favor, however the whole matter was referred to the next Circuit Court in April.

The Spring is very backward thus far. The peach trees are just beginning to

be in bloom. The people began to plant corn last week for the first time. It is to be hoped that there shall be plenty of every thing.

The Presbytery shall meet at Beunington (at Mr Capland's) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of next April - and shall continue through the week. If it be a pleasure of the Presbytery of this nation to ordain me I am to be ordained for the gospel Ministry.

In this holy ministry much grace is needed to fulfil all the responsible duties as sentient and responsible beings. If man's ability is depended upon in performing sacred duties - much will be left undone; but if God's ability is sought and relied upon - God will do wonderful things in his own time.

There are duties marked out for every man and every man is responsible for that which is intrusted to him by God. Therefore I am to be <sup>called</sup> to render an account for my holy trust, so have you to be called to give an account of the talents with which you are intrusted, by yours truly  
God. Therefore let us inquire of Him every morning what He would have us to be - so when our time of departure come we may say, "I know in whom I have believed." Yours Allen Wright

Particulars kindly to Mrs Surland, & debts Col P. and all the rest.