

Copies

1856
Easton May 22^d

My dear father

While I was at the meeting house this morning busily I was writing out a power of attorney for Capt Anderson and myself. And just as I had got through with one business and had barely got down to Uncle Howells when Dr. Sill rode up in a great hurry and gave me the "sign" that Mr Deputy Marshall was out afar off and had a "capias" (some call it the "runaway" writ - but the technical name is "runittoicket" that is to take a felon where ever you find him and where you dont find him any where and nowhere) for me. I obeyed the "sign" and Julius Caesar like immediately started out to an Indian house (back of Howells) on some very urgent and important business. I did not stay to see the "Capias" but "capered" off as independent as an old buck in "capering" time. I acted upon the principle that -

"He who fights and runs away
May live to run and fight another day."

The twelve apostles at San Basilio to wit Simon (who was named Peter) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas James the son of Alphaeus.

and Simon called Gzetotes. And
Judah the brother of James and Judas
Iscaariot which also was the Traitor
the aforesaid grand aspostles elect
Empannelled sworn and charged to
enquire for the body of the choctaw
Nation upon their "gizardi" present
Syrenus P Pitcher and Lewis
Pitcher late of said Nation
on the 18th day December AD 1856,
with force and arms ^{with the state apparatus} in and upon one
"vayabond" in the peace of the Devie
and our "said Uncle Sam" there
there being aid and comfort felonious
maliciously did attempt to "kill" the
said beat, wound ill treated and wrong
to the said "vayabond" then and then
did to ^{the} great damage of the said
vayabond and against the peace
and dignity of "old King's United
States Judge - the great Sanhedrim
of the West -

I am told that excitement
runs high at San Bearan against us,
and that old King has designs -
sending out eight marshalls each
with a posse to have us hunted
down and arrested and killed if
necessary and says that he will
have the Nation closely hunted out -
Dayton the informer against us and
the main witness is in bad health -
got the consumption and the Doctors
say that

he won't live long. Stanley as regards him
two bits can keep him away, the
Marshalls were looking for him but
he is ~~not to be~~ found. Like the
Irishman's horse "came up snoring".
The fellow I shot at is somewhere in the
dark, old Kingo the transparent
up says that the General amnesty
Clause is all a mere humbug - stuff
don't apply to White men and Indians,
(at least differences between them)
I have commenced doing something
for myself and it seems now that
I must be harassed by these cursed
Marshalls. Hudson would have taken
a power of attorney from the Bay Lord
and around here to prosecute their
claims before the Board of Comptrol-
lers, they agree to pay us one third
others were fishing for it and we step
in and closed the game on them -
I write to you sometime ago relative
to our case, what to do? whether
to go over to Van Buren and
give ourselves up or not - further
more within the Treaty would
clear us but I never received
a word from you relative to
the matter, "hope deferred make
the heart sick". I will wait until
the 12th day of July for a
reply, after that I can't say what will
become of me. There is no inducement
for me to stay in this Nation, being
anxious and willing to leave anyway. The

wind can blow me ^{off} or waft me to
some sea port town. Those would be
Lawyer Marshall and Jackap son of a Judge
(Kings) want to make ^{a little} money and
nothing else, rather than please them, or
give them a chance to make some money
out of us I will leave the County
if I do go to trial I don't want any
of these Van Buren lawyers to spite
me in my defence - I have patiently
waited for an answer from you
these three months, now I write again
and patiently ^{wait} for a reply

Stephen came up to day from Red
River all well there - many deaths
not good, I am staying up in the
hill place, I came up a week or two ago
some body broke open the house but
did no damage - Uncle Sam & stayed
all night with me a few nights ago -
left for home yesterday morning
will start out of June for Washington
As Richard Barkers was here day
before yesterday, said he well at home
Uncle Sam's folks all well - Politics
at low water mark, nothing of
interest in the neighborhood
Mal and the Baby was down a few
days ago - they both looked tolerable
well - Hoping to hear from
you soon I bid you good by
Your son
S. P. Stephens