

Copy

November 1857

Dear father

Yours of the twenty six of October came to hand last mail and so soon as circumstances will permit immediate steps will be taken to carry your suggestions into execution. We regret to say that at present our families are quite unwell, but anticipate a speedy recovery. This influenza cold accompanied with fever is quite prevalent throughout the County; the whooping cough is also raging many Indian babies have died with it. Fortunately our families have escaped so far, but by no means feel safe.

The Legislature of the Cherokee Nation after a long and protracted session adjourned on the last of October. The entire session was consumed in passing laws regulating the duties of the various offices created under the Constitution. The whole is an exact copy of the laws of Mississippi. Was the Constitution in the same, His Excellency Governor Wade was in fine health when I saw him last and requested me to present his compliments to you and

would be pleased to hear from
His Majesty's minister Extraordinary
or any Plenipotentiary to the
Government of the United States
Doaksville is the Governor's
Post office. I regret to
mention that the Governor's
qualification is seriously doubted
and his incompetency openly
proclaimed in the Fort Smith
Herald. Governor's friends say
that he is a fit subject for the
Lunatic Asylum. His poor
human nature can't bear a
little promotion. He will
go crazy to a certainty. His
elevation to ^{the} Governorship will
prove his ruin.

I have just reached
home from Doaksville. There was
quite a number of persons there,
a part of them entitled to Bounty
Land were paid off. I saw
Robert Nail's family well and
would be pleased to hear from you
he said upon the subject of
Schools. Several orphan claims
were paid off also. The law
with regard to liquor is
very strong and much better
than the old one. Any person
caught with liquor is fined
\$100. and his left hand torn

and if not able to pay, the quiet
Party goes to jail for three
months. The latter meets
my warmest support and
approval. I am in for any
thing that will check the
vices of intemperance. Some
of our leading men have done
much harm by their notorious
bad conduct in the way
of drinking ardent spirits,
and the feeble ones have
copied their example. It
is to be hoped for the honor
of humanity that the "big
men" of the Nation will hereaf-
ter conduct themselves with
more decency & propriety.
When our men who stand
at the head of affairs in
the Nation will step aside
from the path of soberness
and putting themselves on the
level of the brute such
conduct is free from all
excuse or justification. From
the old we are to expect
examples of soberness, piety
& virtue. When the old &
influential will indulge
in scenes of dissipation & debauchery
what can we expect of the
young.

Son has a baby at his house,
a little gal born the 17th
of this month. Our baby is
great big fat and thriving. She
purses & licks. We call her
Miss Buchanan after our Presi-
dent James Buchanan —
I call her that because our Dick
turned me out of jail. Aunt
Kuzia Lavinia, Malinda, Aunt
Betsey, Siza, Sophie & Mary all
now had babies since you
left. Grandmother was up the
other day, quite well
and in good health.

Please send me
something to go
George Heartline's party
and himself are all defunct.
Alas! poor Yorick. Between
me and this paper, the
present Governor is a trans-
parent Jackass — He would
be a good specimen for Barnum's
Museum. He wears three old fashion
nanne flaps & pants extend
one inch below his knees and
has a fine silk hat on with
a sharp tail coat all of which
makes his excellency look like
one of these negro ~~stars~~ ~~serena~~
dicks. You ought to see him —

I turned but two cents & half -
to me that you would laugh
at the ridiculous, comical
appearance of our Governor,
the silk hat, Bontey, Borchman
fashion on his head and
exceeding short pants and
the assumed owl look
of wisdom and profundity
all tend to make him
an object of comicality
half pity & half contempt.

We all have the bad
cold. Broke flat in
consequence of financial embar-
rassment, and the

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superior of the bank
money is scarce with us, and
poor is scarce and seeing at
I occur a hundred, Starvation
of course unless resort be had
to stratagem. Hard times
sure you are born. It is not
pig or die. We are prepared
to give lessons in domestic
Economy. I am writing a
Book on the philosophy of
Starvation. It will be a
readable Book. Miss Buchanan
sends her love to you all
accompanied with one of her
dearest kisses.

Your son
J. M. Ritchie