

CHOCTAW

1872-1937

PAPERS



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Oklahoma
Historical Society

THE VINDICATOR

New Boggy, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
August 24, 1872
Vol. 1, No. 18
J. H. Moore,) Publishers
E. A. Kline,)

NEWS ITEM OF PUSHMATAHA AND MOSHLATUBBEE

The presence of the Sioux delegation in St. Louis has called to mind some recollection of the Choctaws, now inhabiting a portion of the Indian reservation.

Pushmataha and Mosholatubbee were the prominent chiefs of that nation during the years when Jackson marched upon the Creeks at Emuckfaw and Talladega. The orator-warrior of the Choctaws was Pushmataha. He was with Jackson, was always the white man's friend, and exerted extraordinary influence with his tribe. One or two illustrations may serve to show the quality of his mind. He was once asked who was his father and mother. --- Drawing himself up to his full height, he replied: "Lightning struck an oak and Pushmataha sprung from its ashes." It is well known that he died in Washington, and interred in the Congressional burying ground. Just before his death he requested

that "the big guns might be fired over him." Some one asked the dying chief how the Choctaw Nation would receive the news of his death.--with simple grandeur he answered: "The news of the death of Pushmataha will sound to the Choctaw Nation like the falling of a big tree in the forest!"

Red Eagle, better known as Weatherford, was a half-breed, and although the ferocity of the Indian was observable in all his acts, and most conspicuous in the Massacre of Fort Wims, he was never known to use those Indian figures of speech which are illustrated in the foregoing words of Pushmataha. The practical Scotch blood of the McCleveryys did not flourish the idealism of the Indian.

This is a nut for the ethnologists to crack, and hand the kernel to the inquirer. And this done, we give them another nut.

When the Choctaws were being removed from their ancestral hunting-grounds, many of them would leave the government trains and be absent for days together. They had gone back to the graves of their fathers and once more broken the bow-string over them, and gazed for the last time upon the scenes they loved so well. And then with the speed of the deer they

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overtook the trains and proudly covered their grief with their mantle of stoicism.

The Cherokees, on the contrary, mostly half-breeds, did not feel the same keen grief when leaving their beautiful land. A more cheerful people was not seen as they passed through Mississippi on the way to their Western reservation. Their cheerfulness was only equaled by their comeliness of form and feature.

Rapidly passing away before the progress of a superior race, the Indians within the limits of the Union will soon be among the traditions of the past. The Choctaws have dwindled to a mere handful; the Chickasaws, once so powerful as to defeat Bienville, are now few in numbers; and, in a little while, the musical names which they have given to many of our towns, villages and streams, will only remain to tell of their former existence.

Sintegeleska, known as Spotted Tail among the whites, has for some days attracted the attention of our people. He and his attendants travel not to the East, but to the West, for the West is the land of the setting sun. In other days, when the leaves fall from the tree of life, they will travel toward the East in quest of the rising sun.

THE VINDICATOR

New Boggy, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
August 27, 1873
Vol. 2, No. 11--Whole No. 63
T. B. Heiston, Editor

AN ADDRESS OF P. P. PITCHLYNN AND WINCHESTER COLBERT

The undersigned, Peter P. Pitchlynn, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and Winchester Colbert, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, having been present at the negotiations which terminated on the 28th of April, 1866, in the conclusion of a treaty between the United States and the Choctaws and Chickasaws, of vast importance to the interests and welfare of our people, deem it expedient to issue this address, in order that they may understand the circumstances which render said treaty unavoidable -- the disadvantages under which it was made, questions and answers which it settles and secures. It was necessary to recapitulate the low finances which made our two nations of the late Southern Confederacy. The end of the war abrogated the treaty with, it and left us in the gravest apprehension touching the relations with the United States.

The negotiations, as you are aware, drawn at Fort

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Smith in September last, on the basis, declared by the United States Commissioners, that we were liable to a forfeiture of everything by reason of having allied ourselves with the South, but as a matter of humanity and mercy, the United States would only take from us the 'Leased District,' without compensation, and one-third of our country east of the 96th meridian of west longitude, for a very inadequate consideration; confiscate all our back annuities, school and other funds, for the last five years, and free our slaves; requiring us to make such suitable provision for them as would meet the approval of the government of the United States; to which was added, during the negotiations here, the further exaction, that the latter should be placed on the footing of native citizens, with equality in all respects as to land, money, and political franchises. The delegations came here prepared to submit, if necessary, to these hard terms, except the cession of the third of their lands east of the "Leased District," and negro equality. They were also prepared to sell their claim to over 100,000 acres of land, now embraced within the boundaries of Arkansas. Under these circumstances the negotiations were continued after their arrival at Washington City, in the month of January of the present

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year, and for a season excited great anxiety. The neighboring nations of the Indian territory were reported to have sold a portion of their respective lands, or had agreed to do so, and the treaty proposed by the United States Commissioners required the cession of one-third of ours, to be bounded by an east and west line, from the Arkansas state line to the eastern line of the "Leased District" at the 98th meridian of west longitude. Our claim to the "Leased District" was required to be given up without compensation, and other terms were proposed inconsistent alike with our interest and our feelings.

We feel it our duty, in this connection, to bear testimony to the zeal and ability of your delegates, assisted by able and experienced counsel in watching over and guarding the interests of their people, under these adverse and most trying circumstances. Soon after their arrival at the city of Washington a memorial was prepared and submitted by them to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, containing a review of the circumstances under which the alliance was formed with the Confederate States, and an able legal argument, showing that the old treaties had not, as we supposed, been abrogated, but remained in full force and effect; but nevertheless recognizing the

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necessity of conforming to the policy of the United States government as far as could be consistent with the rights and interests of the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

One leading object of the United States was to provide a home for other Indians, whom the process of extinguishing the Indian title in Kansas, and elsewhere, required should be removed; and it was represented to your delegates that, with a sparse population, scattered over a large extent of territory, the Choctaws and Chickasaws would have either to receive the white population of the frontier -- as a necessity that could not be controlled -- or else a homogeneous population of Indians who uniting as fellow-citizens, would at last come to be as one people with us and save us from an irruption of white settlers that must, in the end, not only destroy our nationality but exterminate ourselves.

It is needless to go over again the arguments that were made in our behalf. These will appear in a printed pamphlet, containing all the papers relating to the negotiations which ended in the conclusion of our new treaty. It is sufficient to say that the result has been the preservation, intact, of our national boundaries as they existed before the war -- from the

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Arkansas and Canadian rivers on the north to the Red river on the south, and from the state of Arkansas on the east to the "Leased District" on the west. Our right to over (100,000) one hundred thousand acres of land embraced within the boundaries of Arkansas, which your delegates anticipated they would be required to cede, along with the "Leased District," is also preserved.

Our national legislative councils, as well as our local judiciary, remain unimpaired. All our former treaties, as well as all acts of legislation of Congress in our behalf, not inconsistent with the provisions of the new treaty, are recognized and re-affirmed, securing all our claims, national and individual. Citizens by marriage or adoption are made subject to our laws; our right to be witness in any courts of the United States is allowed; no persons, other than our own citizens, are permitted to trade among us without a permit from our legislative councils; restrictions as to the disposition of our chattel or personal property are removed; post offices are to be established as in the United States; and a general amnesty for the past is granted to all the members of both nations. The most liberal provision is made for schools and the enlargement of our educational system, upon which our civilization

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and advancement so materially depend. The delegates avoided giving their consent to the appropriation of our moneys accruing since 1860, to the support of Indians who adhered to the United States during the late war, retaining the full right to claim and demand them hereafter. -- Two hundred thousand dollars is at once loaned to us to meet present liabilities and necessities. We have also secured an object which our people have had greatly at heart for many years, viz: the right, when our lands are surveyed and a homestead allotted to each Choctaw and Chickasaw, to have our stocks and other invested funds capitalized or cashed, and paid out per capita, to enable us to improve our lands and increase our flocks and herds; provided, however, a sufficient amount shall be retained in the hands of the government to support our schools and defray the ordinary expenses of our governments until a judicious system of taxation shall be adopted for these purposes; when the same disposition is to be made of the residue of our funded moneys.

A prominent matter in our negotiations was the "Leased District." On the part of the United States it was contended that this was paid for under the treaty of 1855. Against this assumption was urged the language

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of the treaty and the facts within the knowledge of the delegates. Little difficulty would have been experienced here had not the subject become complicated with another of the most exciting interest -- the negro question. It was insisted that it was the duty of the United States to see that no harm came to our late slaves; that if they remained with us provision should be made for them; that if they were removed, the "Leased District" was to be their future home; and that such removal and provision for them there, must be at the expense of our nations. Hence the connection of the two questions.

The United States Commissioners presented to the delegates two alternatives. The first was to give to the negroes one hundred and sixty acres of land, in the event the country was surveyed, an equal interest in our national funds, and all the rights, privileges, and immunities of citizens, including the rights of suffrage. Through the exertions of our counsel the quantity of land was reduced to forty acres, without the right to participate in either our funds or public domain. In the event of this proposition being agreed to, the United States would pay (\$300,000) three hundred thousand dollars for the "Leased District." The other alternative -- assuming the leased land to be required in part for the negroes -- was to remove all who desired to go, within two years

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from the ratification of the treaty, appropriating, in that event, the whole \$300,000 for the purpose and for the benefit of negroes emigrating. The delegates and their counsel endeavored to obtain a modification of these terms, but without success. If you have paid attention to public affairs in the United States, and to the feeling in Congress on the subject of the negro, you can readily understand the tenacity of the United States Commissioners in that connection. All your delegates and counsel could accomplish in this connection was to provide that the choice of the alternatives should be left to yourselves; and it will be for you to determine which of them shall be adopted -- to say whether the negro shall remain as a voter and a landholder, to the extent of forty acres, in which case the \$300,000 is to be paid to you, or whether those concessions shall not be made in favor of the negroes; in which event that sum is to be retained by the United States and used for the benefit of those who may be removed and colonized elsewhere. Those who decline to remove, or who may return after removal, are placed on the same footing as citizens of the United States who come into the Indian country.

The undersigned would have been glad if this

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question could have been settled at once, by making one or the other of the alternatives a positive provision of the treaty; so as to save our people from the trouble and excitement which the constant discussion of the subject for the next two years must inevitably produce. The delegates, however, doubted their authority to act definitely upon it.

A sagacious people look to practical results, laying feeling and prejudices aside; and it should be carefully considered whether the adoption of the first alternative, giving the privileges mentioned to the negroes, besides securing us the \$300,000 for the "Leased District," may not allay excitement on this subject, and materially aid us in getting, hereafter, a larger compensation therefor, as it will undoubtedly produce a strong influence in favor of our yet unsettled claims and demands upon the United States; and whether the rejection of the first alternative, and the adoption of the other, may not lead to the colonization of the negroes in our immediate vicinity. If so, being the first colony of the kind in the United States, it will be regarded with particular interest, and will be sustained and fostered by the government, and the friends of the negro, now so numerous and powerful. Thousands of other negroes will flock there, so that it

will probably assume formidable dimensions in a few years. More lands and other advantages may be required for them; and you can judge for yourselves what will be the result with reference to our welfare and interests. To say the least, they will be anything but desirable neighbors as a separate community. If permitted to remain amongst us, with the concessions to them embraced by the first alternative, outnumbering them as we do, ten to one, can they do us any harm? While their services as laborers will be of importance and value for years to come. Removed and established as a separate colony, they may do us and our brethren of the other adjacent tribes irreparable injury.

Our delegates will submit to their respective councils important letters from our attorneys upon this subject, and in relation to the general policy which we should pursue under our new treaty.

There is another measure provided for at length in the treaty, which is also submitted to your decision; and, in favor of which, the undersigned most earnestly counsel you. It is the survey of our lands, on the principle adopted in the United States, with a view to our holding, hereafter, lands in severalty, and not, as now, in common. We are already, two, civilized communities; but the step in advance, which we will make when our lands

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are surveyed, will be greater than any which we have yet taken in this direction. The system has been carefully matured in the treaty in its application to our peculiar circumstances; and, without going into details, which you will see when you read the treaty, we commend it to you for adoption. The cost of the surveys (near two hundred thousand dollars) will be paid by the United States. This our counsel secured after the Secretary of the Interior had declared, in his ultimatum, that the surveys should be made at the expense of the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

The experience of the last five years has shown us how insecure is the title to lands held in common. So long as lands are public property the title is liable to be affected by war and revolution, and may be sold by a bare majority of the people; but survey and allot them to individuals in severalty, and no power on earth can change the title or tenure, except with the consent, or by the act of the individual owner. The improvidence of such of our people as might be induced to sell their lands is carefully guarded against by a provision that the homestead, of 160 acres, secured by the treaty to each member of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, shall be absolutely inalienable, for a period of twenty-one

years. Thus, allowing time to each child, in being at the time of the survey and allotment of lands, to be educated and arrive at years of maturity and discretion, before any one shall be invested with the right to sell the HOMESTEAD. Had we held our lands in this manner before the war, we would have been now under no necessity to have parted with an acre of them. Let us be wise and guard the future.

Among other features of the treaty is a carefully guarded one in regard to railroads, and others again relate to the organization of a territorial legislature for the whole Indian territory, in which all the nations and tribes who assent thereto are to be represented, with a delegate to Congress, to be elected by said territorial council, and the establishment of a territorial court, without prejudice, however, to existing legislative and judicial authorities of our nations; and, finally, the ingress of the Kansas Indians is to be permitted to the extent of ten thousand; only if they come as individual citizens, (not as tribes or organized communities,) and then without any participation in our annuities or other moneys, or public lands, in the event of the latter, or the proceeds thereof, being divided among us. For all that emigrate the United States agree to pay, out of the

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funds of the new-comers, a sum according to the quantity of land granted to each, not exceeding one dollar per acre, as our legislatures may determine; each emigrant to have not more than one hundred and sixty acres of land as a homestead.

To conclude, the undersigned can safely say that the treaty which has been made is far in advance of anything that has yet been done in this direction by an Indian people. It is so recognized by all who have been informed of it, and the undersigned doubt not that if carried out, as they hope it will be, it will result in elevating the Indian character, demonstrating his capacities, and placing the parties to it high on the roll of honorable nationalities among civilized men.

P. P. FITCHLYNN,

W. COLBERT.

Washington City, D. C., July 12, 1866.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 26, 1873
Vol. 3, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON EDMOND McCURTAIN

Mr. Edmond McCurtain, in his report to the Choctaw council as Superintendent of Public Schools, recommends the moving of the Spencer Academy school to Armstrong Academy, and we truly hope it will be done, for two reasons. First, Armstrong is a much better point for a school of that kind than Spencer, and second, the occupying of Armstrong as a school will make it necessary to move the capital to some other point, something very desirable. The capital by all means should be on the railroad somewhere. Mr. McCurtain also recommends that the sending of Choctaw children to the States to be educated be discontinued, and in lieu thereof a high school established in the Choctaw Nation. This is a sensible recommendation and the plan by all means should be adopted. There is no reason why we cannot have an institution of

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learning right here in our midst where our youths
both male and female, can receive as good an educa-
tion as anywhere. The council should not hesitate
a moment to act favorably upon both these suggestions
of Mr. McCurtain.

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CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation
Saturday, March 14, 1874
Vol. 4, No. 44-200
John. L. Adair, Editor

A PROTEST BY JOHN CHUPCO, P. P. PITCHLYNN, ET AL

Washington, D. C.,
February 9th, 1874.

To his Excellency United States Grant,
the President, and to the
Congress of the United States:

We, the undersigned, beg leave very respectfully
to represent that we are respectively, citizens of the
Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations
of Indians in the Indian Territory, and the most of us
are at present the legal representatives of these Nations,
before Government of the United States.

We desire still further to say, that in the year
1866, we were so legally constituted Delegates, and with
those who were then our colleagues, we represented before
the Government the several Nations to which we belong,

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respectively, for the purpose of adjusting the unsettled affairs then pending between our Nations and the United States. We were the signers of treaties of that year, (1866) made between our several Nations and the Government. We fully understood the purport, intent and scope of these treaties at the time they were made, as they were repeatedly interpreted, and fully explained to us by the United States commissioners, and were discussed by us in detail, article by article.

Yet we see, with deep regret, that strenuous efforts have been repeatedly made to misrepresent and distort the meaning and intent of the articles of these treaties which provide for the organization of a general council, of the nations and tribes inhabiting, and to inhabit the Indian Territory. We are satisfied, however, that these efforts at misconstruing our treaties have been made, and are still being made, by those who are either ignorant of the real design of these treaties, or by those actuated by selfish motives. The result aimed at by these men, would be alike injurious and unjust to the Indians, and dishonorable to the Government. We therefore feel it to be a duty which we owe to our own Nations, and to the Government, to protest as we now do against the misconstruction of our treaties referred to,

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and in that connection to state what was our distinct understanding, at the time we signed them, of the several articles in the treaties of 1866 relating to the "General Indian Council." In the respectful performance of this duty, we do hereby most solemnly and emphatically declare that the articles of the treaties of 1866 which authorize the establishment of a "General Council" of the Indians, do not authorize the formation by Congress of a territorial government of the United States over Indians of the Indian Territory. On the contrary, the agreement on our part, is assenting to the establishment of said Council, was entered into for the very purpose of obviating the alleged necessity of such territorial government. We well knew that that country had been set apart by the act of Congress of May 28, 1830, and by subsequent Indian treaties as an Indian country exclusively, and that the lands therein, belonged to the Indians, having been purchased by them from the Government for a valuable consideration, which purchase is evidenced by the highest title the Government can confer, viz, patents in fee simple; which are of record in the General Land Office of the Government, and that therefore the country was not a territory of the United States, nor were its owners, the Indians,

citizens of the United States. Hence we held that that country was exclusively an Indian country, as contrary distinguished from a territory of the United States; and we treated upon that basis; each nation therein having its right of soil and self government, and its boundaries marked by well defined lines, and all being circumscribed by a general exterior boundary, marked by permanent land marks, and situated outside the limits of any State or territory of the United States.

It was our understanding that Congress had the right, secured to it by former treaties, to regulate trade and intercourse between the Government of the United States and its citizens, on the one hand, and the Indian governments and their citizens, on the other; and with that understanding we reaffirmed in our treaties of 1866, the obligations of these prior treaties, and specified among other things, that Congress might legislate for the better administration of justice and the protection of person and property within the Indian territory. In order to restrict such legislation to the matter of trade and intercourse, we provided especially that such legislation should "not in any manner interfere with or annul our present tribal organizations, rights, laws, privileges and customs."

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The schemes contemplated by the territorial bills now before Congress were proposed to us in 1866. We unanimously rejected them. Our reasons for so doing were substantially the same as those that subsequent delegations from our respective Nations have urged upon Congress, year by year.

If you organize a territorial government over us, you will do so simply by virtue of your superior power, and without the shadow of authority from any concessions made by us.

We agreed to a General Indian Council, or a confederation of Indian tribes and nations, then in and to come into the Indian country, for the purposes specified in the treaties of 1866; and for no other purposes, and with the distinct understanding that no territorial government should be placed over the Indians, without their express consent. We also agreed that other friendly Indians, who were located within the limits of the States or territories of the United States, might be settled in this Indian country, and be confederated with us in the said General Council, and for that purpose we agreed to specific provisions in our treaties. Accordingly, from year to year, such Indians have been located in

said country, and have become a part of said confederation, which has been established for several years. It was established by order of the President, and has been endorsed by Congress from year to year.

As another matter, altogether separate and distinct from the General Council or confederation above named, we also inserted in our treaties of 1866, articles providing that Congress might establish a United States court or courts in the Indian country, for the administration of justice; but it is especially provided that such court or courts shall not have the power to interfere with our local or national governments; neither can such courts be vested with power to affect our rights of soil. But neither the right to establish these courts, nor the right to regulate trade and intercourse, had any connection with the establishment of any territorial government over us. They were considered as distinct propositions, and cannot without manifest violation of our treaties, be used as a pretext for the extension of a territorial government over us.

We, the signers of the treaties of 1866, certainly understand the purport and intent of those treaties, and it was with our interpretation of them

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that the people of our Nations received them as the
supreme law of the land.

Now in the name of our people, and on their
behalf, we do most solemnly and firmly protest, against
any perversion of these treaties, whereby they may be
construed as authorizing the establishment of a terri-
torial government over respective nations and tribes,
unless it be with the express consent of these nations
and tribes.

We have the honor to be very respectfully, your
obedient servants,

JAMES M. C. SMITH,

COWEETA MICCO,

D. N. McINTOSH,

Signers of the treaty of 1866, with Creeks.

JOHN B. JONES,

Signer of the treaty of 1866, with Cherokees.

JOHN CHUPCO,

Seminole Chief, and signers of treaty of 1866,
with Seminoles.

ROBERT JOHNSON,

Interpreter of Seminole Treaty of 1866.

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P. P. PITCHLYNN,

Signer of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Treaty of
1866, and at the time, Chief of the Choctaw.

I was a witness to the Creek Treaty of 1866 and at the time, understood the meaning of that treaty as it is expressed in the foregoing statement.

W. P. ADAIR.

I was a witness to the treaty of 1866, between the Government and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations of Indians, and my understanding of that treaty was, as stated in the foregoing statement of the signers of the treaty of 1866.

ALFRED H. JACKSON.

I witnessed the Choctaw and Chickasaw Treaty of 1866, and my understanding of the meaning of that treaty at the time, was the same as that set forth in the foregoing statement.

C. S. MITCHELL.

My name was attached as a witness to the Cherokees treaty of 1866, and I participated in aiding to make it, in all its stages, and I know that the above statement

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correctly represents the parties to that treaty, and
that they made it with that understanding.

WM. A. PHILLIPS.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

March 27, 1875

Vol. 1, No. 1

J. L. Caldwell) Editors
J. H. Moore)

AN ACT

Office of Choctaw National Agency,

March 27th, 1875.

In accordance with an Act of the Choctaw Council, passed and approved Oct. 24th. 1873, all persons whomsoever are hereby notified not to engage in cutting railway ties, or other timber, or to engage in any mining operation of any kind, with a view to shipment beyond the limits of the Choctaw Nation, without being duly authorized by this office.

All persons having claims for ties or other timbers against the M., K. & T. Railroad Company, since January 1st, 1875, will be settled with within a few days after inspection of the same is made.

All persons having claims against the Railroad Company prior to January 1st, 1875, are notified that with the assistance of G. W. Ingalls, United States Agent,

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this office is prosecuting said claims for adjustment, and, as soon as matters can be arranged for payment, claimants will be notified.

Sub-contractors are prohibited from taking timber from private claims without the consent of the owner.

Persons having business with the National Agent, are notified that the office is, for the present, located at Atoka, in the office of J. R. Harris, who is authorized to transact business in my absence.

D. F. HARKINS, National Agent.

N. B. All persons having business with the Principal Chief, are notified that his office days are Mondays and Thursdays of each week, at the office of J. R. Harris, Atoka.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

March 27, 1875

Vol. 1, No. 1

J. L. Caldwell, } Editors
J. H. Moore, }

NOTICE OF ALLEN WRIGHT

The Indian Presbytery will meet at Boggy Depot, C. N., on Thursday before the third Sabbath in April next, (15th), 1875, at 7 o'clock p. m. The members of the Presbytery from the Creek and Cherokee Nations, who are expecting to attend the meeting, can come on the M. K. & T. railway to Atoka Station, and from there to Boggy Depot (some twelve miles) by private conveyance. Those who come on Thursday, the 15th, on the twelve o'clock M. train, will find a wagon there to bring them here.

ALLEN WRIGHT, S. C.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
April 24, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 5
J. L. Caldwell, }
J. H. Moore } Editors

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

The teachers' institute of Mosholatubbee District convened at Rock Creek January 4th, and continued in session four days. Although the weather was very unpropitious the meeting was well attended by both teachers and citizens.

The object of this Institute, as before stated in the Oklahoma Star, is to elevate the standard of education in this Nation, and we flatter ourselves that it has already accomplished much towards that end.

Among the many good results of this meeting, was the adoption of a method by which the Choctaw children, attending the schools of this district, can be taught to speak the English language, and the setting apart of two hours each day for this purpose. A petition to Council showing the necessity of a uniform series of textbooks for our schools -- to be furnished by the Nation -- and the appointment of a committee to

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select and recommend such text books which, in their experience and judgment, they find best suited to the wants of our schools.

The Chairman and Secretary discharged their duties with marked ability and impartiality; and to Prof. A. Carroll, of Scullyville, a thorough teacher and an estimable gentleman, the committee desire to tender their high appreciation of his great worth, and they feel sure that they express the wish of all present, in desiring that he may long remain among us.

One of the most pleasing features of this Institute, was the complete harmony that prevailed throughout. The teachers seemed to be alive to the dignity of their profession and the necessity of joint action. Bickerings and personalities were not indulged in, but all worked with an energy and fervor that show both heart and brain were engaged in this noble work, and cultivated toward one another a brotherly love, that was fully displayed at the close of soul-stirring addresses, and grasping of hands which brought tears to the eyes of all present, and show that the hearts of all beat in unison.

We give below a brief synopsis of each day's programme:

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MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 1875

Meeting called to order; President pro. tem. appointed; devotional exercise, conducted by Rev. Scales, of Tenn.

Addresses by President, Prof. A. Carroll, Houston McCurtain, R. C. Heard and others.

TUESDAY, JAN. 5TH, 1875

District Trustee, E. McCurtain, in the chair. Ex-Gov. T. Edwards, elected Secretary. Devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. L. Cass. Address by the president.

'Instruction in Grammar,' by Prof. Carroll; 'How can we teach our children to speak the English language? discussed by C. C. Holmes, A. V. Penoyer, B. C. Heard, H. McCurtain and others; 'Necessity of teachers' institutes.' an essay, by Gov. Edwards; 'Instruction in Geography,' A. V. Penoyer; 'Surgery vs. Pedagogy.' an essay, by G. M. Bond; Resolved, That strict discipline is disadvantageous to Choctaw children? discussed by Profs. Carroll, Holmes, Penoyer, Hancock and others.

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6TH, 1875

Devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. L. Cass; 'U. S. History,' sub lecture on, by G. M. Bond; 'Advantages of teachers' institutes,' essay, by W. M. Mellette; 'Phonetics,' sub-lecture on, by A. V. Penoyer; 'How to teach Arithmetic?' discussed by Profs. Carroll, Heard, Holmes, McCurtain and others; 'The blind preacher,' read by Prof. A. Carroll; 'The pied-piper,' read by G. M. Bond; 'Education,' an essay by ex-Gov. T. Edwards; Vote of thanks to Mrs. Col. McCurtain for her kind hospitality in providing the Institute with an excellent lunch, Prof. Carroll orator of the occasion; 'Instruction in Geography,' concluded by A. V. Penoyer; 'Necessities of an education,' oration, by C. C. Holmes; 'What textbooks should we use?' discussed by Profs. Heard, Hancock, McCurtain, Melette and others; moved and adopted that a committee of five be appointed on text-books; chair appointed C. C. Holmes, A. Carroll, B. C. Heard, A. V. Penoyer, and G. M. Bond; Query-box opened and questions answered.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 7TH, 1875

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. L. Cass; Messrs. Penoyer, Houston McCurtain, and Carroll appointed as committee on resolutions; 'How to teach Penmanship,' by C. C. Holmes; 'The criminality of duelling,' read by W. M. Mellette; committee reported the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st, We, the teachers of Mosholatubbe District under the superintendence of E. McCurtain, tender to him and the citizens of Rock Creek neighborhood, our sincere thanks for their kind hospitality and respect paid us as their public servants during this session of the Teachers' Institute.

Resolved 2nd, That by the proceedings of this Institute, we have been encouraged to prosecute our arduous, our honorable and our most responsible profession with a greater zeal, with a greater prospect of success and with less selfishness of heart.

Resolved 3rd, That Col. J. McCurtain, Ex-Gov. T. Edwards who have so materially contributed to the interest of this Institute, and G. M. Bond, be appointed an executive committee to represent this Institute at the next meeting of the General Council,

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and to do such other business as they in their judgment may see fit for the interest of this association.

Resolved 4th, That this Institute will convene at Rock Creek schoolhouse on the second Monday in September next, and that the District Trustee of this district shall, without fail, cancel the certificate of any teacher who may fail to appear without just cause.

Resolved 5th, That if it be the will of divine Providence, we who are here now assembled, feel it our incumbent duty to prepare and conduct ourselves so that our next meeting may prove still more successful.

Respectfully submitted.

A. V. PENoyer, Chairman,

HOUSTON McCURTAIN, Sect'y.

Resolutions adopted; school law read, and an address made by Pres't E. McCurtain; responses by Profs. Carroll, Holmes, Penoyer, Bond, Heard, McCurtain, Mellette and Hancock; doxology sung by choir; benediction by Rev. L. Cass; adjournment.

J. F. McCURTAIN, Ch'm,) Executive

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THOS. EDWARDS, Sec.,
G. M. BOND, } Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEXTBOOKS

Oak Lodge, Feb. 6, 1875

Ed. McCurtain, Esq.,
Supt. of Schools.

Sir:

We have the honor of transmitting to you the following report of the proceedings of the committee appointed by you, at the late session of the Teachers' Institute, for the purpose of preparing a catalogue of textbooks, to be submitted to the National Council at its next session for adoption, as the only authorized series of text-books that shall be used in the common and high-schools of the Choctaw Nation. From the adjournment of said Institute to the present, we have given this very responsible duty our most earnest attention, sparing no pains to make ourselves, if possible, adequate to the task. We have, in order to augment our knowledge, derived from being profession-

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ally trained and extensive experience, corresponded with the State departments of education of other states, with institutions having complete knowledge of all the most approved text-books in use in the United States of America; we have received communications from the principal seat of learning in British America, informing us of the very high standard of education there -- all so that we might present you, and the council through you, with a catalogue of text-books that are up with the present progressive state of education in the United States and British America, believing that the mind of the Choctaw people is as susceptible of improvement as that of any other, and the standard of education in this Nation should be as high as it is in any other part of America.

THE COMMON SCHOOL SERIES

embrace all subjects taught in the best schools of that grade, and are very extensively used throughout this continent.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SERIES

embraces nearly all the test and honor work necessary

to be read by a graduate of any of the many excellent colleges and universities in America, except the classics. Deeming it essentially necessary, we inserted a little Latin. We have made the high school series thus complete, recognizing the fact that all first-class teachers in this Nation, should be as well qualified as they are in any other country, and be able to impart instruction in any department, except the three special professions of Law, Medicine and Theology.

COMMON SCHOOL SERIES

No.		Usual price.
1	Independent Script speller,	.25
2	Swinton's word analysis,...	.40
3	Swinton's Rambles Among Words,	\$1.00
4	Independent First Reader,.....	.25
5	Independent 2nd Reader,	.50
6	Independent Third Reader,.....	.75
7	Independent 4th Reader,	1.00
8	Independent Fifth Reader,	1.25
9	Green's Elements of Grammar,	.80
10	Green's English do, revised,	1.05
11	Green's Analysis,	.80

No.		Usual price.
12	Stoddard's Juvenile Mental Arithmetic,...	.25
13	Stoddard's Rudiments of Arithmetic,.....	.50
14	Stoddard's New Practical Arithmetic,.....	1.00
15	Monteith's Elements of Geography,	.80
16	Barne's Brief History of the United States,	1.50
17	Spencerian Penmanship, full course,	5.00
18	Anaranth Song Book,	.50

HIGH SCHOOL SERIES

Literature

19	Fowler's English Language,	2.50
20	Quackenbos' Composition and Rhetoric, advanced course,	1.50
21	Milton's Paradise Lost, (Boyd's),	1.25
22	Pope's Essay on Mat. (Boyd).....	.20
23	Collin's British History,	1.00
24	Taylor's Manual of American History,	1.50
25	Shaw's New History of English and American Literature,	1.50
26	Zachrs' Analytical Elocut'n,	1.50
27	Bullion's Latin Grammar,	1.50

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No.		Usual price.
28	Bullion's Latin Exercise,	1.50
29	Bullion's Latin Reader,	1.50
30	Bullion's Caesar,	1.50

Philosophy

31	Watts on the Mind,	.50
32	Upham's Mental Philosophy (abridged), ...	1.50
33	Peabody's Moral Philosophy,	1.25

Evidences

34	Paley's Natural Theology,	1.75
35	Alexander's Evidences of Christianity, ..	1.50

Book-keeping

36	Crittenden's Book-keeping, C. H.,	2.75
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Natural Science

37	Peck's & Canot's Natural Philosophy, ...	1.75
38	Peck's & Canot's Elements of Mechanics,...	2.00
39	Steele's Physiology,	1.50
40	Steele's Astronomy,	1.50

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No.		Usual price.
41	Steele's Geology,	1.50
42	Steele's Chemistry,	1.50
43	Chamber's Zoology,	1.50
44	Cutler's First Book in Anatomy (new series),	.90
45	Gray's Manual and Lessons in Botany, ..	3.00
46	Monteith's Comprehensive Geography, ...	1.60

MATHEMATICS

47	Robinson's Higher Arithmetic,	1.40
48	Stoddard's Intellectual Arith'tic,	.40
49	Stoddard & Hinkle's Ele. Algebra,	1.25
50	Stoddard & Hinkle's Uni'sity do,	2.00
51	Bonnycastle's Mensuration,	1.25
52	Robinson's Geo. & Ligonometry,	2.25
53	Robinson's Analytical Geo. and Conn' section,	2.25
54	Robinson's Diff. and Integral Calculus (new),	2.50
55	Gillespie's Land Surveying,	3.00

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

56 Mansfield's Political Manual, 1.25

Total entire cost,\$77.85

The committee recommends and are very anxious that the Bible should be read at the opening and closing of all schools, without comment from the teacher and they earnestly desire that the schools be supplied with a full supply of Maps, Charts, Globes, Blackboards, and a complete outfit of Apparatus for teaching the Natural Sciences, and some departments of the Mathematics.

All of which are humbly submitted to the judgment of all interested in the welfare of the Choctaw Nation.

ALEX. CARROLL, Sec., } Text Book
C. C. HOLMES, Chairman } Committee.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

Saturday, May 8, 1873

Vol. 1, No. 7

J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF ED McCURTAIN TO EDITORS VINDICATOR

I have derived great pleasure and much information from the many valuable articles gleaned from your excellent paper, particularly those relating to education. Glad am I to know that we are at last awakening from the lethargy that has so long enveloped us. We have had a Rip Van Winkle sleep, and I trust we will long remain awake to this all important subject.

I fully agree with our Superintendent, regarding the necessity of more school funds, and, like him, I think we should be taxed, if the money cannot be raised otherwise. Recognizing this truth, I petitioned Council, last fall, asking a tax on livestock, for educational purposes, the petition being signed by most of the voters in this district. I also urged a similar course in the other districts, and had we worked together, a bill to this effect would doubtless have passed Council; but it was one against two, and the petition died in the

"committee room." But it is not too late now, and I am willing to give my support to any honorable measure having this object in view. Let us "try again."

Our Superintendent says truly, that something should be done in order that our teachers may receive their pay regularly. It is a shameful fact that they frequently wait twelve or fifteen months before receiving their pay. Where does the fault lie? and what is the remedy? With the United States Government, and, therefore, we must look to that government for a remedy. It is doubtful whether "closing the schools for a stated time and using the money thus accumulating for running the schools the following year" would have the desired effect. There is no reason why the "fund" should be fifteen months behind time, and we have no assurance that it would not be thirty under the above system. There should be a definite understanding between the Choctaw and United States governments on this subject, and Council should memorialize the proper authorities to this end. The accomplishment of this, and a small tax on livestock, would continue our schools through a ten months' session.

I trust that all interested in education will speak through the VINDICATOR. Let the educational

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banner be unfurled in every part of our Nation. Let us not stop at half-way measures, but let us be determined to secure to every Choctaw child the privilege of a thorough education. Then, and not till then, can we take our merited place among the civilized nations of the earth and controvert the oft-used expression, "That the Indians are not susceptible of a higher civilization."

E. McCURTAIN,

Dist. Trustee Mosholatubbe Dist.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
July 3, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 15
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,)Editors

NEWS ITEM OF ALLEN WRIGHT

Gov. Allen Wright would inform the public generally that his mill, located at Old Boggy Depot, is now in thorough repair, and that he is ready to grind all the wheat and corn that may be sent in.

ALLEN WRIGHT.

Boggy Depot, Atoka kaunti, C. N.,
Chulai 1st, 1875.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, June 12, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 12
J. L. Caldwell, } Editors
J. H. Moore, }

LETTER OF TUSKANOMA TO EDITORS VINDICATOR

Atoka, C. N.,
June 9, 1875.

Editors Vindicator.

The time has arrived that the General Council of the Choctaw nation will have to wake up on the subject of education. The General Council should take some active steps towards establishing more boarding schools. The question arises, how can it be done? I will answer, by developing our sure mineral resources. Let the agency law of the Choctaws be so amended and enlarged that the National Agent be empowered to open coal mines for the special benefit of school purposes, and all revenue derived from coal to be applied in establishing one good number one boarding school. We have vast quantities of stone-coal and other valuable mineral,

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and this would be an admirable plan for utilizing them.

The next General Council of the Choctaw nation should appoint some of its ablest men on a school committee, and also a committee of ways and means to draft a bill to develop the coal and other mineral resources of our country, and apply every dollar to school purposes. Let us educate, or we will be a lost people! Let our rising generation be prepared to meet the great change that will in course of time take place with the United States Government. At present, we are in no condition for that change. Let the General Council adopt the freedmen, formerly held by the Choctaw and Chickasaw people, according to Treaty of 1866, and ask the Government to confirm by act of Congress the payment of the three hundred thousand dollars, with the provision that all negroes not formerly belonging to the Choctaws and Chickasaws conform to our laws governing persons not citizens of either tribe, and then let the said sum of three hundred thousand dollars be appropriated to school purposes.

I noticed in your paper a communication from Hon. E. McCurtain, District Trustee, who is awake upon the subject of education. Let us all support the advancement of education.

TUSKAHOMMA.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, June 13, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 12
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF ALLEN WRIGHT TO EDITORS VINDICATOR

Boggy Depot,
June 4, 1875.

Editors Vindicator.

Your issue of the 29th ult., containing the proclamation of G. W. Ingalls United States Indian Agent forbidding any person or persons to purchase stock without license from the United States, has been noticed. We firmly believe that the U. S. Indian Agent had the good of the Indians at heart when he issued the above mentioned proclamation, but from past experience it has been felt, that requiring persons not citizens of these Nations to procure license before purchasing stock, worked injuriously to the citizens of these Nations; therefore, at the earnest request of the delegates who made the treaty of 1866, the Intercourse Law touching on that question was removed. Therefore

that particular clause is a dead letter, and cannot be enforced. I hereby quote the Treaty for the benefit of all who may be interested, viz.:

Art. 40. All restrictions contained in any treaty heretofore made, or in any regulations of the United States, upon the sale or other disposition of personal chattel property by Choctaws or Chickasaws, are hereby removed.

Persons not citizens of the Choctaw or Chickasaw nations are required to have license from the United States before selling goods, but they could buy anything with money without license from any source.

The above explanation was the explicit understanding among the parties who made the Treaty.

But, in order to protect us on the above subject, it is suggested that the Principal Chief co-operate with the Agent in his orders by ordering the law of 1870 of Choctaw nation, to be put in force by reappointing his cattle inspectors to be stationed at different points on the railroad. At the same time the cattle and pony buyers give the officers three days' notice to examine marks and brands before shipping the same.

Respectfully yours,

ALLEN WRIGHT.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Vol. 1, No. 12
Saturday, June 12, 1875
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF HENRY G. RIND TO EDITORS VINDICATOR

Dallas, Polk Co., Ark.,

May 25, A. D. 1875

Editors Vindicator.

By yesterday's mail I received a copy of your valuable paper. On opening it, I found it was from my friend Heard, of the Nation. The copy that I received had quite an interesting account of the meeting of the Mosholatubby Teacher's Institute. When ex-Gov. Wade was a subscriber I took his paper from the postoffice at this place so as to forward it to him. I had the privilege of reading it before sending it to the Governor, and it was always a pleasure so to do; it brought to memory the early part of my life. Just forty years ago I was appointed, by the venerable Elbert Herving, then Commissioner of Indian

Affairs, (now living in New York, in his 99th year,) to an office in the Choctaw Nation. I lived with my Choctaw friends from 1835 to 1845 doing the duties of teacher and preacher. I have always highly respected, if I may not say loved, the Choctaws. Col. Thomas Leflore was then chief; Col. David Folsom was one of my warmest friends, as was also Col. Peter Pitchlynn, James Fletcher, Basil and Forbis Leflore, Col. Geo. Harkins, Col. Eastman Lowman, Col. Samuel Garland, Rev. Israel Folsom, and numbers of others. Ex-Gov. Wade and myself were neighbors, and were both about twenty-six years of age at that time. These holy men of God, Rev'ds Alfred Wright, Cyrus Kingsbury, Cyrus Byington, Charles Copeland, and others, who have gone to their reward; I love to cherish their memories, for they were friends to me. I was well acquainted with John Page; my house was one of his homes when he traveled and preached to the people. Then there was William Oakchie, Willis James and Richard Harkins; Ex-Governor Wright, now one of the giants of the Nation, was then but a boy.

Col. P. P. Pitchlynn named my oldest daughter, who was born at Schullyville, Talawahous; Col. Thomas Leflore named my first boy Talowohuba, and my third

child, now Fannie Redding living in the Nation on the Howell place near Judge James Hudson, Talowyhemey.

I taught school three years in the Nation, at Lenox, since enjoying myself with Gov. Wade and other old friends, and should have remained, but my health failed me. I now have my home on the Choctaw line, near where the Mountain Fork enters into the State.

I do not know where to direct a letter to my friend Heard, or I would write him and send thanks for the welcome visitor, THE VINDICATOR.

Very respectfully, &c.,

HENRY G. RIND.

P. S.: Several of the persons who were my pupils are now holding honorable positions: Judge Loring Folsom, John Benton, Judge Garvin, John Wilson, Simpson Folsom, and others.

H. G. R.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, July 3, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 15
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF COLEMAN COLE TO COMMISSIONERS

Choctaw Nation,
June 26, 1875.

To the Honorable Commissioners
of the Court of Claims
of the Choctaw Nation:

Sirs:

I have the honor to say to you that I think I have enough lists of names of claimants to keep you busy at work for a month or two. Should you find, by looking over the list of reservation claims, that you will need part of the treaty of 1830, you will let me know immediately, and I will try and get it for the use of the Court of Claims. Please open the Court as soon as possible, so that the claimants can appear before the Court and identify their claims in

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your possession. You will go as far as you can,
and make a report to the next General Council. All
claims adjudicated, you will allow the claimants five
per cent, from the date of adjudication.

Very respectfully,

COLEMAN COLE,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

THE VINDICATOR

New Boggy, Ind. Ter.,
July 10, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 6
Caldwell, Moore, Editors

ADDRESS OF ALLEN WRIGHT AND COLEMAN COLE

At an early hour Monday morning there was hurry and bustle on our streets; people were gathering in from all parts of the country, and every move betokened an interest in the occasion. At 9:15 the train came in from Denison bringing the Cornet Band which had previously been engaged

"To swell the inspiring theme
And touch the sweetest string."

About 10 a. m., a procession was formed and lead by the Band marched to the grove where the services of the Day were to be enacted. It had been previously arranged that the programme should begin with the arrival of the train from the North, but on account of the restlessness of the very large crowd already gathered, and the intelligence that the train would be an hour behind, our fellow townsman, Prof. O. C. Hall was called upon for a short speech, to which he cheerfully responded with

honor to himself and the occasion. The keen whistle of the looked for train now announced the arrival of the Invited Guests who were met at the Depot by Messrs. J. H. Harris and I. W. Folsom, of the Reception Committee. A beautiful Flag of the Stars and Stripes was unfurled and with the Band playing "Hail Columbia" they were escorted to the Grove, where they were met by Ex. Gov. Wright, who delivered the following address of welcome:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In behalf of the citizens of Atoka, and of my people, I extend you a cordial welcome. We have met to celebrate the anniversary of American Independence; we have met to renew socially our obligations of peace and friendship. America has been the home of the Indian from all tradition down, and as a race they have never been in bondage to any power, yet the Day with its stirring events which we have met to celebrate marks an era in our history as well as yours. The changes, which it effected in the great political drama of the world's history allied our interests with yours. We are as it were brothers, we have a common interest, and I hope that the union of heart and hand to-day will be

of benefit to our two races. Again allow me to extend you a sincere and hearty welcome.

After an appropriate air by the band the Orator of the Day, Hon M. W. Reynolds, of Parsons, Kansas, was introduced by Gov. Wright. The Oration we give entire in another place. The language is chaste and elegant and will be appreciated by those who read it, as it was by those whose pleasure it was to hear it. After the Band had played "Yankee Doodle", Gov. Cole, Principal Chief, of the Nation, was introduced and delivered a speech in the Choctaw language, which was interpreted by Mr. Wright, as follows:

I wish to say a few words on this occasion in my own language. I welcome you in behalf of my people. When your ancestry first came among our ancestors, they were to us a very strange people, we thought they were good and kind and superior to us, so we gave them the name of nehulle (the holy thing.) By contact with you our people have learned letters and have received many material advantages. We have been glad to make treaties with the United States because they were a superior people and could

protect us. On this account we rejoice to welcome you among us to celebrate with you this day. I appear before you as the principal officer of this Nation, yet on that account I do not feel myself exalted. I am an old man, seventy-three years of my life have passed. I have always endeavored to live in a plain and simple manner. It is the duty of all of us to live in quiet and faithful obedience to the laws of the land. To live as faithful citizens, we must have for each other that love which the Lord Jesus has commanded us to have. In his own words, he says, "That ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Now some people love gold more than they love their fellow creatures. I hope none here will be guilty of this, but will entertain that love which is approved by the Lord and which will make them faithful in the discharge of duty. I am glad to have you meet with us to-day.

After Gov. Cole's address, dinner was announced, and the ladies and our guests from abroad were invited to follow the band to the first table. During this time, Gov. Wright delivered a stirring

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address in Choctaw. He referred to the fact that the 4th was not a day of rejoicing exclusively for the whites. Our people have ever been the allies of the white people; their success is our success. In the war of 1812 we fought shoulder to shoulder with them under the same flag against a common enemy, and to celebrate this day mutually with the white people was no mere formality with us.

After dinner, Judge Webb, of Kansas, was called upon and favored us with a short address. We regret that on account of distance from the speaker we were unable to hear the first part of his speech. In his closing remarks the Judge touched upon the natural advantages of this country, and urged upon the people the importance of developing it themselves.

Dr. Wright, of Oswego, Kansas, then sang the "Star Spangled Banner," several voices joining in the chorus.

After which Judge Kelso was introduced to the audience. We regret we are unable to report him.

Judge Perkins, of Oswego, Kansas, was then introduced to the audience. He said it afforded

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him pleasure to be here to-day; was pleased to see so much enterprise and spirit of improvement displayed by these people. Nothing changed or shaped the manners of a people so much as education, and he advised them to go on in this good work, for upon it depended their future. They as a people occupied an anomalous position in the General Government, a fact which they should realize. This country was theirs of a truth, but they were also actors in the great drama which was being enacted for progress, and certainly they cannot expect to occupy this as a peculiar people with peculiar institutions forever. You must educate and make preparations for the great, inevitable change.

The time for the arrival of the evening train being near at hand, ex-Gov. Wright, in behalf of the people, thanked all those who had helped to contribute to the pleasures of the day.

Hon. M. W. Reynolds and others left on the 3:30 p. m. train for the north.

The rest of the day was spent in social amusement.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
August 28, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 23
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF TUSKANOMA TO EDITORS VINDICATOR

Atoka, Aug. 24th 1875.

Editors Vindicator:

I notice in your issue of the 21st inst., a communication signed "A Wasp." There is not a more erroneous idea that some people have fallen into in this territory, than that of supposing the United States Government would allow the Secretary of Interior or commissioner of Indian affairs to speculate on our bonds, which are worth dollar for dollar. It seems the "Wasp" has fallen into the same idea. I am not informed what Bible he reads, whether Catholic or Protestant; but the constitution of the Choctaw Nation gives its citizens the right to write freely on any subject. I am aware that some few might be willing to pay a small poll tax for school

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purposes; but if such a bill was introduced in the Choctaw Legislature, I do not believe it would pass. Wasp must be dreaming. The constitution of the Choctaw Nation deprives any man or set of men of having any absolute power, but may serve only during good behavior. The Choctaws do not want any more Greenwood Leflore's or supervisors either. Let the Wasp beware when he charges all the public men of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations as resting under accusation of taking or borrowing money, as we have a law for slander in this Nation.

Tuskahoma would most willingly open a coal mine and apply the proceeds to educational purposes, but he has no where to stick his spade, the claims of Bob Ream and Jas. McAlister being so numerous, they, having taken all and some that there was previous claim on, for instance Judge Chesdler's claim at McAlister that he had before McAlister became a citizen.

Our laws are very good, but I am sorry to say that some second rate white men, such as Bob Ream and Jas. McAlister continue to violate them with impunity, notwithstanding the Agency Law requires that no person or persons shall ship coal &c., without entering into contract with the national authorities, simply because

the judgment of the courts are pending upon the constitutionality of the act. I think the Choctaw people will now be brought to a sense of error, and will alter the 18th section of the Constitution which grants one mile to claimants of mines, and make it conform to the law regulating improvements. The coal fields belong to the whole people of both nations and their councils should pass laws giving citizens the right to work only 440 yards.

Wasp, in speaking of our rights, says; what rights have we? I will answer. The Choctaw people have a right to this country, and they mean to hold it and educate all their Choctaw children if possible. The patent is vested in the whole people, and that important documents is secure in our National Secretary's office. Wasp further says we have no honorable men, I would ask, where are Gov. Cole, Gov. Overton, Gov. Harris, Col. L. Reynolds, J. D. Harris and other prominent men of both Nations. We especially invite all law abiding white men, who are good hightoned gentlemen, who will attend to their own business and not run around putting their noses in our national affairs, to come among us. The common steeek white men, when they marry for a right, the first thing they

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want is the allotment of the lands and that even without the consent of the people having the primary right. Whenever the people, as a mass, desire to change their relations with the Government of the United States, they will do so by act of their General Council.

TUSKATOMA.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 4, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 24
Caldwell & Moore, Editors

LETTER OF COLEMAN COLE TO EDITOR OF VINDICATOR

Executive Mansion,
Sept. 1st, 1875.

Editors Vindicator:

I am compelled, for the present, to remove my office from Atoka. Hereafter it will be located at my own house until the meeting of Council. The large enclosure east of Atoka entirely fences me off. If there was nothing but my own private business to call me to town, I would enter no complaint, as I could go around if it was twenty miles. I shall have to ask that this fence be removed, or that a lane be made through it for the convenience of those who wish to find my house. There is no direct road to my house, and this fencing, of which I complain, causes people greater inconvenience by compelling them to go a considerable distance out

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of the way. There is plenty of other land that could be fenced without shutting up the approaches to town. The people have business with the Governor every day, and it is injustice to them and to me to have this fencing where it is, without a right of way through it.

I will not issue permits to white people hereafter until Congress provides a better way of regulating this business. When we bought this land or soil from the United States Government, we never bought the white people with it, and they must know as well as I do, that if they reside here they must pay for that privilege -- and if they do not they are intruders. We cannot have our timber, grass, &c., destroyed by white intruders. They are good people -- they are Christian people -- they know what is good and right -- they are familiar with the laws of the world, and they know that the foundation of the law is in these words: "Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." These white intruders are men of knowledge and are abundantly able to speak for themselves. I consign them to their own tender mercies and the judgements in the day when the oppressors of the

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poor and illiterate people and despoilers of the
needy shall hide themselves in the dens and in the
rocks of the mountains and shall say to the rocks
and mountains, fall on us and hide us from the
face and wrath of Him who sitteth on the throne
to judge the world.

COLEMAN COLE

Governor of the Choctaw Nation.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
September 25, 1875

Vol. 1, No. 27

J. L. Caldwell,) Editors
J. H. Moore,)

PROCLAMATION OF COLEMAN COLE

Executive Office,

Choctaw Nation.

Sept. 25th, 1875.

To any and all white persons claiming Choctaw citizenship by birth, or marriage, who have never brought themselves before the Choctaw Council to establish their right of citizenship:-

Now, therefore, they are requested to come forward before the General Council of the Choctaw Nation, at the Capitol, Chahta Tamaha, on the first Monday in October, 1875, and prove their right of citizenship.

COLEMAN COLE,

Governor C. N.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
September 25, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 27
J. L. Caldwell,) Editors
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COLEMAN COLE,
Governor C. N.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
November 10, 1875

Vol. 1, No. 34

J. L. Caldwell, } Editors
J. H. Moore, }

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF COLEMAN COLE

Executive Office,
Choctaw Nation,
November 3d, 1875.

To the Hon. Senators
and Representatives;

Gentlemen:

I would call your attention to the resolution adopted by the General Council of Indian Territory, dated September the 9th, 1875, protesting against the Caddo-Boudinot Resolutions, as misrepresenting the sentiment of the Indian people to the Government and the people of the States. The question of holding our right to the soil, and to the right of self-government is indisputable. It is our own to decide, and according to our own custom. It is optionary to us to look to our own interest, which is sufficient to employ all thoughts in all times to come. There-

fore, depending on your patriotic wisdom, you will please ratify and affirm the said resolution of the Okmulgee Council.

COLEMAN COLE.

Principal Chief.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 17, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 35
Caldwell & Moore, Editors

RESOLUTION

Chahta Tamaha

Oct. 28, 1875

Resolution to pay the officers and members of the present General Council, national officers and national light-horsemen.

Sec. 1. Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled, that the sum of two dollars per day be and is hereby allowed to the officers and members of the present session of the General Council, and national officers and national light-horsemen in attendance on duty during the present session of Council.

Sec. 2. Be it further resolved that the national auditor be and he is hereby directed to issue his warrant for the same on the national treasury.

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Sec. 3. Be it further resolved that this resolution take effect and be in force on and after its passage.

Proposed by Sampson Cole.

Passed the House Oct. 28th, 1875. J. White, Speaker.

Passed the Senate Oct. 29th, 1875. J. B. Moore, President.

VETO MESSAGE

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 17, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 35
Caldwell & Moore, Editors

AN ACT

An act entitled an act prescribing the duties of National Agent and for other purposes:

Sec. 1. -- Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled, That the Principal Chief is hereby authorized and directed to appoint one competent person, citizen of said Nation, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a National Agent to act as agent for the sale of timber, stone and stone coal, to any railroad company for the construction and repairing of said railroad, within the limits of the Nation.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That said national agent shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office, take the oath of office, prescribed in the constitution before any judge of a court of record, which oath thus taken shall be written and subscribed on his commission and shall enter into bond with good and sufficient securities,

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to be approved by the Principal Chief in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars, (\$20,000) payable to the Choctaw Nation, conditioned as herein after directed: that he shall, well and truly, pay over to the treasury of the Choctaw Nation, all monies received by him and due the Nation, for the sale of timber, stone and stone coal, and will make a true and correct statement , quarterly annually, to the Principal Chief, of the amount of all monies received, together with all monies he may receive from the railroad company or any other company for timber and stone, have been taken and left unsettled for and paid into the National Treasury, which bond shall be filed in the office of the National Secretary, and may be put in suit in the same manner, and on the same condition as the National Treasurer's bond.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That the National Agent shall demand and receive the sum of ten cents for each tie sold, and square timber, three cents per foot, running measure; stone at the usual rates in the states, taken from the public domain of the Choctaw Nation.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That the

National Agent shall demand and receive, directly from any coal and mining company, one-half cent per bushel mined and exported from any mine in this Nation, to be used and appropriated specially for school purposes.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the National Agent shall hold his office for the term of two years from the date of his commission, unless sooner removed for malconduct in office or other disqualifying causes, and shall receive for his services ten per cent on all monies collected by virtue of the act, and belonging to and due the Choctaw Nation.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That the National Agent be and is hereby authorized to call upon the railroad company, and make and have a speedy and just settlement for timbers and stone that have been taken within the limits of the Choctaw Nation for construction of railroad and other purposes not settled for, and receive pay for the same, and pay over and report the same, as directed in the second section of this act.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That the

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National Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation, is hereby authorized and required, to pay over to the Treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation, or to any authorized person of the Chickasaw Nation, the sum of one-fourth of all monies that may come into his hands under the provisions of this act, and take his receipt for the same.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That all acts or part of acts, coming in any manner in conflict with the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed, and this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by Benjamin Smallwood.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the original act, now on file in my office, Nov. 12th, 1875.

A. R. DURANT,
National Secretary.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Wednesday, November 17, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 35
J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,)

MARRIAGE ACT

Whereas, The Choctaw Nation is being filled up with white persons of worthless characters by so called marriages to the great injury of the Choctaw people, therefore,

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled, That the peace and prosperity of the Choctaw people require that any white man or citizen of the United States, or of any foreign government desiring to marry a Choctaw woman citizen of the Choctaw Nation, shall be and is hereby required to obtain a license for the same from any of the circuit clerks or judge of a court of record, or make oath or satisfactory showing to such clerk or judge, that he has not a surviving wife from whom he has not been lawfully divorced and unless such information be freely furnished to the satisfaction

of the clerk or judge, no license shall issue.

Sec. 2 Be it further resolved, That any white man or person applying for a license as provided in proceeding section of this act, shall, before obtaining the same, be required to present to the said clerk or judge, a certificate of good, moral character, signed by at least ten respectable citizens by blood who shall have been acquainted with him at least twelve months immediately proceeding the signing of such certificate.

Sec. 3. Be it further Resolved, Before any license as herein provided shall be issued, the person applying shall be and is hereby required to pay to the clerk or judge, the sum of five dollars, and be also required to take the following oath: I do solemnly swear that I will honor, defend and submit to the constitution and laws of the Choctaw Nation, and will neither claim nor seek from the United States Government, or from the judicial tribunals thereof any protection privilege or redress incompatible with the same, as guaranteed to the Choctaw Nation by the United states in treaty stipulations entered into between them so help me God.

Sec. 4. Marriages contracted under the provisions of this act, shall be solemnized as provided by the

laws of this Nation or otherwise null and void.

Sec. 5. No marriage between a citizen of the United States or any foreign nation and a female citizen of this nation, entered into within the limits of this nation except herein before authorized and provided, shall be legal, and any person who shall engage and assist in solemnizing such marriage, shall, upon conviction before the Circuit Court of the districts of this nation be fined fifty dollars, and it shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney, in which person resides to prosecute such person before the Circuit Court, and one-half of all fines arising under this act shall be equally divided between the sheriff and prosecuting attorney.

Sec. 6. Every person performing the marriage ceremony under the authority of a license provided for herein, shall be required to attach a certificate of marriage to the back of the license, and return it to the person in whose behalf it was issued, who shall, within thirty days therefrom, place the same in the hands of the circuit clerk, whose duty it shall be to record the same and return to the owner.

Sec. 7. Be it further Resolved, That should any man or woman, a citizen of the United States, or of

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any foreign country, become a citizen of the Choctaw Nation by intermarriage, and be left a widow or widower, shall continue to enjoy the rights of citizenship, unless, he or she shall marry a white man or woman, or person as the case may be, having no rights of Choctaw citizenship by blood. In that case all his or her rights acquired under the provisions of this act shall cease.

Sec. 8. Every person who shall lawfully marry under the provision of this act, and afterwards abandon his wife, shall forfeit every right of citizenship, and shall be considered intruders and removed from the nation by the Principal Chief.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, That this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by ALFRED WRIGHT.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
November 17, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 35
J. L. Caldwell, } Editor
J. H. Moore, }

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM J. BRYANT

Pursuant to previous notice a meeting was called in the Representative Hall, Chahta Tamaha Nov. 11th, 1875 On motion of Louis Cass, Edwin McCurtain was called to the Chair--meeting was called to order and the object made known, viz: For nominating Principal Chief to be elected August, 1876.

The name of Ex-Gov. Wm. Bryant was proposed by McKee King.

The name of Gov. Coleman Cole was proposed by Wm. Perry. Gov. Cole being present accepted the nomination.

Ballot as follows--Wm. Bryant eleven votes; Coleman Cole, six votes.

Gov. Cole addressed the meeting and declared himself a candidate for re-election.

EDMOND McCURTAIN, Chair'n
Cole Nelson, Secretary.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 17, 1875
Vol. 1, No. 35
Caldwell & Moore, Editors

LETTER OF COLEMAN COLE TO SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Chahta Tamaha

Oct. 29, 1875

Senators and Representatives:

Gentleman -- Sirs:

I, coleman Cole, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, do hereby disapprove the resolution passed the House Representatives Oct. 28th, 1875, and passed the Senate Oct. 29th, 1875, in order to get the money out of the Treasury in the name of a resolution, is over-reaching the simple law; and therefore I deem it unconstitutional and imprudent. I will refer you to our Constitution Legislative Department, Article 3, Section 13th; also refer you to the General Provision, Article 7th, Section 22. You will please read it and interpret and get the

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understanding.

COLEMAN COLE,
Principal Chief, C. N.

RECONSIDERED AND PASSED BY TWO-THIRD VOTE

Passed the House by two-third vote, Nov.
1st, 1875, J. White, Speaker.

YEAS -- Green McCurtain, Isom Goings, Samp-
son Cole, Nachali, C. C. Erwin, Cornelius Homa,
Moses Perry, Benjamin Smallwood, Isom Walker, James
Right, Barton Jones, John Garvin -- 12.

NAYS -- Gilbert Perry -- 1.

Passed the Senate by two-third vote, Nov.
1st, 1875, J. B. Moore, President of the Senate.

YEAS -- Mishemahtabi, Ben. Wesly, Mckee
King, Chas. Winston, Robert Payne, Notema, Thos.
Jefferson Morai Cass, Alfred Wright. -- 9.

Nays -- Alfred Shonny -- 1.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolu-
tion , the veto message and the yeas and nays on
said resolution is a true and correct copy on file
in the National Secretarys office.

Given under my hand and (seal) seal, at
Chahta Tamaha, C. H. this the 5th day of November
1875.

A. R. DURANT

National Secretary.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
April 5, 1876
Vol. 2, No. 3
J. L. Caldwell,) Editors
J. H. Moore,)

LETTER OF COLEMAN COLE TO EDITOR VINDICATOR

Choctaw Nation,
April 2, 1876.

Editors Vindicator:

I will say a few words in reply to the piece of March 29th, 1876, where it says:

"Constitutional Amendment again, answer to Gov. Cole. With due deference to your opinions, as executive of the Nation, we think that you were wrong in the exercise of the veto power on a constitutional provision. No one denies your right to approve or disapprove of the acts of the Council or of resolutions, which by their implied language become laws."

I think that this wise man is from the far East, I think that he comes from the country called Asia--has come here to teach us some of his techni-

calities, so we may be as smart as he is. But, sir, I could not be any smarter than what the Constitution and the law says. He says, "we think that you were wrong." I say it is not worth a pinch of snuff, for a man to say or do anything, when he only thinks so, for my humble judgment, I am willing to follow the spirit of the Constitution and the laws of the land. Futhermore, you say:

No one denies your right to approve or disapprove of the acts of the Council, or of Resolutions, which by their implied language become laws."

Now sir, my dear friend, tell me what is the difference between these four words, propositions, bills, resolutions, acts, and the laws? My answer is this. You have used the word propositions, when you don't find it in the law book. You say they are only propositions, not bills, and I suppose you think it could not be called resolutions. You have used the word propositions. I say the word proposition is the beginning of a man's opinion, or a member of the Council, out of his proposition, brings out his bill or resolution, and signs his name as proposer, or bill proposed by Tom Dick, then it is a bill or resolution before the council for their action. After the council

acts on it, and if passed and approved, then it becomes a law, or act or resolution, the word you find in the law book. It says, "they may propose an amendment." When you read it call for an understanding. Your wisdom will tell you in a moment, as it did to me. When the resolution is acted on, passed and approved, it becomes an act or resolution because they acted on it.

Well, my dear sir, in one place you say, "No one denies your right to approve or disapprove." Very well, one is right in your own eyes. I tell you, my dear sir, it is all right.

When I wrote to you March 22d, 1876, I humbly asked you to sign your name to the piece. Now, you have not done it. What made me ask you to sign your name was this. Soon as I find out it was a white man, I want it to quit. I have no time to be talking to white men. But you have referred me to 2d Samuel, chapter 12, to which you say, "your case is similar to that of King David." I say, no sir.

My dear friend, I never went to no man's wife, as much as to lay with her. This is quite different. As the Lord sent Nathan unto David, verse 7, And Nathan said to David, "Thou art the man! And he expounded the

commandment of the Lord, and explained his wickedness to him, verse 13, and David said unto Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

This is entirely different from what you think it is. Upon the whole, this was my judgment. I am bound and willing to bow down to the law of the land. I believe you are satisfied more than me.

Gov. C. COLE.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

April 19, 1876

Vol. 2, No. 5

J. L. Caldwell,)
J. H. Moore,) Editors

LETTER OF SIMPSON MCGILBERRY TO COLEMAN COLE

Red Oak, C. N.

April 8, 1876.

Well, my dear sir, Coleman Cole, if you have no time to talk to a white man, talk to me then, for I am a Choctaw; and let us talk about that proposed amendment you got under your seat, and making so much fuss about, but wont allow us people to vote on it, just because you are opposed to having the capital moved to Atoka. Now, my dear sir, Coleman Cole, can't you see what the Constitution says? That part of the Constitution, Art. 9, Sec. 1st, don't give you any power to approve or disapprove of it. But the Constitution says: "That National Secretary shall submit the proposed amendment to the people at least four months before next election for vote."

Now, Coleman Cole, what do you think that word "shall" means? It expresses determination in the speaker, and the Constitution must have some way of bringing an officer to justice if he is contrary in his official duties. You will please read the Constitution, Art. 6th, Sec. 3rd. It says: "The Chiefs and all civil officers shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office. But judgment in such case shall not extend further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor in this Nation."

But impeachment could not hurt you anyhow, for you will never be elected Chief again. But maybe you know this, and that is the reason you are so contrary.

Now my dear sir, Coleman Cole, I want to tell you another thing before coming to a close. You say "proposition" is the "beginning of a man's opinion." You are badly mistaken, sir. It is more of a question than that. You played smash trying to explain the meaning of "proposition."

Please answer.

I am your servant,

SIMPSON MCGILBERT.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

April 26, 1876

Vol. 2, No. 6

J. L. Caldwell, } Editors

J. H. Moore, }

LETTER OF LEVI WILLIS TO COLEMAN COLE

Scullyville, C. N.,

April 17, 1876.

Editors Vindicator:

If Chief, Coleman Cole, persistently claims the veto power of the Resolution for the removal of the capitol to Atoka, it must be declared so by the Constitution; but I entertain a different opinion. The Constitution is too plain to justify an argument. It gives the sole power to the members of the General Council assembled. It is for them to propose an amendment or amendments to the Constitution, which amendment shall be submitted by the National Secretary.

The Constitution guarantees to every citizen, the privilege, whenever his liberty is restrained illegally, or otherwise. The Chief's doctrine is not sustained by the Constitution or any principle of reason. What then, does this clause in the Constitution

mean?

I will venture to say that there is not another man in the Nation, learned or unlearned, who would hazard the expression of such an opinion, except the Chief alone. Mr. Chief, I do not think it lies in your power to veto the Resolution. You have trampled our laws under your feet, and violated every citizen's rights and justice. You have snatched out of the hands of the people their rights guaranteed to them by their Constitution, and hold yourself equal to King David, that he would lie with another man's wife, simply because he was their King.

Sir, reason this thing to yourself, and you will find that in your ignorance you acted wrong, and if the members of the last General Council see proper, and I think they will see it, they will submit this Amendment of their Constitution to the County Judges of this Nation for them to have placed on the poll books at the next regular election for and against such proposed Amendment or Amendments, and let the citizens get their legal rights.

LEVI WILLIS.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
Wednesday, May 24, 1876
Vol. 2 ----- No. 10
J. L. Caldwell)
J. H. Moore) Editors

ALLEN WRIGHT CANDIDATE FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF.

Choctaw Nation,

May 18th, 1876.

Ex-Gov. Allen Wright,

Boggy Depot, C. N.

Dear Sir--Seeing with sorrow the languishing condition of our Nation, in industries, morals and laws, and knowing you to be free of personal prejudices and sufficiently progressive in all your ideas, yet true to the interests of your people, we earnestly solicit you to become a candidate for Principal Chief, promising you our support and influence in securing your election.

Respectfully,

Your fellow citizens.

Taylor Durant,
John Allison,
Wm. Walner,
F. M. Fox,
H. E. Scott,
I. W. Folsom,
O. Hebert,

James Jerry,
Morgan Perry,
Jas. Colbert,
T. J. Bond,
L. A. Morris,
A. E. Folsom,
W. A. Welch,

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
October 4, 1876
Vol. 2, No. 29
J. E. Moore, Editor

OBITUARY ON JAMES McCURTAIN

On the 22d ult., at the residence of his
father, Scullyville county, C. N., James, son of
Greenwood and Katie McCurtain, aged about two years.

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THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1876
Vol. 2, No. 30
J. H. Moore, Editor

MEMORIAL OF COLEMAN COLE

Executive Office,
Choctaw Nation,
November 30, 1875

To Hon. Secretary
of the Interior:

Dear Sir:

In the name of the Choctaw people, I do hereby respectfully memorialize unto your Honor, do hereby ask and beg under treaty stipulations, that the same may be fulfilled, and the award made by the Senate of the United States, on the 7th day of March, 1859. The same is the Net Proceed of our land sold in the State of Mississippi, as it is now known as Net Proceed \$2,981, 247.30, and the interest at five per cent from the Senate award to the Choctaw Nation, may be regulated by your Honor, and by your magnanimity towards the

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Choctaw Indians; that the principal and interest thereof for about 15 years, may be allowed, consolidated and invested in the name of the Choctaw Nation, in Registered Bonds of the United States, at five per cent per annum, and the interest only be payable in coin, from year to year, by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Your humble servant further memorializes and begs your Honor that the first money appropriated by Congress from the said Net Proceed to the Choctaw Nation, for the express purpose to pay the claimants, should be, ought to be, or may be regulated by the good will of Congress. That the said moneys should be paid by Special Agent, guarded by military force, to pay every dollar to the claimants themselves, to their heirs, executors or administrators. I have seen the argument in the House of Congress last Session. Some of the members were charging the Government, trying to throw all the blame on the Government for not paying the Net Proceed over to the Nation, after driving them from their ancient home, not only that, but the Legislature of the State of Mississippi passed a Resolution about 1836, stating, if the Choctaws proved themselves clear that they have complied with the requirements of the treaty of 1830, to have reserved land, in such cases,

requesting Congress not to let the Indians have the reserved land, but to pay them in money, so that white men should have the land and make cotton. Such was the legislative influence in Congress in 1842-3. So those who took the five year's stay in order to get their fee simple title to their perpetual homesteads, that is, five years from the ratification of the treaty of 1830, to which most of them were cut out from their perpetual homestead, and sacrificed, to a great extent in land, personal property, goods and chattels.

But that is not the case with me. I will show you that I blame my own people for it, those who have been traveling from here to Washington for about 40 years, to the best of my judgment, whom I think have lost the moral principle, for this delay of 15 years, and I would like to be understood by the Government.

I will quote a few words from the treaty of 1855, the last part of the 12th article says: "It being expressly understood that the adjudication and decision of the Senate shall be final." So the Senate of the United States, according to the 11th article of said treaty, decided several questions submitted to them on the 9th day of March, 1859, and the validity of the claim cannot be denied.

case the Senate shall award to the Choctaws the Net Proceed of the land, the same shall be received by them in full satisfaction of all their claims against the United States, whether National or Individual, and the Choctaws shall thereupon become liable and bound to pay all such individual claims as may be adjudged by the proper authorities of the tribe to be equitable and just." But such claims have never been adjudicated, so I have no earthly chance of throwing the blame upon the Government for not paying the Net Proceed claim over to the Nation.

The law for organizing the Court of Claims for the Choctaw Nation; which the Choctaws had promised in the said treaty of 1855, article 12th, to examine and adjudicate the individual claims, was passed in the year 1859, but not organized until last summer. The Court examined and allowed claims to nearly the amount of \$200,000 on the first Monday in October. They are now working hard at what should have been done twenty years ago.

I will say this much in regard to the making of the treaty of 1855, between the United States and the Choctaws. They both bind themselves to adjudicate and decide questions by their Governments. So the Senate of the United States decided sixteen years ago.

Several Congressional committees have reported the Choctaw claim as honest and just. The failure is on the part of our Government for not having the individual claims adjudicated according to the promise made in the treaty of 1855, and to make the requisition upon the United States for the just liabilities due the tribe.

I notice that the majority of the members of Congress at the last session, were in favor of every dollar of the money being paid to the claimants, individually. The treaty of 1855, article 12th says, "The direction of the United States' Agent of the tribe."

This leads me to believe that the United States is bound to see that individual claimants get every dollar due them. I feel bound to look up to the Government for it, not to depend upon speculators. The treaty does not say that the money shall go into the hands of delegates.

But how are we to be paid, when speculators stand at the doors of Congress stretching forth their hands, crying and howling, and saying, "Give me the whole of that Indian money -- I am their King and the Ruler of the Nation -- I receive their moneys?" If they once get it into their hands, we will never get one cent of it.

The treaty of 1855, article 12th, says, "In

The authorities of the Choctaws were to examine and adjudicate the individual claims before they could call upon the Government for the Net Proceed money, which has never been adjudicated on account of Peter P. Pitchlynn and his clan working against it.

Again, the treaty of 1855, article 11th, says "Justly appreciating the sacrifices, faithful services, and general good conduct of the Choctaw people, and being desirous that their rights and claims against the United States shall receive a just, fair, liberal consideration, it is therefore stipulated," &c. I never thought the speculators could get between the Indians and their money whilst the United States was our agent.

The aforesaid Pitchlynn is the cause of all this delay of the Choctaw Government. Together with his lawyer and lobbyists, he is urging Congress to pay the whole amount of the Net Proceed Claim into their hands. Pitchlynn is hard at work, his agent, his attorney and lobbyist are working against us day and night. We don't want them. We want them to hold their peace. Evil is in their good words. Their tongues are forked, and we want nothing to do with them. They have injured us long enough both as individuals, as well as a Nation.

The General Council of the Choctaw Nation, in the year 1874, passed an act repudiating and revoking

contracts made in the year 1853-4, and never to employ any lawyer or agent, and that law is now in full force and effect.

If the Choctaw Government had went on and adjudicated the individual claims soon after the ratification of the treaty of 1855, and not listened to speculators, they would have done better. This fifteen years delay is too long to wait for money when we know our claim is honest and just, and has been so declared by Congress. Yet we cannot blame the Government for not paying it. The Senate and House committees all favor the paying the individual Choctaws for this reason.

We held our homesteads in perpetuity when our land was brought into market and sold by the Government, from under our feet.

I, COLEMAN COLE, speak for all the Individuals, as well as the Nation, and when I say I, it means the Choctaw Nation.

Therefore, I, Coleman Cole, say that whenever the United States is satisfied when anything is done or about to be done, in order to fulfill the treaty stipulations, by the good moral principle, I am ready and willing to do it at any and all times. We don't want to go into court. What is the use of throwing an undisputed claim into court? But Peter Pitchlynn and his

clan says we cannot get the Net Proceed without going into the United States Court. I cannot see anything to be made by it. I see what they want, and am bound to believe that they want the whole of the Net Proceed to themselves, so I have to ask the Government to protect my people against any such cheats and frauds.

At the treaty of 1820, at Doakstand, our perpetual homestead was declared good, safe, and the right was to stand forever, never to be obliterated.

And by the treaty of 1830, at Dancing Rabbit Creek, a perfect and complete ruin to the Choctaws, both individual and National was effected, by Col. William Ward, U. S. Agent for the Choctaws, keeping false Register Books. There is where the Choctaws were ruined in land and personal property.

About the year 1833, before the first land sale commenced at Chochuma, I went to the Locating Agent, George W. Martin, and requested him to register my land in my name. He informed me that he could not do so, as my name was not on the Book he received from the War Department. I blame Col. Ward for the omission of my name in his Register Book.

We became individual claimants under the treaty of 1855, and the treaty of 1830, article 18th, stands good where it says, "whenever well-founded doubts shall

arise, it shall be regarded and construed most favorable to the Choctaws.

I, Coleman Cole, would like to thoroughly understand the magnanimity and benevolence of the United States towards its wards.

By the treaties of 1820-30, the United States was found to be indebted to individual Choctaws, the sum of five millions dollars, or more; then the treaty of 1855 with the Choctaws was made for the convenience of individual Choctaws in establishing their just claims. Let this be done in an impartial manner, then the individuals will get their money. The remainder should constitute a General Choctaw Fund, yielding an annual interest of not less than 5 per cent. per annum for the express purpose of education.

It is to be hoped that the United States never intended to repudiate this debt of five million dollars, when our Net Proceed is only \$2,981,247.30, which will never be paid except at the option of the Government.

In regard to the treaty of 1855, we did not make it. By it we are only agents of the United States, appointed to examine and adjudicate the individual claims, and find out how much damages the United States have done to individual Choctaws. After finding this out, to make the necessary requisition upon the Government

for the amount adjudicated, when the United States is to pay the same, without further denial or delay. And I am satisfied that the United States will be ready and willing to pay it whenever it is presented in the form contemplated by the treaty.

The Choctaw Government proper, has made no requisition upon the United States to pay the individual claimants for the past twenty years. The requisitions during that time have been made by speculators, who have made great confusion in Congress.

Article 22d, section 33rd of the treaty of 1855, reads as follows:

"It is understood and agreed that the expenses of the respective Commissioners of the two tribes signing these articles of agreement and convention, in coming to and returning from this city, and whilst here, shall be paid by the United States." So Pitchlynn and his lawyers should have been paid twenty years ago.

The treaty of 1830 was never intended to defeat or impair the bona fide perpetual homestead, claimed by the Choctaws under the treaty of 1820, but the way it was brought about we are compelled to accept it and claim the money. As was said by the Legislature of Mississippi, and also the opinion of the Government, that the Choctaw Government would have done better had

they not sent speculators to Washington as they did in 1853-4, to attend to their business. The Nation has expended about two millions of dollars up to this date for nothing. In March 1861, Pitchlynn and his clan induced Congress to appropriate \$500,000, without any authority from the Nation. They also received \$250,000 in cash and \$250,000 in United States bonds. It is said they sold those bonds to Lamon & Co., for \$60,000. They never paid the individual claimants one cent. This is cheating men, women and children, and shows them utterly unworth of confidence hereafter.

Mr. Comingo introduced a bill at the last session of Congress to appropriate the whole amount of the Net Proceed, from the date of the Senate award, in money, to be paid to Peter P. Pitchlynn and Peter Folsom. It was defeated. It was then amended by Mr. Parker to read "to be paid in bonds, to the Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation." This was also defeated, 137 against 83. It should have read, "payable to the Choctaw Nation, for individual claimants," as contemplated by the treaty.

Pitchlynn and his clan are opposed to the Court of Claims. This is evident from their actions. See report of Solicitor of the Treasury, in relation

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to the Choctaw Net Proceed claims, June 7th, 1872.

E. C. Barfield's report of May 29th, 1872, says that he found that no individual claims had ever been adjudicated by the tribe. So that Congress in appropriating money in 1861, done so either through their neglect of the terms of the treaty, or as a pure gratuity.

See Pitchlynn's pamphlet, October 1872, against the views of the Department of Justice.

I do honestly believe that had it not been for Pitchlynn and his clan working against moral principle, that the United States would have had the Net Proceed invested in the name of the Choctaw Nation, in registered bonds, sixteen years ago.

This is to let the United States understand how badly the individual claimants have been treated by speculators for the past 40 years.

It was doubtless Pitchlynn and his clan, that caused the last session of Congress to pass an act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell the Choctaw lands held in trust by him to raise the sum of \$200,000, to relieve the Choctaws from starvation. The white man never saw an Indian starve to death. Such bill was against the will of the Choctaws, yet somebody made it appear in Congress that the Indian

could not live without the help of the white man.

Very Respectfully,

COLEMAN COLE,

Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Jan. 13, 1877

Vol. 3, No. 49

G. McPherson & Co., Editors

LETTER OF ED McCURTAIN

TO THE HON. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To the Honorable Executive Committee
of Foreign Missions:

Gentlemen:

Your communication of Nov. 10th, in reply to the action of the Board of Trustees of Schools in the Choctaw Nation, is at hand. It seems, from your reply, that you are in receipt of information from some other source, respecting Spencer Academy, besides our School Board and Superintendent, and from the tone of your reply, we judge that information incorrect.

In statement let you say that the funds were withheld from Spencer since September 1st, when in fact, they did not arrive until the 17th of October. The cause of this delay we do not know, therefore cannot remedy. But we do not think that this delay necessarily prevented the opening of Spencer, since the Academy under the Methodist Board, with precisely the same contract and

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under the same treatment, opened their school on Sept. 1st; besides, Spencer was open but seven months last year.

In your 2d, your honorable body asks a guarantee that the money be forth-coming at the proper time. Since we do not receive the school funds at any stated period from the U. S. government, we of course cannot agree to pay Spencer Academy their portion at any stated period; we pay it over as soon as it is received. Neither do we think that the council will empower the Secretary, at Washington, to pay the money to your honorable body, and if you cannot carry out your part of the contract without those guarantees, the contract must of course be discontinued.

Our actions regarding Mr. Colton were not based upon his management of Spencer. He was charged with keeping a store, or trading house (without license or permit) which fact he acknowledged before our Board. This being a violation of the Intercourse Law and strangely at variance with what should be the conduct of a Christian missionary among our people, we did not deem him the proper person for such an important charge, and therefore requested your honorable body to send a new superintendent.

You charge our Board with keeping the school closed, because we did not wish to recognize Mr. Colton as superintendent of Spencer, by paying him the money due that Academy. The fact of our requesting the temporary appointment of the principal teacher, as superintendent, until you had time to appoint a new one, seems to us to indicate directly the opposite.

You also charge us with violating the contract, and of putting your honorable body to great and needless expense, in not paying the money to the superintendent in time for him to open Sept. 1st. Allow us to call your attention to the following from the contract: "The payment of said six thousand dollars shall be made so often as received from the Government of the United States." We also desire to call your attention to the following: "And the school laws in this nation shall generally apply, in all cases not inconsistent with this agreement." Our school law says there shall not be a trading post within one mile of the Academy. Mr. Colton kept one at the school house.

In conclusion, the School Board beg leave to say that they cannot comply with the request of your honorable body, and surrender their prerogative in the supervision of any school in this nation. We certainly

have as much at stake -- financially, or otherwise
(probably more) as your honorable selves, and in sur-
rendering this, we would at the same time surrender
the esteem and betray the trust of our people.

Respectfully,

ED. McCURTAIN.

Supt. of Schools for B'd Trustees.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Jan. 27, 1877
Vol. 3 No. 51
McPherson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF GREENWOOD LE FLORE

Mr. Greenwood LeFlore, of Grenada, Miss., and Mr. R. H. Kirk, of Culpepper, Va., two of our students, have been called home unexpectedly on account of death in their families. Mr. LeFlore's brother was suddenly killed by being thrown from a horse, and Mr. Kirk's mother died. These young gentlemen, in their bereavement, have the sympathy of the entire college community. -- (Roanoke Collegian.

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.
Saturday, February 10, 1877
Vol. 1, No. 49
W. P. BOUDINOT, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF P. PITCHLYNN

Gov. Pitchlynn's father was an interpreter
under commission from Gen. Washington.

Gov. Pitchlynn is in his seventy-second year,
and is a representative of the Choctaw Nation before
Congress.

Gov. Pitchlynn, of the Choctaws, was born in
the Indian town of Rush-co-we, now Noxable county, in
the state of Mississippi.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Feb. 10, 1877

Vol. 4 No. 1

McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

His Excellency, Gov. Coleman Cole, honored
our town with a visit this week.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Feb. 10, 1877

Vol. 4 No. 1

McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON REV. ALLEN WRIGHT

Rev. Allen Wright will not be able to fill his appointment at this place for the next three months because of the field of his labors being so extensive.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 10, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 1
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON T. C. WALKER AND OTHERS

Capt. T. C. Walker and Mr. Burton, of South
Canadian, reported at the Star office Tuesday evening.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 10, 1977
Vol. 4 No. 1
McPherson, Editor

OBITUARY ON TANDY WALKER

Just as we go to press news comes to us of the death of Col. Tandy Walker, an old and honored citizen of the Choctaw Nation. He died on Friday of last week. A more extended notice will appear in our next.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 17, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 2
McPherson, Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF TANDY WALKER

Last week we made brief mention of the death of Col. Tandy Walker, which occurred on the 3d inst., and promised then to give a more extended notice of the illustrious deceased.

From the best information we have been able to obtain, Col. Walker was about sixty years of age. He was born in the old Nation beyond the Mississippi, and was among the first who emigrated to this Territory, coming here about the year 1832. In an early day he was elected to the lower house of the Choctaw council, which position he filled for several years, when he was elected to the senate, and was made its presiding officer. In the spring of 1858, the principal chief resigned and Col. Walker, by virtue of his office as president of the senate, filled the position the balance of the term, nearly two years.

In the spring of 1861, at the breaking out

of the war, D. H. Cooper, then acting agent for the Choctaws and Chickasaws, raised a regiment for the Confederate service, and Walker was elected Lieut.-Col., and when Cooper was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Col. Walker took command of the regiment and led it, with honor to himself and credit to his country, through all the trials and tribulations which beset us during the three last years of the struggle; not quitting the field for two months after Lee's starved and defeated army was overpowered at Appomattox.

Many were the exciting scenes through which Col. Walker passed, and never, during his long and adventurous life, was there ever the slightest whisper against his good name. Many people will remember the hospitalities of his old home at Scullyville, and mourn to know that the quiet, unassuming gentleman who dispensed them is no more. Col. Walker leaves, in addition to his wife and three living children, a whole nation to grieve that he is gone. Peace to his remains.

STAR-VINDICATOR

Moalester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 17, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 2
McPherson, Editor

CHOCTAW CLAIM BY ALBERT PIKE

It is understood that an effort will again be made to-day to suspend the rules and pass the bill referring the Choctaw claim to the Court of claims for adjudication. The friends of this measure claim that the United States owe the Choctaw Indians not less than \$3,000,000 for land ceded to the Government by this tribe. On the contrary, old and experienced members of Congress allege that the claim has been paid. Let the facts be what they may, Congress should investigate the whole matter thoroughly before opening the vaults of the Treasury to a legion of lobbyists. If the United States honestly owe the Choctaw Indians a sum of money, be it great or small, it should be paid and the law directing such payment should be so framed that the honest claimants are made the recipients, and not that swarm of vultures who infest the lobbies of the House. If the scheme now on foot is consu-

mated the Choctaw Indians would not receive ten per cent of the three millions. Any bill, therefore, seeking to take millions from the public Treasury, or to raise money by the indorsement of the Government, by the suspension of the rules is, to say the least, subjected to the gravest suspicions. There has never been a time in the history of the Government when Congress should be more deliberate and circumspect.

The above appeared in the Washington Union of January 29th, and what follows are the closing remarks of Gen. Albert Pike in answer to it, addressed to the Senators and Representatives in Congress. We would like to give the whole of Gen. Pike's able and unrefutable answer, but our limited space forbids:

I say upon my honor, under every obligation which rests upon me to speak the simple truth, that the award of the Senate was just and righteous; that the case was fairly gained by fair array of the facts, honest, and fair, argument; that there is no ground nor the faintest shadow of a reason, in law or right; for impeaching it, and that it is preposterous to imagine that any unfair practice could

have been used to obtain it. And as a lawyer of many years and some reading, I do aver that the award is as final, absolute, and unimpeachable as the Geneva award was, and the sum awarded a part of the public debt in judgment.

All contracts made with counsel for the prosecution of this demand were rescinded three years ago, by the Choctaw council, at my instance, because it was desired by the Committee of Indian Affairs of the House, or its chairman; and I must be content with such compensation as, at the end of the case, the General Council may think me entitled to.

There were once too many persons meddling with the case -- some actually employed, others only pretending to be so. I had no arrangements or communications with any or them, and knew only one of two by sight. Four years ago I was applied to in behalf of a number of persons to consent to give up a large part of any fee I might receive, and assist in otherwise arranging for them to have out of the whole amount that might be recovered, over a million of dollars. The name of the principal person was made known to me; and I was assured that if the ar-

rangements should be made, they could "put the claim through." I refused to enter into any kind of arrangement, and advised the Delegate against it, and the project came to naught.

If any "ring" now has anything to do with the Choctaw claim, except to slander it, I do not know it. I will be no man's accomplice to wrong a helpless people, nor will I be one to practice extortion on any client. There are possessions that an old man, at least, ought to value more than money.

But blackmailing has long been very common and very profitable at Washington; and to malign and libel and threaten to defeat a just claim, unless one is employed in it, has not been at all unusual. The claim of the Choctaw people is now being legitimately prosecuted by their Delegate; with competent and respectable legal advisers, who are not ashamed of an honorable employment. If it can be defeated now, Congress will have done its utmost to throw it into the hands of a ring, since one is no doubt ready to take advantage of a present defeat.

No other action is now asked for than that the Choctaw people may be allowed the common privilege, which no debtor can honestly deny his creditor,

which a nation cannot decently deny to those who are its wards, to present their demand to the Court of Claims and have its merits judicially discussed and determined. If they were competent to be contracted with, it is not fair or just or honest or decent, to deny them a remedy, without which a right ceases to be a right. I court for them the most searching investigation by the Court of Claims and the Supreme Court; and when the investigation has been had, if that which is justly due them, and which they have waited for so long as almost to have lost all hope, is paid, I mean that they shall have it. If they owe any one for services, they are perfectly competent to settle with him, and honest enough to pay him, and shrewd enough not to be defrauded. Congress ought to protect them against spoliation when it shall provide for payment of the award. To protect them against cormorants by refusing to pay all, may starve the cormorants, but it will starve the Indians as well.

I have the honor, gentlemen, to be very respectfully your obedient servant,

ALFRED PIKE,

Counsellor at Law.

Washington, Jan. 31, 1877.

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THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.

Wednesday, February 28, 1877

Vol. 1, No. 51

W. P. Boudinot, Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PETER PITCHLYNN

When Mr. Charles Dickens first visited this country, he met upon a steamboat on the Ohio River a noted Choctaw chief, with whom he had the pleasure of a long conversation. In the "American Notes" we find an agreeable account of this interview, in which the Indian is described as a remarkably handsome man, and, with his black hair, aquiline nose, broad cheekbones, sunburnt complexion, and bright, dark, and piercing eye, as stately and complete a gentleman of nature's making as the author ever beheld. That man was Peter P. Pitchlynn. Of all the Indian tribes which acknowledge the protecting care of the American government, there are none that command more respect than the "Choctaws, and among their leading men there is not one more deserving of notice by the public at large than the subject of this paper. Merely as a

romantic story, the leading incidents of his life cannot but be read with interest, and as a contribution to American history obtained from the man himself, they are worthy of being recorded.

His father was a white man of a fighting stock, noted for his bravery and forest exploits, and an interpreter under commission from General Washington, while his mother was a Choctaw. He was born in the Indian town of Hush-ock-wa, now Nocabee County, in the State of Mississippi, January 30, 1806. The first duties he performed were those of a cow-boy, but when old enough to bend a bow or hold a rifle to his shoulder, he became a hunter. In the councils of his nation he sometimes made his appearance as a looker-on, and once, when a member of the tribe who had been partially educated in New England was seen to write a letter to President Monroe, Pitchlynn resolved that he would himself become a scholar. The school nearest to his father's log-cabin was at that time two hundred miles off, among the hills of Tennessee, and to that he was despatched after the usual manner of such important undertakings. As he was talked about and laughed at, and within the first week of his admission he found it necessary

to give the "bully" of the school a severe thrashing. At the end of the first quarter he returned to his home in Mississippi, where he found his people negotiating a treaty with the general government; on which occasion he made himself notorious by refusing to shake the hand of Andrew Jackson, the negotiator, because in his boyish wisdom he considered the treaty an imposition upon the Choctaws. Nor did he ever change his opinion on that score. His second step in the path of education was taken at the Academy of Columbia, in Tennessee, and he graduated at the University of Nashville. Of this institution General Jackson was a trustee, and on recognizing young Pitchlynn, during an official visit to the college, he remembered the demonstration which the boy had made on their first meeting, and by treating him with kindness changed the old feeling of animosity to one of warm personal friendship, which lasted until the death of the Famous Tennessean.

On his return to Mississippi our hero settled upon a prairie to which his name was afterward given, and became a farmer, but amused himself by an occasional hunt for the black bear. He erected a comfortable log-cabin, and having won a faithful heart, he caused

his marriage ceremony to be performed in public, and according to the teachings of Christianity, the Rev. C. Kingsbury being the officiating missionary, -- a man long endeared to the Southern Indians, and known as "Father Kingsbury. As Pitchlynn was the first man among his people to set so worthy an example, we must award to him the credit of having given to polygamy its deathblow in the Choctaw nation, where it had existed from the earliest times.

Another reform which young Pitchlynn had the privilege and sagacity to promote among his people was that of temperance, which had for some years been advocated by an Indian named David Folsom. In a treaty made in 1820, an article had been introduced by the Choctaws themselves prohibiting the sale, by red men as well as white men, of spirituous liquors within their borders, but up to 1824 it remained a dead letter. During that year the Council of the Nation passed a law organizing a corps of light horse, to whom was assigned the duty of closing all the dram shops that could be found carrying on their miserable traffic contrary to treaty stipulations. The command of this band was assigned to young

Pitchlynn, who was thereafter recognized by the title of Captain. In one year from the time he undertook the difficult task of exterminating the traffic in liquor he had successfully accomplished it. As a reward for his services he was elected a member of the National Council, being the only young man ever thus honored. His first proposition, as a member of the Council, was for the establishment of a school; and that the students might become familiar with the customs of the whites, it was decided that it should be located somewhere in their country. The Choctaw Academy, thus founded near Georgetown, Kentucky, and supported by the funds of the nation, was for many years a monument of their advancing civilization.

One of the most important and romantic incidents in Pitchlynn's career grew out of the policy, on the part of the general government, for removing the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks from their old hunting grounds to a new location west of the Mississippi River. At the request and expense of the United States, a delegation of Indians was appointed in 1828 to go upon an exploring and peace making

expedition into the Osage country, and of this party Fitchlynn was appointed the leader. He succeeded in making a lasting peace with the Osages, who had been the enemies of the Choctaws from time imemorial.

The delegation consisting of six persons, -- two from each of the three tribes interested, -- was absent from home about six months. The first town at which they stopped was Memphis; their next halt was at St. Louis, where they were supplied with necessaries by the Indian superintendent; and their last, Independence, which was then a place of a dozen log-cabins, and here the party received special civilities from a son of Daniel Boone. On leaving Independence the members of the delegation, all well mounted, were joined by an Indian agent, and their first camp on the broad prairie land was pitched in the vicinity of a Shawnee village. This tribe had never come in conflict with the Choctaws (though the former took the side of Great Britain in the war of 1812,) and, according to custom a council was convened and pledges of friendship were renewed by an exchange of wampum and the delivery of speeches.

After these ceremonies, a grand feast took

took place at a neighboring village on the following day; and then the expedition continued its march toward the Osage country. For a time their course lay along the famous Santa Fe trail and the, turning to the southwest, they journeyed over a beautiful country of rolling prairies skirted with timber, until they came to the Osage River. The delegation came to a halt within a distance of the village, but for several days the Osages showed signs of their original enmity, and refused to meet the strangers in council; and as it was well known that several Osages had recently been killed by a wandering band of Choctaws, the probability of hostilities and an attempt at surprise was quite apparent. The delegation, however proposed a treaty of peace, and after a long delay the Osages agreed to meet them in general council; when Captain Pitchlynn stated that he and party, the first Choctaws who had ever met the Osages with peaceful intentions, had traveled over two thousand miles by the advice of the United States government, in order to propose to the Osages a treaty of perpetual peace.

(To be Continued.)

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.

Wednesday, March 7, 1877

Vol. 1, No. 52

W. P. Boudinot, Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PETER PITCHLYNN

(Continued from last week.)

To this an orator of the Osages made a defiant and unfriendly reply, and the delegation at a second council changed their tone.

Captain Pitchlynn, as before, was their only speaker. After casting a defiant look upon Bel Oiseau, the Osage Orator, as well as upon the other Osages present, he proceeded in these words: "After what the Osage warriors said to us yesterday, we find it very hard to restrain our ancient animosity. You inform us that by your laws it is your duty to strike down all who are not Osage Indians, we have no such law. But we have a law which tells us that we must always strike down an Osage when we meet him. I know not what war-paths you may have followed west of the Big River, but I very well know that the smoke of our council-fires

you have never seen, and we live on the other side of the Big River. Our soil has never been tracked by an Osage, excepting when he was a prisoner. I will not, like you speak boastingly of the many war-paths we have been upon. I am in earnest, and can only say that our last war-path, if you will have it so, has brought us to the Osage country, and to this village. Our warriors at home would very well like to obtain a few hundred of your black locks, for it is by such trophies that they obtain their names. I mention these things to prove that we have some ancient laws as well as yourselves, and that we, too, were made to fight. Adhere to the laws of your fathers, refusing the offer for peace that we have made, and you must bear the consequence. We are a little band now before you, but we are not afraid to speak our minds. Our contemplated removal from our old country to the sources of the Arkansas and Red Rivers will bring us within two hundred miles of your nation; and when that removal takes place, we will not finish building our cabins before you shall hear the whoop of the Choctaws and the crack of their rifles. Your warriors will then fall, and your wives and children

shall be taken into captivity; and this work will go on until the Osage nation is entirely forgotten. You may not believe me, but our numbers justify the assertion and it is time that the Indian race should begin a new kind of life. You say you will not receive the white paper of our father, the President; and we now tell you that we take back all we said yesterday about a treaty of peace. A proposition for peace, if we are to have it, must now come from the Osage."

This speech had the intended effect; the next day negotiation were opened by the Osages; peace declared, and a universal shaking of hands succeeded. A grand feast next followed, and the entire Osage village, during the succeeding night, presented as joyous and boisterous appearance as jerked buffalo-meat and water could inspire. Speeches furnished a large part of the entertainment, and to Captain Pitchlynn was awarded to honor of delivering the closing oration. He told the Osages that his people had adopted the customs of civilization, and were all ready reaping much benefit therefrom. They encouraged missionaries, established schools, and devoted attention to the pursuits of agriculture and the mechanic arts. He

advised the Osages to do the same; to give up war as an amusement, and the chase as a sole dependence for food, and then they would become a happy and prosperous people. This was their only means of preservation from the grasping habits of the white man. If they would strive for civilization, the American Gov. would treat them with greater kindness, and, though they might throw away their eagle feathers, and live in permanent cabins, there was no danger of losing their identity or name. At the end of these prolonged festivities, Bel Oiseau and a party of warriors selected for the purpose escorted the delegation to the borders of the Osage country, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles? During the several nights which they spent together before parting Bel Oiseau was the chief talker, and he did much to entertain the whole seated around their camp-fires, by relating what adventures and traditions he could remember. These he confused with facts of aboriginal history. He claimed that his people were descended from a beaver, and that the Osage hunters never killed that animal from fear of killing one of their own kindred. He boasted that if his tribe was not as large as many others, it had always contained the largest and handsomest men in the world;

that their horses were finer than those owned by the Pawnees and the Comanches; that they preferred buffalo-meat for food then fancy things which they used in the settlements; that the buffalo-robe suited them better than the red blanket; the bow and arrows were better than the rifle or gun; and he thought their Great Spirit was a better friend to them than the Great Spirit of the white man, who allowed his children to ruin themselves by drinking the firewater.

In returning to their own homes the Choctaws pursued a southern course, passed down the Canadian River, the agent leaving them at a point near Fort Gibson, and so continuing along the valley of the Red River, and, as before stated, after an absence of several months, they all reached their cabins in safety. They had some severe skirmishes with Comanche Indians, and two of the party got lost for a time while hunting buffalo and bear. Captain Pitchlynn picked up in one of the frontier cabins a bright little Indian boy, belonging to no particular tribe as he said, carried him to Mississippi, and had him educated at the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky; and that boy is now one of the most eloquent and faithful preachers to be found in the Choctaw nation.

The expedition here sketched was the first step taken by the government towards accomplishing the removal of the Indian tribes eastward of the Mississippi River to a new and permanent home in the far West. The several tribes collected on the sources of the Arkansas and Red Rivers, and now living in a happy and progressive community, will probably number fifteen thousand souls. Some eighteen thousand Cherokees and three thousand Seminoles have followed their example, so that while thirty-six hundred of the Southern Indians are said to be living at the present time in the country where born, -- the States of Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, -- seventy-one thousand have made themselves a new home westward of the Mississippi River.

Captain Pitchlynn was always an admirer of Henry Clay, and, first made the acquaintance of the great statesman in 1840. The Choctaw was ascending the Ohio in a steamboat, and at Maysville during the night the Kentuckian came on board, bound to Washington. On leaving his stateroom at a very early hour Pitchlynn went into the cabin, where he saw two old farmers earnestly engaged in a talk about farming, and, drawing up a chair, he listened with great delight for more than an hour.

Returning to his state-room roused a travelling companion and told him what a great treat he had been enjoying, and added: "If that old farmer with an ugly face had only been educated for the law, he would have made one of the greatest men in this country." That "old farmer" was Henry Clay, who expressed the greatest satisfaction at the compliment that had been paid him. The steamboat was afterwards delayed at the mouth of the Kanawha, and, as was common on such occasions, the passengers held mock trials and improvised a debate on the relative happiness of single and married life. Mr. Clay consented to speak, and took the bachelor side of the question, while the duty of replying was assigned to the Indian. He was at first greatly bewildered, but recollecting that he had heard Methodist preachers relate their experiences on religious matters, he thought he would relate his own experiences of married life. He did this with minuteness and considerable gusto, laying particular stress upon the goodness of his wife and the different shades of feeling and sentiment which he had finished, the ladies present vied with Mr. Clay in applauding the talented and warm hearted Indian.

(to be continued next week.)

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,
March 21, 1877

Vol. 2, No. 2.

W. P. Boudinot, Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PETER PITCHLYNN

(Continued from last week.)

When the war of the rebellion commenced, in 1861, the subject of our sketch was in Washington, attending to public business for his people, but immediately hurried home in the hope of escaping the evils of the impending strife. Before leaving however, he had an interview with President Lincoln and assured him of the desire to have the Choctaws pursue a neutral course, to which the President assented as the most proper one to adopt under the circumstances. But Pitchlynn's heart was for the union, and he made the further declaration, that, if the general government would protect them, they would certainly espouse its cause. He then returned to the southwest, intending to lead the true life of a planter on his estate in the Choctaw country. But the white men of Arkansas and Texas had already worked

upon the passions of the Choctaws, and on reaching home he found a large part of the nation already infected with the spirit of rebellion. He pleaded for the national government, and at the hazard of his life, denounced the conduct of the Southern authorities. Many stories were circulated to increase the number of his enemies; among them was one that he had married a sister of President Lincoln, and another that the President had offered him four hundred thousand dollars to become an abolitionist. He was sustained, however by the best men in the nation, who made him colonel of a regiment of military for home defence, and afterwards elected him Head chief of the Choctaws; but all this did not prevent two or three of his children, as well as many others in the nation, from joining the Confederate army. He himself remained a Union man during the entire war. Not only had many local positions of honor been conferred upon him in times past, but he had long been looked upon by all the Choctaws as their principal teachers in religious and educational matters, as their philosopher and faithful friend, and also as the best man to represent their claims and interest as a delegate to Washington. He had

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under cultivation, just before the rebellion, about six hundred acres of land, and owned over one hundred slaves; and though he annually raised good crops of cotton and corn he found the market for them too far off, and was beginning to devote all his attention to the raising of cattle. His own stock and of his neighbors was of course a prize for the Confederates, who took everything, and left the country almost desolate. When the Emancipation Proclamation appeared, he acquiesced without a murmur, managing as well as he could in the reduced condition of his affairs; and after the war, he was again solicited to visit Washington as a delegate, in which capacity he was assigned the charge of a claim for unpaid treaty money of several millions of dollars. An address that he delivered as delegate before the President at the White House in 1855 was commented upon at the time as exceedingly touching and eloquent; and certain speeches that he made before Congressional committees in 1868, and especially an address that he delivered in 1869 before a delegation of Quakers, called to Washington by President Grant for consultation on our Indian affairs, placed him in the foremost rank of orators.

While it is true that the most populous single tribe of Indians now living in this country is that of the Cherokees, the Choctaws and Chickasaws, who from what is known as the Choctaw nation, out number the former by about five thousand, and they claim in the aggregate near twenty thousand souls. They both speak in the same language, and have attained a higher degree of civilization than any other of the Southern tribes. The nation is divided into four districts, one of which is composed exclusively of Chickasaw; each district was formerly under one chief but now they are all ruled by a single chief or governor, and they have a National Legislative Council. They have an alphabet of their own, and are well supplied with schools and academies, with churches and benevolent institutions, and until lately had a daily press. They are the only tribe which has never, as a whole, been in hostile collision with, nor been subdued by the United States. Have they never broken a promise or violated their plighted faith with the general government? What certain individuals may have done during the late war ought not certainly to be charged against the nation at large.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws claim for their Territory, that it is as fertile and picturesque as

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as could be described. To speak in general terms, it forms the south east quarter of what is called the Indian Territory. It is about a hundred miles long by one hundred and thirty wide, forming an elongated square; and while the Arkansas and Canadian Rivers bound it on the north, it joins the State of Arkansas on the east, and the Red River and Texas bound it on the south and west. These two nations now living in alliance, consider themselves much more fortunate now than they were in the "old country," the designation which they love to apply to Mississippi. Their form of government is similar in all particulars to that of the States of the Union. While it is true that the rebellion had a damaging effect upon their affairs, it cannot be long before they will be restored to their former prosperous condition. They adopted and supported before the war a system of what they called "neighborhood schools," as well as seminaries, taught for the most part by ladies from the New England States, and intended to afford the children a primary course of instructions and fit them for the colleges and seminaries in the States, to which many pupils have hither been annually sent. The prime mover in all these educational enterprises was Col. Pitchlynn,

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and it is now one of the leading desires of his heart that the good lady teachers, who were driven off by the war would either return themselves, or that others like them might be sent out from New England. In this opinion, these teachers were the best citizens of the Choctaw nation.

The New England clergyman also are the Choctaws indebted for their best translations of the scriptures and other religious books. Their school system, which was eminently prosperous until interfered with by the rebellion, was founded in 1842. Up to that date the general government undertook to educate that people, and the funds set aside for the purpose were used by designing men for their own benefit. Pitchlynn well knew that he would have to fight an unscrupulous opposition, but have the school fund transferred from the United States to the Choctaws. After many delays, he obtained an interview with John C. Spencer, then Secretary of War, and was permitted to tell his story. The Secretary listened attentively was much pleased and told the chief he should have an interview with the President, John Tyler. The speech which he then delivered in the White House and before the Cabinet, was pronounced wonderful by those who heard it. It

completely converted the President, who gave immediate orders that Pitchlynn's suggestions should all be carried out. The Secretary fully cooperated; and before the clerks of the Indian office quitted their desks that night the necessary papers had been prepared, signed, sealed, and duly delivered. Pitchlynn left Washington with flying colors, and was one of the happiest men in the land. On reaching the Choctaw country, he was honored with all the attention his people knew how to confer. On a subsequent Fourth of July he delivered an oration of remarkable beauty and power, in which he recapitulated the history of their emigration from Mississippi; and after describing their subsequent trials, urged them to be contented in their new homes, and then set forth at great length his views on the subject of universal education, the whole of which, to the minutest particular, were subsequently adopted. The first academy organized under the new arrangement was named for the Secretary of War; and from that year, until the death of John C. Spencer, that wise and warm hearted lover of the Indians had not a more devoted friend than Peter Pitchlynn.

(To be continued.)

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,
 Wednesday, March 28, 1877
 Vol. 2, No. 3
 W. P. BOUDINOT Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PETER PITCHLYNN

(Continued from last week.)

Like the foregoing in spirit is this little story about the Hunter of the Sun. The Choctaws were always a grateful people, and once after enjoying a rich harvest of the sweet maize, they held a national council, and their leading prophet descanted at a great length upon the beauty of the earth, attributed the blessing they enjoyed to the sun. They knew that the great luminary came from the east, but none of them had ever found out what became of it when it passed beyond the mountains at the close of day. "Is there not," said the prophet, "among all my people a single warrior who will go upon a long journey and find out what becomes of the sun?" Then it was that a young warrior named Ok-la-no-wa, or the traveller, arose and said, "I will go and try to find out the sleeping place of the sun, and if unsuccessful will never return."

Of course, the saddest mourner that he left behind was the girl he loved, and to whom he had presented a belt of scarlet wampum. After many years the traveller returned to the region of his birth, but so many changes had taken place that he felt himself a stranger to the people. The only person who seemed to remember anything about the exploit was a very old woman, and although she was really the girl he had loved in his youth, she talked a great deal about the long lost Ok-la-no-wa, and laughed at the idea as foolish that he and the old man present were the same. The old man spent the entire winter in telling the people about the wide prairies and high mountains he had crossed, about the strange men and animals he had seen, and that when the sun went out of sight in the evening it always sank into a blue sea; but the old woman would not listen, and remained in her cabin counting the wampum in her belt; and when spring came the old man died, and was buried in the mound of Nun-i-wai-ya, and before the end of the corn planting moon the aged woman also died, and was buried by her loving friends by the side of Ok-la-no-wa in the mound of Nun-i-wai-ya. And when the Indians see the bright clouds gathering round the sun, they think of the hunter of the sun and of the girl he loved, with her belt of scarlet wampum.

But in the way of a love legend the following account of the Nameless Choctaw is perhaps as good a specimen as the writer can submit; and with this we will conclude this chapter of Choctaw lore. There once lived in the royal Indian town of E-ya-sho (Yazoo) the only son of a war chief, who was famous for his handsome form and lofty bearing. The old man of the nation looked upon him with pride, and said that his courage was rare, and he was destined to be an eminent warrior. He was also an eloquent orator. But with all these qualities he was not allowed a seat in the councils of his nation, because he had not distinguished himself in war. The fame of having slain an enemy he could not claim, nor had he even been fortunate enough to take a single prisoner. He was greatly beloved, and, as the name of his childhood had been abandoned, according to an ancient custom, and he had not yet won a name worthy of his ability, he was known among his kindred as the Nameless Choctaw.

In the town of E-ya-sho, there also once lived the most beautiful maiden of her tribe. She was the daughter of a hunter, and the promised wife of the nameless Choctaw. They met often at the great dances, and, in accordance with Indian custom, she treated him as

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a stranger. They loved, and one thought alone entered their minds to cast a shadow. They knew that the laws of their nation were unalterable, and that she could not become his wife until he had won a name in war, though he could always place at the door of her lodge an abundance of game, and could deck her with the most beautiful wampum and feathers.

It was now mid-summer and evening hour. The lover had met his betrothed upon the summit of a hill covered with pines. From the centre of a neighboring plain rose the smoke of a large watch fire, around which were dancing a party of four hundred warriors. They had planned an expedition against the distant Osages, and the present was the fourth and last night of the preparation ceremonies. Up to that evening the Nameless Choctaw had been the leader in the dances, and even now he was only temporarily absent, for he had stolen away for a parting interview with his beloved. They separated, and when morning came the Choctaw warriors were upon the war-path leading to the headwaters of the Arkansas. On that stream they found a cave, in which, because they were in a prairie-land, they secreted themselves. Two men were then selected as spies, one of whom was the Nameless Choctaw, who was to reconnoitre in the west, and the other in the east. Night came and

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the Indians in the cave were discovered by an Osage hunter, who had entered to escape the heavy dews. He at once hastened to the nearest camp, told his people what he had seen, and a party of Osage warriors hastened to the cave. At its mouth they built a fire, and before the dawn of day the entire Choctaw party had been smothered to death by the cunning of their enemies.

The Choctaw spy who journeyed to the east had witnessed the surprise and unhappy fate of his brotherly warriors, and, soon returning to his own country, he called a council and revealed the sad intelligence. As to the fate of the nameless warrior who had journeyed towards the west, he felt certain that he too must have been overtaken and slain. Upon the heart of one this story fell with a heavy wright; and the promised wife of the lost Choctaw began to droop, and before the moon had passed away she died and was buried on the spot where she had parted with her lover.

But what became of the Nameless Choctaw? It was not true that he had been overtaken and slain. He was indeed discovered by the Osages, and far over the prairies and across the streams was he closely pursued. For many days and nights did the race continue, but the Choctaw finally made his escape. His course had been

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very winding, and when he came to a halt he was astonished to find that the sun rose in the wrong quarter of the heavens. Everything appeared to him wrong and out of order, and he became a forlorn and bewildered man. At last he found himself at the foot of a mountain which was covered with grass, and unlike any he had ever before seen. It so happened, however, at the close of a certain day, that he wandered into a wooded valley, and, having made a rude lodge and killed a swamp rabbit, he lighted a fire, and prepared himself for at least one quiet supper and a night of repose. Morning dawned, and he was still in trouble, but continued his wanderings. Many moons passed away; summer came, and he called upon the Great Spirit to make his pathway plain. He hunted the forest for a spotted deer and having killed it, on a day when there was no wind he offered it as a sacrifice, and that night supped upon a portion of the animal's flesh. His fire burnt brightly, and, though lonesome, his heart was at peace. But now he hears a footstep in an adjoining thicket! A moment more, and a snow white wolf of immense size is crouching at his feet, and licking his torn moccasins. "How came you in this strange country?" inquired the wolf; and the poor Indian told the story of his many troubles. The

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wolf took pity upon him, and said that he would conduct him in safety to the country of his kindred; and on the following morning they departed. Long, very long was the journey, and very crude and dangerous the streams which they had to cross. The wolf helped the Indian to kill game for their natural support, and by the time that the moon for weeding corn had arrived the Choctaw had entered his native village again.

This was on the anniversary of the day he had parted from his betrothed, and he now found his people mourning for her untimely death.

Time and suffering had so changed the wanderer, that his relatives and friends did not recognize him, and he did not make himself known.

Often, however, he made them recount the story of her death, and many a wild song, to the astonishment of all, did he sing to the memory of the departed, whom he called by the name of Imma, or the idol of warriors. On a cloudless night he visited her grave, and at a moment when the Great Spirit cast a shadow upon the moon he fell upon the grave in grief and died. For three nights afterwards, the inhabitants of the Choctaw village were alarmed by the continual howling of a wolf, and when it ceased, the pine forest upon the hill where the lovers were resting in peace, took up the mournful sound

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and has continued it to the present time.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
McPherson, Editor

OBITUARY ON MRS. ONETTA FOLSOM

BY REV. ALLEN WRIGHT

Mrs. Onetta Folsom, wife of Julius C. Folsom, was born the 20th of June, 1841, in Blue County, Choctaw Nation. Departed this life after a short illness, on the 25th of December, 1876. She left a husband, four children, an aged father and sisters to mourn her loss. And why should we mourn; for our loss is her gain. God is just: He gave, and it is His right to take away. I knew not of her having passed away till the announcement came upon me with a sudden shock, depriving me, for the time being, of strength to sustain the loss, or submit to an all-wise decree with christian resignation. She is only a few steps in advance. A few more winters of sorrow and bereavement will carry us over the river to join those loved ones gone before. Let us comfort our bereaved souls with the sweet and

consoling thought that she rests in the compassionate bosom of the Infinite God.

H. D.

The above obituary reminds us of the certainty of death, which necessitates our preparation. None can escape. The angel of death has made sad havoc among our people this winter, and it behooves us to give heed to the scriptural injunction saying; "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

REV. ALLEN WRIGHT

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 17, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 6
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Hon. Green McCurtain, school trustee for this district, was in town this week and gave the Star-Vindicator a call. Mr. McCurtain is a young man of more than ordinary ability, and promises at no distant day to take a leading position in the Nation. He is making a faithful and efficient school trustee, and with the experience of a few years of public life will be competent to fill with credit any office to which his country may call him.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 24, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 7
McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF E. McCURTAIN ABOUT NEW HOPE SEMINARY

Red Oak, March 10

In company with the District Trustee, C. McCurtain, I lately visited New Hope Seminary, and supposing that the parents of the students and the people generally would like to know how the seminary is managed, I avail myself of the large circulation of the Star-Vindicator to tell them.

Our visit was entirely an unexpected one to the Superintendent, Rev. E. R. Shappard. We therefore had the satisfaction of knowing that we saw the daily routine of the seminary. We were more than pleased with its management. Everything was in perfect order. Every department had its head, and the head of every department seems to devote all of his or her energy to that department.

The school room is under the management of

two accomplished and energetic ladies, and the students are progressing rapidly in their studies.

The sewing room is also under the management of a competent instructress who has long filled that position with credit to herself and benefit to our young ladies.

The dining room and kitchen are also under excellent control, and all is ably presided over by Rev. W. R. Sheppard, the efficient superintendent. We were especially pleased with the cleanly aspect of every place we visited. The school room, bed rooms, store house, meat house, etc., were as tidy and clean as possible. The students are required to keep themselves and clothes clean and neat. They are also taught economy -- nothing is wasted, but everything, even the scraps in the sewing are utilized.

The sick are also well cared for and are daily visited by a physician. There were three sick when we visited -- Misses Willis, Turnbull and Dickson, -- and I feel sure that they could not have had better attention at home -- possibly not as good.

In truth we have a right, and ought to be

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proud of New Hope under its present management, and
I think we all owe a debt of gratitude to its able
superintendent and his efficient corps of assistants.

E. McCURTAIN

Superintendent of Schools.

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McAlester, Ind. Ter.

April 28, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 12

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAW NATION

The boundary line between the Choctaw Nation and Arkansas is now being run, and strange to say, after all these years of agitation regarding the matter, the Nation has no one present to represent her interests. By all means she should have had a practical surveyor to accompany the United States surveying party from the beginning to the end. How will the Choctaw Nation now have any assurance that the line will be correctly run? One would have supposed that after all this trouble and fuss the Nation would not have left everything to the honor of the United States authorities. The way it is now, the probability is there will be as much dissatisfaction after this line is established as there was before.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 19, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 15
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Feeling proud over the success of our neighborhood school, and supposing the trustees, together with the entire citizens, would be pleased to hear of the advancement of our Choctaw people in an educational point, we ask to be heard through the medium of your widely circulated and highly appreciated paper.

We attended the examination at the close of our school today, and are certain that the advancement of the pupils excelled the most sanguine anticipations. There were but three at the opening of the session that knew their letters, and at the close they were all spelling, reading, writing, and ciphering correctly through long division, can all speak the English language, wherein, at the opening of the session, only five could understand a syllable. We are not ashamed to say we are proud of our children's advancement, and also of Prof. Holmes, our teacher; but if we fail to get him next session, we envy

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the neighborhood that is so fortunate in securing his services, as we are satisfied his equals are few, superiors none, as regards being a gentleman and teacher.

After the examination, Professor Holmes, with Capt. Pitchlynn to interpret, made a speech that was pressing us, or our feelings, about our inertness, but after consideration, and knowing it to be true and we guilty, we can't and won't complain, but will try and profit by heeding his admonition before next session.

After Prof. Holmes, Judge S. P. Nelson and Capt. Pitchlynn spoke in our language on the important subject of education, and extoling Prof. Holmes' unceasing energy and inevitable success.

We are building a good schoolhouse, and as there is no other school in this country, we will state, for the benefit of our people, that there is no better place to send their children than the Mountain school; country healthy, board cheap, and should we succeed in getting Prof. Holmes again we will say, a number one teacher, who knows and attends to his business promptly, without favor or affection.

We endorse the course adopted by the Hon. Green McCurtain in having a general examination of teachers. Let's have good qualified teachers, fewer schools and

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longer sessions, and a better attendance.

Hope our people will wake up to the importance of educating their children, and not deserve another reprimand such as Prof. Holmes gave us today.

J. R. JAMES.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Terr.
June 16, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 19
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF CAPTAIN L. S. GOODING TO EDITOR

Paris, Tex., June 8, 1877.

Mr. Editor:

I have been a careful and exceedingly interested reader of your valuable paper for some time, as it has been received on the exchange list of "Common Sense" of our city. Apart from any flattery to you, it is certainly clear, plain and out-spoken in the interest and welfare of the entire Indian Territory; manifesting a spirit that within itself is of ultimate good and will result in a blessing to them as a vindicator of their rights. As for myself, I am a white man, raised partly in Towson county, C. M. -- spent my childhood and boyhood days of twenty-two years there, where has been enlisted and grafted for years past and to come, a vital interest (without any remuneration) in their welfare and prosperity.

I say without any contradiction that from my knowledge of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people they are susceptible of enlightenment and have shown by thorough cultivation and education as much refinement and talent as that exhibited by the whites. Occasional mention is made of sectionizing the Nation and dividing the lands into 160 acres to resident citizens, and should any be left to place it on the market. Now I ask if all these lands are disposed of as stated above, what will the future generations as they come into existence do for land and homes? What will these Indians do who have been swindled out of their lands by low, cunning and designing white men who may have a little capital? Would not the Indian, after being deprived of his land and home, be thrown upon the world as a mendicant and an outcast, and soon be driven out by the progress of the whites and have no place to lay his head? To me the present status of their government controlling their lands is far better than any law that could be made by future legislation.

Mention is often made in your paper relative to "licenses." True it is a very good thing, yet it is not out of the pocket of the party applying for the same, it directly comes from the consumers or patrons, as the parties getting license add in their sales the bill of

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cost, thus it is that the people are the ones who foot the bills, be they great or small.

Your paper mentions the National elections to come off in a couple of months. It would be quite a satisfaction to the numerous Texas friends of ex-Gov. B. L. Leflore to see him again placed in the gubernatorial chair by the majority of the Choctaw people with whom he is so popular. Still it is a matter in which every voter should use his own discretion.

I have penned this in haste not knowing that it can be of any use. Although a printer you have the proof to look over, and can correct before locking up the form.

I will close with all good will for the welfare of the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

CAPT. L. S. GOODING.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 20, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 36
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER TO DEAR MAC

Armstrong Academy,
October 15th, 1877.

Dear Mac:

Rain in abundance here but still the law makers continue their work. The House elected T. D. Ainsworth, C. E. Harkins, Joel Hudson, Wm. B. Pitchlynn and Thomas Byington as managers of the impeachment; to get up and present the evidence, and a better choice could not be made, as all of them are perfectly sincere and unbiased in their feelings toward Chief Cole, and I am satisfied they will present all evidence coming into their possession without having any prejudice in the matter, but that the law may be vindicated.

Col. Campbell LeFlore is employed by the committee to assist in the prosecution. There is no day set for the trial up to this writing. Everything is quiet, both sides working and getting their evidence in shape.

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McAlester, Ind. Ter.
June 23, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 19
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

We learn that Gov. Cole has suspended the sheriff of Tobucksey county; for what cause we are at a loss to know, as we have never heard a word of complaint against him by those who it would seem ought to know whether he has been derelict in the discharge of his duties -- the people of his own country. On the contrary they have invariably spoken of him in the highest terms, as being a faithful and efficient officer. Though of course Gov. Cole must think himself in possession of the facts to warrant the exercise of this prerogative, else he would not attempt such a thing, but it is a little strange that the people here, among whom the whole routine of Mr. Choate's duties are performed, know nothing about it.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
July 28, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 25
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

The Light Horse were in town Thursday with
write from Chief Cole for the arrest of J. J. McAlester,
Wm. Pusley, Tandy Walker and R. L. Neam, to be brought
before him at some point in Gaines county. We did not
learn what the charges were; however, the arrests were
made and all parties brought to this place, where they
managed to give the Light Horse the slip and left for
parts unknown. The officers looked like they were on
a strike, looking for something and not finding it.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
July 28, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 25
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

The pony engine was busy bringing out coal on Thursday night, men being on duty all night, caused by report that Chief Cole would be in on Friday with a company of men to tear up the switch running to the mines. At this writing there is no indication of such a thing, and everything is quiet. We think there is some mistake about the report, as we give the Chief credit for more judgment than to attempt such a rash thing as the destruction of the switch, which would cause a serious loss to the Nation, and for something uncalled for.

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McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Aug. 18, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 25
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

No further developments have been made concerning the arrest of Reams, Pusley and McAlester since our last issue. They, together with Tandy Walker, the other party to the writs, are still beyond the limits of the Nation.

We learn that Gov. Cole says if Walker and Pusley will come in, and promise to appear when called for, they will not be disturbed, as he only wanted them as witnesses against the other two, anyhow. Then why issue a writ for them in the first place? or for that matter, why did the chief issue a writ for any of them? This is supposed to be a civilized country and there is a proper way to get at all offenders against the law; and people are at a loss to understand where Gov. Cole gets his authority for acting in the way he did.

Nobody wants to believe that anything wrong was intended in this instance, not even Gov. Cole's

worst enemies, for it would certainly be a very sad state of affairs when the chief executive of a nation would come down from his exalted position and engage in anything not recognized by the laws of the country.

The sheriff of this county would, at any time that a legal warrant had been put in his hands, have arrested these parties, alone and unassisted, without any trouble at all, and brought them before any tribunal competent to try them. And would this not have been the proper way to proceed? Had these men been refugees from justice, skulking to avoid the law or openly bidding defiance to the civil authorities, then there might have been some excuse for calling out the national lighthorse and making all this display; but as such was not the case it will be difficult to convince the people that nothing more was intended than the attainment of justice.

Gov. Cole's people, both friends and opponents, have always given him credit for honesty of purpose; but in this case, to sustain that, his common sense must be sacrificed, as no sane man with pure motives would have done as he has. To say the least of it, the worthy chief has committed a very grave error, and one that is calculated to bring trouble upon himself and disgrace upon his Nation; and none regrets it more greatly than the

LATER

Since writing the above we learn that many more arrests have been made, or rather that writs are out for several others, all prominent men in the Territory, and that they, getting wind of it, left the country and are now fugitives from their native home. How this thing may end none of us can foresee, but we are satisfied the final result will be exactly the opposite of what Gov. Cole and those who are impelling him on anticipated.

Be his object what it may, Gov. Cole has overreached himself, and will utterly fail to accomplish what he anticipated. These who have heretofore claimed that the governor intended no wrong now openly denounce his action and say that he has gone beyond the bounds of his authority and deserves impeachment. As Gov. Cole's feelings toward us what they may, we have never had any but the kindest wishes for him, and are sorry to see him pursuing a course that can but end in serious trouble to himself if not to the entire nation.

The whole thing is shrouded in the deepest mystery, which, coming as it does from the chief executive, who should execute the laws openly and through

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the proper channels, is enough to condemn it in the eyes of all honest, law-abiding people, and cause them to stop and inquire "whither are we drifting?"

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McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 1, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 29
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

Next Monday, at old Perryville, is the day appointed by Gov. Cole to meet the parties he had arrested a short time ago. What the Chief expects to accomplish at this meeting of course nobody knows, but then we feel confident that no harm will be done the parties there, no odds what he may have intended in the first instance. An informal investigation, of whatever it is the Governor wants to find out, will be all this meeting can amount to, and had he taken this course in the first place he would have saved others a great deal of trouble and himself a world of censure.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept 1, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 29
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF T. R. MADDEN

Oak Lodge, C. N., Aug. 18, 1877.

AS I presume you take an interest in education, or any subject relating to education, I send you the following for publication:

The Board of Examiners for this, the first school district, met at Rock Creek school house the 15th inst., for the purpose of examining applicants for certificates to teach in the public schools of the district pursuant to a public notice of such meeting given some time since by the district trustees.

The examination continued for two days; and was conducted by the Hon. T. D. Ainsworth, of Skullyville, and the Hon. Green McCurtain, District Trustee. There were eleven candidates in all; seven obtained certificates, the other four, failing to stand the test were not licensed.

Applicants were examined in arithmetic, orthography, grammar, geography, history, elocution and penmanship.

Enclosed you will find a set of resolutions adopted by the licensed teachers at the close of the examination, and endorsed by the Board, excepting the last proposition, which they refused to approve from a feeling of delicacy, no doubt.

Right here I wish to say that I have attended several examinations, but it has never been my fortune to attend one where the applicants were treated more gentlemanly or with a greater degree of fairness than on this occasion; and I feel confident that I am but expressing the sentiment of every teacher in the district when I say that the treatment we received is appreciated and that we will try to express our gratitude and reciprocate all favors by the thorough performance of our duties in the school room.

I am authorized by the Board to state that there will be another examination of teachers to take place at the residence of the Hon. Green McCurtain on Aug. 31st and Sept. 1st, 1877. All who wish to teach are invited to attend as it will positively be the last examination held.

Respectfully yours,

T. R. MADDEN.

Rock Creek School House,

August 16, 1877.

Be it resolved by the teachers of Hosholatubbe District assembled at the above named place on the within day and date that,

Whereas, certain parties in the District have declared their ability to procure a certificate without publicly applying for the same and that we believe that the issuance of certificates to such parties would be detrimental to the interests of said teachers, and,

Whereas, The teachers here assembled, having complied with the law and requirements of the honorable school board of this district and have suffered some inconvenience by so doing, vigorously protest against the employment of such parties in the capacity of teachers in this district, and,

Whereas, That we, the teachers who have honorably complied with all the requirements of the school board, refuse to recognize such parties as members of our profession, and,

Whereas, That we unanimously request the Hon. District Trustee to send the names of the teachers legitimately licensed at the examination just concluded to the STAR VINDICATOR for publication, and

Whereas, That we, the undersigned teachers, respectfully tender to the school officers and examiners, who have conducted this examination, our thanks for the gentlemanly treatment we have received from them on this occasion, and that we fully indorse every proposition embraced in the foregoing resolutions.

G. M. BOND,
W. D. CARTER,
R. W. McFARLAN,
T. R. MADDEN,
JOHN M. STANLEY.

(Endorsed)

THOS. D. AINSWORTH,
Examining Com.
GREEN McCURTAIN,
Dist. True. 1st Dist. C. N.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 8, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 30
G. McPherson, Editor

NOTICE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

This is to notify you that the neighborhood schools must be opened in September and none but licensed teachers employed. I will pay no schools opening after that month, and no teachers that have not been licensed by the board appointed for that purpose.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
District Trustee,
Mosh. District.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 15, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 31
C. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

All our contemporaries seem to exonerate Gov. Cole from any wrong intentions in the matter of his recent arrest of certain citizens of this Nation. Well, we truly hope the worthy Governor was actuated by none other than pure motives, but then, as this paper has said before, to say the least of it, he has made a grave mistake, and proved himself utterly incompetent to fill the high position he occupies. This is our verdict and must be the verdict of every sensible man in the Territory.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 22, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 32
G. McPherson, Editor

AN ORDER OF ARREST BY COLEMAN COLE

The following is a copy of the warrant for
the arrest of McAlester, Walker, Pusley and Ream:

Executive Office)
Stoke, Choctaw Nation, July 25th, 1877)
To the National and County Light-horsemen:

Greeting:

I, Coleman Cole, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, hereby order you to arrest the bodies of J. J. McAlester, T. C. Walker, Wm. Pusley and Bob Ream, and bring their bodies before me to-morrow or next day.

(Signed)

COLEMAN COLE,

Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Nothing is said about taking them before a Judge or other proper officer. These Light-horsemen, sent by

Gov. Cole, Disarmed the parties arrested, and then informed them they were to be taken before Gov. Cole, who was then in Gaines county.

There was no charge stated in the warrant, and there was no court held or could be held at the place the prisoners were to be taken to. It was reasonable to suppose that as Gov. Cole had, without authority of law, issued a warrant for the arrest of the parties, and intended to take them before an unlawful authority, that he would go further.

Sec. 18 of the General Provision of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, says:

"Any citizen of this Nation, who may find any mine or mines, or mineral waters, shall have exclusive right and privilege to work the same, so long as he may choose, within one mile in any direction from his works or improvements; provided, however, he does not interfere with the rights of a former settler." That is the constitution of the Choctaw Nation, and until that section is changed, as only the constitution can be changed, the council nor the Chief have any legal right to appoint a National Agent to lease coal mines discovered by individuals, and to collect tax therefrom.

As for building railroads, I cannot see why a

citizen of this Nation has not the same right to build a railroad on his own claim that he has to build mills, houses or fences. The rights and privileges of a mining claim should be far more secure than those claims used for agricultural purposes. For the rights to a mining claim are guaranteed by the constitution of the land, while those for agricultural purposes are only held by act of the council, and may be altered or repealed by each succeeding council.

I have every reason to believe, had Gov. Cole sent a request for any of the parties for whom he issued his warrant of arrest, to meet him at his office at Atoka, or before the County Judge of Tobucksey county, they would have done so. And when they did meet him at Perryville, he did not question but one of the parties about the petition; and in his remarks previous to the giving in of the testimony, the Governor did not even mention the petition. Gov. Cole said in those remarks that he only wanted to question the parties about the leasing of the coal mines. If the leases of the coal mines was all he desired to know about, he might have learned more from Col. Harkins than all other persons put together.

In Gov. Cole's younger days the Choctaws had no written laws, and the Chief held supreme power over

the tribe; his word was the law. Gov. Cole having lived nearly four score years, has yet to learn that such power has been taken from the Chief and vested in the people.

After quoting the 10th section of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, for the information of Gov. Cole, I will close:

Sec. 10. "That the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions, from unreasonable seizures and searches, and that no warrant to search any place or to seize any person or thing shall be issued without describing the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized, as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation."

TOBUCKSEY.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 22, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 32
C. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

In the Atoka Independent of September 7th, I find an article taken from the Fort Smith Herald, entitled "Gov. Cole's Defense."

Although the article referred to bears the signature of Coleman Cole, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, I have my doubts of his being the author. I think the author of that article to be some designing person who desires to mislead the public, and by some sort of conjuring has gained the Governor's consent to use his name. For the case is very plain. Rev. James Williams, District Chief, and Martin V. James, District Attorney, according to "Author's" statement, both wrote to Gov. Cole concerning the petition. The petition was compiled by James at the request of Williams, and Williams put it in the hands of one of his light-horsemen for circulation; and it is a well-known fact that the names of McAlester, Walker, Bean and Fusley

do not appear on that petition, and it is also well-known that none of those parties ever saw it. Is it not reasonable to suppose that Williams, James and Cole were the originators of that petition?

Next he says, "McAlester and others leased the coal mines without the consent or authority of the General Council." Now it is another established fact, that J. J. McAlester never signed any lease of the coal mines until D. F. Harkins, so-called National Agent, had first endorsed said lease or contract. I say "so-called," because the Supreme Court of the Choctaw Nation has twice decided that there is no law for establishing such an office as National Agent, or in other words, that it is unconstitutional. As that petition emanated from District officers, was circulated by a National officer with the knowledge of Gov. Cole, it looks rather strange to charge parties who never signed or saw the petition, with its being their seditious petition. And when it is further known that the two District offices became vacant by the death of the parties elected, and that those positions were filled by Gov. Cole's appointment, the matter becomes still more plain as to who should be charged with circulating a seditious petition.

The person who wrote that article, entitled "Gov. Cole's Defense," when he quoted Sec. 3 of an Act, entitled an Act creating a corps of Light-horse, etc., forgot to add that the very same section requires the Light-horsemen to report any violation of law to some Judge or other proper officer. I will not question the sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation within her own jurisdiction at present, but I do question the Principal Chief being the sovereign power of the land.

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ATOKA INDEPENDENT

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
October 12, 1877
Vol. 1, No. 12
W. J. Hemby Editor

MESSAGE OF COLEMAN COLE

To the Senators and Representatives
of the Choctaw Nation

Executive Department
Chahta Tamaha
October, 1877

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to enter upon the last year of my last term of office as Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and I congratulate myself upon having no apologies to make or any excuses to offer for having failed to discharge any of its trusts to the best of my ability since I last met with you.

Gentlemen, you have assembled as the legislative branch of the Choctaw Government, to dedicate yourselves to the various duties and responsibilities with which you have been entrusted. Conscious as you are of the magnitude and importance of these trusts and the labor required to administer them with impartial justice, it is confidentially believed that

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you will be found not wanting in a proper conception of what the exigencies of the time demand - nor in the courage necessary to enact such laws as will be sufficient to protect every citizen of the Nation, and to enforce that which is right under any and all circumstances.

Gentlemen, I may be permitted to express the hope that your session will be characterized by harmony, wise council and generous charity, and that your labor will so promote the general welfare as to entitle you to the blessings of God, and to the gratitude of the people you represent. It is with feelings of profound pleasure that I congratulate you on the domestic and social prosperity and tranquility of our beloved Nation.

The Choctaws are a peaceable, independent and happy people, whether poor or rich, as evinced in the good order which has prevailed in our Nation. No disturbance has been reported which has not been promptly met and suppressed by the local authorities. Yet at no previous council have the public necessities of the Choctaw people more thoroughly demanded prudent and careful legislation; but the practical experience which you have had, many of you in conducting legislative

business for forty years past, will enable you to proceed at once intelligently with the work before you.

I am in hopes you will be pleased to take the treaties and intercourse laws of the United States for a guide in preparing your laws, as it is necessary for them to be in perfect conformity therewith.

It became necessary for me to go to Mosholatubbee District in July last, to look after some matters of National concern. Compliance with sections 7 and 8, a article 5 of the constitution required that I should go. I went, after which I heard many false reports which were made none the less false by certain obscure bulldozing points, trying to make it appear that certain Choctaw citizens had fled the country through fear of the visitation of the executive vengeance, malice and prejudice upon them; but the martyrs were all fictitious. There seems to be an abiding and growing disposition there to ignore the holding of our lands in common, and to regard it rather as individualized. I would suggest that all the restraint be thrown around our people that is necessary to correct this evil. We cannot divide our lands in severalty without destroying our Nationality.

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The circulation of a seditious petition in Mosholatubbee District to have the railroad torn up seems to require that I should refer the matter to your honorable body, for such is detrimental to the peace, interest and welfare of the Choctaws.

I respectfully recommend that the practice with and among some of our citizens of leasing lands, laying off town lots, surveying land, marking trees or laying off boundary lines or otherwise compromising the rights of our treaty stipulations and our local laws and regulation, should be stopped at once.

I think our constitution ought to be changed so as to give the law officers the right to remove those accused of conspiracy against the government for trial beyond the influence and power of conspirators wherever such combination exists, to the end that conspirators against the public peace and order may be brought to justice. Any remedy to correct this evil in the Nation, growing more and more every year, will receive my hearty co-operation.

I am pleased to say to you that the several boards of commissioners have with commendable zeal labored to accomplish the great work entrusted to

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them under the acts of the General Council creating the court of claims, etc. But the law for holding the court of claims expired by limitation, and the cases of individual claimants have not been completed. Reports of the commissioners at last council estimated that it would require an extension of one more months time, and I recommend that extension.

It is especially necessary that the Choctaws east of the Mississippi river should be notified and their interest protected as well as that of those who are here.

I would respectfully call your attention to our claim against the United States, known as the net "Proceeds Claim," which has been pending for many years to the great detriment of our individual citizens as well as our Nation. I earnestly hope that you may be able to so shape legislation that you will do credit to yourselves and fully meet the expectations of your constituency.

At the next session of congress let us send some good, honest man that will do good for his people, to look after this claim. The Choctaws people are tired of the old delegation, just as much as the members

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of congress are. The members of congress do not understand what the old delegation mean when they call upon the United States to appropriate the whole amount of the net Proceeds Fund, and the whole interest from 1859 up to the present time, and pay it to them. The treaty of 1855 says, "After satisfying the just liabilities of the tribe, the remainder to be held in trust as general Choctaw funds, yielding an annual interest not less than five per cent. per annum, and the interest only payable every year for school purposes, and to promote the welfare and happiness of the Choctaw people and their descendants.

The bills which have been introduced into congress from time to time since 1855, more than twelve times, looking to the payment of this claim, have all recognized the validity of the claim; in fact its validity has been constantly reported upon favorably by the committee of congress of both houses, but the appropriation has been withheld, because the old delegation insist upon the money being paid to them. The treaty of June 22d, 1855, article 11 and 12 plainly says that the individual claimants must have the first money appropriated, and not the old delegation, their lawyers, lobbyists, etc., leaving

no room for controversy. Hence these bills have been as regularly defeated as they have been introduced. And now the old delegation are asking congress that an act may be passed giving the court of claims of the United States jurisdiction over the subject (when no one is disputing the claim) with the instructions to the court to ascertain what amount is due the Choctaws under the provisions of the 11th and 12th articles of the treaty of 1855, proposing to make an appropriation accordingly and authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to the authorities of the Nation; but even that has been defeated.

In the year 1833, when the land of the Choctaws East of the Mississippi river came into market, the United States took the individual perpetual homestead, which they held under the treaty of 1820, and sold it to the highest bidder, and put the money into the United States treasury; now this is what the individual claimants are trying to get, and if there are any of these individual claims which cannot be established and identified before the court of claims of the Choctaw Nation, then they are to be invested as General Choctaw funds, yielding an annual interest of not less than 5 per cent. per annum for educational

purposes, and to promote the welfare and happiness of the Choctaw people and their descendants. There is no such idea in the treaty of 1865 as appropriating the net proceeds Funds, and the whole interest, and pay it over to the old delegation, their lawyers, lobbyists, etc.

It is well known and admitted on all sides that the individual claimants must all be paid before one dollar can be collected or invested as general Choctaw funds. It makes no difference whether the amount due the individual be large or small, it must be paid to them, and their receipts taken for the same.

The treaty is the paramount law of the land, and its obligations must be met in good faith.

I would most respectfully invite your attention again to the necessity of building a good substantial National jail at some point as near the center of the Nation as possible. Your good sense precludes the necessity of my dwelling upon the importance of such an institution.

I respectfully recommend that provision be made for the appointment of four additional national light-

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horsemen. All that is necessary is to put the ward "ten" instead of the ward "six" in the first section of the act approved October 20, 1860.

I recommend that all improvements made in the nation by non-citizens who have to leave the country by reason of their licenses or permits being revoked, shall fall or belong to the Nation, and ought to be sold to the highest Choctaw bidder by the national light-horsemen by order of the Principal Chief, upon due notice of the time of sale, and the proceeds devoted to national purposes.

I recommend that an act approved Oct. 26, 1857, to prevent the introduction of liquors in the Choctaw Nation be made to cover Jamaica ginger, Missouri cider bitters, or any other drink or beverage that is intoxicating.

It has become necessary to take further action upon the terms and conditions upon which white persons are to enter the Choctaw country and remain here, The permit law has been decided by the Secretary of the Interior on the 27th of August last to be null and void; to which decision we are commended to render implicit obedience, and from which there is no appeal except in that of a legitimate argument founded upon

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our rights of self-government, as guaranteed to us by the treaty of 1830, and re-guaranteed by all subsequent treaties.

The decision as it stands says: "The very principles upon which our government is founded, not only bars our rights to regulate in our legislative capacity the terms upon which white persons shall become a part of our community, but it actually absolves our own citizens from any allegiance to the Nation in its governmental capacity in that it recognizes the employment of white persons by our citizens as being in the terms of the treaty a permit for them to remain among us. Does the treaty give our citizens this privilege and power without respect, and defiance of our government? I think not. Though if we cannot exercise jurisdiction over white persons' intercourse with us we certainly can exercise jurisdiction over our own intercourse with white persons. Our citizens must not be permitted to introduce whatever white persons they please without obligation or responsibility to the government. We cannot expect to do as we please, as individuals, with that which does not belong to us. If I use

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that which belongs to others I ought to pay for what its use is worth to me. This is an important subject, and much available funds may be derived out of its proper management, which should be payable in current money, and devoted exclusively to school purposes. - This permit business ought to form a department of the government and have a head to it. I take pleasure in informing you that the Eastern Boundary has been surveyed and a large number of acres computed to be due us, and it only remains for us, to send some capable and faithful person to Washington and secure an appropriation from the congress of the United States sufficient to satisfy their indebtedness to us on this question. In its present condition the settlement of the matter appears simple enough.

The progress and history of the suit against the railroad will be furnished you by the particular officials having charge of the case. I have seen enough of the case to satisfy me that the Nation will receive quite a large amount from this source.

I should be glad to second your efforts to establish another boarding school at Armstrong Academy

under the old law of fifty students, with an annual appropriation of \$5,000. I think we can meet the demand and we ought to try it.

Pre-eminently among the important trusts of the Nation to be cared for by the General council are its educational interests. Something should be done to break down the disinclination on the part of parents to avail themselves of the advantages of common schools; and some of the most strenuous efforts should be made to supply the need of additional facilities for carrying on our schools. Let us try and arrange it so that every youth in the land shall be at school ten months in the year.

Let us try and be able to pay our teachers promptly. Let those entrusted with school funds for care and disbursement be held to a strict accountability, and all official malfeasance be promptly punished.

Let our school officers be exemplars in society. I hope your very best members will be put on the committee on schools. Your efforts to advance the educational interests of the Nation shall receive my warmest encouragement.

I heartily recommend that you make suitable provision for having a balance sheet made of the

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finances of the Nation, that we may know our pecuniary standing.

If at any time during the session some subject should occur to me which would seem to require legislation, I will make it known to you in a special message.

Hoping that you will leave nothing undone for the good of the Choctaw people; that nothing will occur to mar the harmony of the session or prevent our joint and united action for good, I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Coleman Cole,

Principal Chief,

Choctaw Nation.

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,

Wednesday, October 17, 1877

Vol. 2, No. 32

W. P. BOUDINOT, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF COLEMAN COLE

The message of Gov. Cole which will be found in this week's paper is, so far as language is concerned, the best, likely, he has ever delivered; and some of his recommendations are good, especially that in reference to education, which we fully endorse; but upon some other points the S. T. respectfully begs leave to differ with the worthy Governor. The most prominent among these are his views regarding property of white men living in the country. Governor Cole is in favor of confiscating their improvements whenever they may be driven from the Nation. We are sorry indeed to think that our Governor would recommend anything so palpably unjust, not to say dishonest; and believe that upon mature reflection he will change his views in the matter.

For we are not yet prepared to believe that a man of Gov. Cole's honor would thus ruthlessly wrest from the hands of a fellow being the fruits of his honest toil.

The Chief seems to have a holy horror of the way things are going in Tobucksey county; and would be pleased to see council devise some means to punish those of our people who happen to entertain views on the tenure-of-land question contrary to his own.

Regarding the arrest of McAlester and others, he scrambles over it as best he can, failing, however, to convince anybody but himself of the legality of his course.

We are truly glad the Governor himself is so well pleased with his official record, and only wish the country could look at it with the same degree of satisfaction. Had he confined himself exclusively to the subjects of education and the National jail and left all the rest of his message unsaid he would have done himself great credit and received the hearty approbation of his whole people.

Our limited space this week forbids as extended a notice as the message deserves, so we will hold up for the present and conclude our comments at some future time. -- Star Vindicator.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Oct. 20, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 36

McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON P. P. PITCHLYNN

52 years ago, when the Choctaws were living in the old Nation east of the Mississippi, Col. P. P. Pitchlynn, then a young man barely in the twenties, was superintendent of public schools. The other day, at Armstrong Academy, he happened to meet up with Robt. W. Nail, Alfred Wade, Col. George Durant and and ex-Gov. Basil LeFlore, whom more than a half century ago he had placed in Col. Richard W. Johnson's school at Blue Springs, Scott county, Ky.

These old veterans have been and are yet among the most prominent men of the Nation; have labored faithfully a whole life-time in the interest of their people, and their country should love to honor them. They sat down, likely for the last time they will ever all meet together again on earth, and had a long talk over the various vicissitudes of life through which they had each passed since they were school boys together in old Kentucky.

STAR VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 20, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 36
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON IMPEACHMENT OF COLEMAN COLE

Pending the impeachment trial of Gov. Cole the S. V. will refrain from any comments that would have a tendency to prejudice his case either one way or the other. The high court is composed of men of good judgement and irreproachable honor, and whatever their verdict may be the country will be satisfied with it.

The senate, which constitutes the court of impeachment, is composed of the following gentlemen:

McKee King, John Mishemahtubbee, Alfred Wright, Ben. Wesley, Moses Fletcher, Chas. Winston, Gaines Anderson, Peter Pitchlynn, J. T. McCurtain and S. P. Willis. During the trial the senate will be presided over by I. L. Garvin, Chief Justice.

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STAR VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 20, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 36
G. McPherson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF COLEMAN COLE

Since the impeachment of Gov. Cole, Hon.
J. P. Moore, president of the Senate, is acting Principal Chief.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 20, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 36
G. McPherson, Editor

BILL #3 - 4 - 5

Bill No. 3

Whereas, it appears on the records of both Houses of the General Council that an act was passed at the regular session, 1876, providing for an increase of pay per diem of two dollars to the members and attaches of the General Council, to take effect at the regular session of 1877, and:

Whereas, it appears further that said act was not returned by the Principal Chief to said houses of the General Council within the time prescribed by law; therefore

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General council of the Choctaw Nation assembled, that the provisions of said act have become the law of the land.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted: That the officials who make the certificates of pay for the beneficiaries of said act to the Auditor shall include the

increase of pay provided in said act in making their certificates for the present session of the General Council. That the National Auditor shall issue his warrant for the same upon the National Treasurer, and the Treasurer is hereby required to pay the same.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted: That the provisions of said act and of this act shall continue and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed Senate, Oct. 9th, 1877,

Charles Winston,

President pro tem.

Passed House, Oct. 9th, 1877,

GEO. DURANT, Speaker.

Vetoed Oct. 9th, 1877.

COLEMAN COLE,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

Re-passed the House by two-thirds majority
Oct. 9th, 1877.

Bill No. 4

To the General Council of the Choctaw Nation:

Your committee on finance, before entering upon an investigation of the National agent's report, would

beg leave to report the following:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Council assembled That D. F. Harkins, National agent of Choctaw Nation be and is hereby required and directed to produce and turn over to the committee on finance at the present session all original records, books, papers and receipts for moneys, or statements of any kind belonging to or appertaining to his office in regard to royalty on timber, stone, coal, ties and timber shipped out of said Nation, or sold to any railway company within the limits of said Nation, said papers, &c., to embrace his whole term of office up to July 1st, 1877.

Sec. 2. Be it further resolved: That the said National Agent be furnished a copy of this resolution, and that he comply with its terms without unnecessary delay, and that this resolution take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed Senate, Oct. 9th, 1877.

Charles Winston,

President pro tem.

Passed House, Oct. 9th, 1877

Geo. Durant, Speaker.

Vetced Oct. 9th, 1877

Coleman Cole,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

Re-passed Senate by two-thirds vote Oct. 9th,

1877.

J. B. MOORE,

President.

Re-passed House by two-thirds vote, Oct. 10th,

1877.

Geo. Durant,

Speaker of House.

Bill No. 5

An act entitled an act to remove the election in Jackfork
County from Yotobbee to Sardis church:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Council
assembled: That the election precinct established at
Yotobbee in Jackfork county October 29th, 1861, is here-
by removed to and established at Sardis church about
two miles northeast from Yotobbee, and shall be known
as and called Sardis precinct.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted: That this act
take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed Senate Oct. 15th, 1877.

Charles Winston,

President pro tem.

Passed House Oct. 16th, 1877.

Geo. Durant,

Speaker.

Approved Oct. 16th, 1877

J. B. Moore,

Principal Chief pro tem.

On the 17th, the Senate passed a resolution to appoint a committee of three to draft rules for the government of the impeachment case. The committee not appointed at this writing.

No further laws passed as yet.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 27, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 37
C. McPherson, Editor

NOTICE OF G. W. DUKES

Strayed or stolen on the night of October 3rd, 1877, at Stringtown, one clay-bank pony, black mane and tail; branded P. P. on the hip. Also one dark bay pony, black mane and tail; no brand; the mane falls on the left side; age about five years. I will pay ten dollars to any one delivering them to Mr. Culbertson at Stringtown and no questions asked.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 27, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY T. D. AINSWORTH

T. D. Ainsworth introduced a resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee of two to notify the Senate that the impeachment resolution against Gov. Cole, had passed the House, and the imports are as follows:

On motion: That a committee of two members of the House be appointed to proceed to the bar of the Senate and there notify the Senate that the House of Representatives for itself and for the whole Choctaw people have impeached Coleman Cole, Principal Chief Choctaw Nation, and that they will in due time present and make good the same; and request that the Senate take order in the premises for his speedy trial. Passed the House, and the following are the committee: W. B. Pitchlynn and B. J. Pickens.

Whereas, the articles preferred by the House impeaching the Principal Chief, directs that five man-

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agers shall present the same to the Senate; therefore
be it

Resolved, That the following members of the
House of Representatives be instructed to act as such
managers, viz: Joel Hudson, Wm. B. Pitchlynn, T. H.
Byington; T. D. Ainsworth and C. E. Harkins.

Proposed by C. E. Harkins, Oct. 15th, 1877.

Passed House, Oct. 15th, 1877.

Geo. Durant, Speaker.

To the Honorable Senators of the Choctaw Nation:

The undersigned, managers of the impeachment
of Coleman Cole, Principal Chief, appointed by the House
of Representatives by resolution October 15th, 1877,
would respectfully state to your Honorable body that
they are ready to proceed with said trial and ask that
your Honorable body take such steps as in its wisdom
may be deemed appropriate and just, to cause said de-
fendant to be put on trial without delay.

T. D. AINSWORTH, Chairman.

W. B. PITCHLYNN,

THOMAS H. BYINGTON,

JOEL HUDSON,

C. E. HARKINS,

Committee.

Motion, By Col. Jack McCurtain, Senator from Sugar Loaf, that the yeas and nays be called as to whether the impeachment shall go on or be suppressed.

Yeas -- McKee King, John Wischematubbe, Alfred Wright, B. Wesley, Moses Fletcher, Peter Pitchlynn.

Nays -- J. F. McCurtain, Gaines Anderson, S. P. Willis, J. B. Jackson.

J. B. Moore, President of Senate being sick, Charles Winston was President pro tem.

Resolved, by the Senate of the Choctaw Nation, that the House of Representatives be notified that the Seante acting upon its own responsibility, refuses to execute article six of the constitution, and that the said charges be held for naught in the opinion of the Senate.

STAR VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 6, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 33
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COLEMAN COLE

Without the least shadow of law Chief Cole has appointed delegates to Washington. This, though, is no worse than a great many other things he has done. He has overridden the constitution and trampled under foot the dearest rights of his people. He has done, in short, what no man in any other country could have done and retained his seat.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 8, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 38
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIALS ON COL. J. F. McCURTAIN

Col. McCurtain, the live man of the Senate,
worked hard in council for the interest of his people.

Col. J. F. McCurtain, one of the leading men
of the Choctaw Nation, called to see us this week on
his return from council. The colonel is thoroughly
awake to the necessity of a radical change in the ad-
ministration of our National affairs, and goes home
fully determined to use every exertion to that end.
And when such men as Jack McCurtain set themselves to
work we may expect to see something done.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 6, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 38
C. McPherson, Editor

REPORT OF E. J. PICKENS

To the General Council:

Your joint committee, to whom was referred the report of the National Agent for the fiscal year commencing July 12th, 1876, and ending June 30th, 1877, beg leave to report as follows:

1. We find the report as to receipts for the first quarter of said fiscal year correct, and the disbursements, viz: Paid weigher, the sum of \$150 -- \$2.90 more than he was entitled to under the law. And the amount of \$75.00 as expenses of office in bulk. The law requires him to make a detailed statement of such expenses which he has not done.

2. We find in his second quarterly report receipts correctly stated. Disbursements to public weigher \$200 -- \$33.14 more than he was entitled to under the law. And the sum of \$125.00 office expense, for which there is no detailed statement.

3. We find in his third quarterly report receipts correctly stated, and the disbursement to the public weigher \$200 -- \$18.97 more than he was entitled to under the law; expense of office \$180.65 in bulk, no detailed statement according to law. And the sum of \$1066.65 for the expense of a court, and attorney fees at McAlester and Atoka, without warrant or authority of law, and in direct violation of his oath of office and his official bond.

4. And in his fourth quarterly report the receipts are short the sum of \$826.00 3/8 as royalty on timber. He reports the sum of \$1,434.63 as received from that source. When he really received \$2,260.63 1/8. Showing the amount first stated short. Other receipts as to coal and timber correct. Disbursement to public weigher \$50 -- \$44.75 less than the public weigher was entitled to under the law. Expenses of office \$170 in bulk, no detailed statement according to law. And to Capt. J. S. Stanley and D. F. Harkins' expenses to Washington in railroad suit \$783.90, without any appropriation having been made for such purpose or law authorizing him to employ attorney. Expense of a court at Muskogee before Agent Marston \$526.25 without authority of law.

To the National Treasurer, \$7000, which was according to law.

Recapitulation

Amount received as per first quarterly report...	\$3,259.67
" " " " second " "	3,151.92
" " " " third " "	4,310.43
" " " " fourth " "	2,555.72
Error in fourth report.....	826.00
	<u>\$14,083.74</u>

Disbursements

Amount paid public weigher.....	559.71
Expense of office.....	550.00
10 per cent on whole amount collected.....	1,408.37
Amount paid into Treasury.....	<u>7,000.00</u>
Total amount according to law.....	\$9,518.08½
Balance due Choctaw Treasury.....	4,365.65
Balance reported on hand.....	1,405.94

In the recapitulation those amounts with no law to sustain them have not been included. All of which is respectfully submitted,

B. J. PICKENS, Chairman.

The people will bear in mind the important fact

that the foregoing report covers the transactions of
one year only. Comments are useless -- figures won't
lie.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 17, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 40
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF LORING S. WILLIAMS TO EDITOR

Glenwood, Iowa,)
November 5th, 1877.)

Editors of Star-Vindicator

Dear Sirs:

I am happy to say that your paper still cheers me weekly. I hardly know how I should bear my comparative isolation, and the trials incident to old age, were it not for the papers and the letters I now get from the Indian Territory. Those individuals who order the Star Vindicator, the Indian Journal and the Cherokee Advocate to me at their own expense will most certainly be rewarded by Him who notices even a cup of cold water given in His name. I regard these favors from old pupils and friends as a part of my reward for anything I may have done or attempted to do in their behalf in days long, long ago. Other beloved pupils,

even as far back as sixty-two years, still write to their old teacher -- and of a later date, one lady, I have found by her kind remembrance, is now employed as a teacher among the Seminoles at Newoka. I know, of a certainty, that some teachers and pupils are bound together by cords not easily severed.

Will you be so kind, Mr. Editor of the S. V., as to aid me in saying to all my friends among your readers that I am so disabled by rheumatism and general weakness that I cannot write so frequently and fully as I have otherwise should be glad to do. I have just received another good letter from "my friend and brother," as he calls me, T. B. Turnbull. He speaks of having lately seen at least three of my old pupils, Alfred Wade, Forbis and Basil LeFlore, and also Col. P. P. Pitchlynn, a former intimate acquaintance. I had read in the S. V., if I mistake not, of a pleasant reunion those gentlemen had recently enjoyed. And here I would say to my old pupils, if anyone or more who still lives and remember me with kindness, will write to me soon, giving their address in full, I will, if acceptable, send them my photo; but of course, not as I looked 50 or 60 years ago in the school room with them. I should like to know how many may possibly like to get one as

a trivial "Christmas gift." I would enquire if Geo. Hudson is still living?

My friend Turnbull speaks of the Red people. O what trials they do meet with. I pity them and pray God to rule among them, and unite them in council and in every good work.

LORING S. WILLIAMS.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 17, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 40
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COL. J. F. McCURTAIN

We notice an article in the last issue of the Atoka Independent signed as coming from "One of the people," but his language is too well known, and if he had said "One of the Ring" it would have sounded more in keeping with the man. We want our readers to distinctly understand about the "ring" and the people are separate and distinct, as shown by the tenacity to which the former hold on irrespective of law or the rights of the people. The question in point is as to the Chief sending delegates to Washington to settle the Eastern boundary claim, without authority of law. The wise man, who claims to be "One of the People," quotes section 13, article 7 of the constitution, to prove that the Chief acted in conformity of law. Now the above section says: "That the Principal Chief shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, delegates to transact such business as may become expedi-

ent." That is all very well, but we claim and can substantiate the fact that the Senate had nothing to do with confirming the said delegates. The act under which they claim to be commissioned was passed at an extra session of council held February 3rd, 1874; and they proceeded to Washington under said act, taking with them \$4,500, which was appropriated, and spent the whole of it without giving any account as to how it was expended.

And at the regular session, October, 1874, the act passed February 3d, 1874, was repealed; the delegates, or part of them, asking to be relieved, which the records of the Senate and House will show. So much then for section 13, article 7 of the constitution, as quoted by "One of the People."

Again during the last setting of council these self-same delegates made the arrangement with the old Net Proceeds delegation, now at Washington but present at the last council to aid and assist each other in having bills passed. One to sustain the old delegation and the other to create a new delegation to settle the Eastern boundary claim; but it seems they were suspicious of each other, as the following will show:

The arrangement was that the two bills were to be started in the Senate, the old delegation bill first, and after getting it through, then the new bill was to

follow. The new delegates were to manipulate the Senate and the old delegates and their friends the House. Everything being ready the old delegates got their forces together and awaited the coming of their bill, but instead of theirs coming first the new delegate bill was first. Then the suspicion was heightened, and at noon the friends of the old bill called for an explanation and was put off with an evasive answer, but with a promise that the old bill should be the first one to be passed and sent down in the afternoon. In the meantime the new bill was lying quietly on the table of the House.

The afternoon passed and bills continued to come down, but still no delegate bill. Again they were called upon by the old delegates' friends and the excuse was that there was so many bills being presented that they could not get the delegate bill in, but that they would attend to it and see that it was the first bill passed the next morning. In the meantime they were trusting to the old delegate party passing their bill in the House.

Next morning everything was ready; the Senate took up the old delegate bill and passed it, but before reaching the House the new delegate bill had been taken up and defeated. The House then took up the old delegate bill and passed it and sent it to the Chief who vetoed

it at once. The consequence was that both bills were a dead letter, and both parties were defeated.

The next move was made by the House getting up a bill and passing it to send the Auditor and Treasurer as delegates to collect the moneys due on settlement of the Eastern boundary, and allowing them ten per cent of the amount collected; they being bonded officers of the Nation and the pr per parties to make any collections of money belonging to the Nation.

This bill went to the Senate and hung fire for several days, and there was a proposition, so we were told by Col. McCurtain, a Senator who is too well-known to have his veracity doubted, from the parties in interest with the new delegation, that if they would be allowed to amend the bill so as to give the Auditor and Treasurer twenty-eight per cent instead of ten per cent, that they would withdraw all opposition and that the bill would pass and become a law.

Here is the chip the bug is under. Instead of the Auditor and Treasurer getting this additional eighteen per cent, there was to be an arrangement that it should go to the new delegation.

Col. McCurtain and his party opposed it in that shape; so the opposite side, or new delegation side, defeated the bill, and still there was no delegation.

And now we again come to the law under which they claim that the Chief had a right to commission them, the act of February 3rd, 1874.

The council adjourned on Wednesday at 9 o'clock -- the day before -- Tuesday -- they had this very law up in the Senate and tried to revive it; working upon it all day, but thanks to the energy of Col. McCurtain, they were again doomed to defeat, and after finding that it was impossible for them to do anything with it one of their own party moved to lay it on the table, and the Senate adjourned without any further action; then these parties go to the Chief and he issues the commission they are now acting upon.

The members of the House heard there would be such a thing done, hence the getting up on the protest; which would have been acted upon by the House if they had received any official notification, but it was kept very quiet until after council adjourned, and this was the first notice they had which was reliable. These are the facts in the case, which can be substantiated by the records and by men whom the people acknowledge as reliable.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Dec. 15, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 44
G. McPherson, Editor

NOMINATION OF I. L. GARVIN

On Saturday, the 8th, inst., a large number of citizens assembled at the town of McAlester for the purpose of ratifying the nomination of Judge J. L. Garvin for Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

On motion, Sampson Cole was called to the chair and Judge H. W. Folsom appointed secretary.

In an appropriate address the chairman explained the object of the meeting. Capt. Mishemahtubbee asked the chairman to interpret his speech in English, which he did. Col. Campbell Leflore then fully explained the object of the meeting.

Capt. Mishemahtubbee delivered an eloquent speech in his native tongue, heartily endorsing the nomination of Judge Garvin for Principal Chief, saying that he had the good of his country at heart and if elected would serve his people faithfully.

Judge Kampalubbee, in a short speech, also

pledged his support to the nominee.

Judge E. W. Folsom, in an eloquent address, endorsed the nomination and bore testimony to the honor and sterling integrity of Judge Carvin; saying that he had been associated with him on the Supreme bench for a number of years and never in a single instance knew him to act other than as an upright Judge and an honest man.

A resolution was then offered, by Capt. Kampalubbee and unanimously adopted, endorsing the nomination of Judge J. L. Carvin as a candidate for Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation at the election in August, 1878.

On motion of Capt. Kampalubbee the meeting then adjourned.

SAMPSON COLE, Chm'n.

E. W. FOLSOM, SEC'Y.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Dec. 22, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 45
G. McPherson, Editor

NOTICE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Editors Star Vindicator:

Please give the following notice publication
in your valuable paper, as it may prove of interest to
the people and a warning to bellicose pedagogues:

Office of District Trustee,)
Mosholatubbee District,)
December 5, 1877.)

Prof. T. R. Madden.

Sir:

Complaints have been made at this office of
such a nature that it has been deemed advisable to re-
voke your license as teacher of public schools in the
Choctaw Nation, to take effect from the date hereof.

Very respectfully,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

District Trustee.

The above explains itself, and shows that

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character is as essential in a school teacher in the
Indian country as in the states.

Yours, &c.,

T. D. AINSWORTH.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Dec. 22, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 45
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF THOMAS D. AINSWORTH

EDITORS OF STAR VINDICATOR:

In the Atoka Independent of Nov. 30, 1877, I notice a lengthy communication over the signature of our National Agent, or to designate him by a title a little more meritorious F. R. (free pass) Harkins.

In that article the gallant free pass distributor essays to expose the attempt to impeach our illustrious Governor (who by the way holds one of the Colonel's free passes), and also the efforts of the finance committee of the late General Council to expose the old crookedness and true inwardness of the most corrupt ring that ever fastened its poisonous fangs in the vitals of any government.

The free pass Colonel says "the impeachment articles against Gov. Cole were drawn up before the council met." Now, in controverting this statement, as well as others that appear to be made at random by the Colonel,

and which he proposes to substantiate by his coterie of subsidized captains, I shall confine myself strictly to the facts as they occurred.

Crit Harkins and myself made up the points in the impeachment and requested a legal gentleman to clothe them in the correct phraseology of law. They were then presented by us next morning to the House. I am satisfied not another member of the body knew that such a thing was contemplated previous to their introduction. But with unanimity unparalleled the House rallied their support, four votes only being against the adoption of them. One owes his seat to the Governor, two held the Colonel's free passes, and the fourth could not rise above personal feelings in the matter. None of the four raised a voice against the adoption, but silently and sullenly voted at the dictate of their master.

Now, sir, let us analyze the Senate on this grave subject: Five of the six Senators who voted to screen the chief from a trial and examination, which would have elicited facts discreditable to him and degrading to us as a free people, held free passes on the railroad. Three of them had the alluring promise of a free trip and expenses paid as delegates to Wash-

ington. The services were rendered, but the consideration failed. The 13th section of general provisions of the constitution to the contrary. Two of these three were the gallant Colonel's witnesses (the captains). The third is too well identified with all the corrupt legislation of the last fifteen years to be named here.

In proof of this assertion it is a matter of record that Senator King, chairman of the committee on chief's message, submitted a bill authorizing the chief to appoint delegates to settle the eastern boundary question; no number stated. The query naturally arises, why was not a number specified? It is easy. Listen to the answer, fellow citizens: We do not know how many votes are to be bought to screen the chief. The number of delegates must correspond with the necessary votes!

I shall leave the impeachment matter with the people at large; let them judge who are the faithful servants -- the Governor and his coadjutors, or the members of the House of Representatives; and by their decision we stand or fall.

Now we come to that part of the Colonel's exposure of the finance committee.

The Speaker appoints the several committees.

The Colonel asked a man high in official position to use his influence with his father (the Speaker) to prevent me from being appointed on the committee to examine his (the Colonel's) report. The influence was not used; or, if it was, it failed. A petition was then presented in the House, after the committees were made up, asking that two of the House committee be removed on account of prejudice toward the Colonel, to-wit: Crit Harkins and Ben Pickens. The House very wisely resolved that it was not the province of any man, be he Colonel, Captain or private, to select the committee to examine his own official works. So the petition with the Colonel's name signed to it was laid on the table. The Senate had been manipulated; a cut and dried committee was appointed, one of whom could not add two and two together, another would not if he could, and the third, Charles Winston, all honor to him, acted with the House branch.

I opine the Colonel "reckoned without his host" when he counted on Winston as one of his tools.

During the meetings of the committee I frequently called on Captains Mishemahtubbee and Wright to come up and help examine the papers, observing that we did not want them to sit back and do nothing, and

when a report was made, oppose it in the Senate, which they had done on previous occasions.

The report was drawn up and approved by the whole committee, and was then submitted to the House and adopted unanimously, with one exception. Major B. F. Smallwood skulked to keep from voting against a report he must have known was correct. It was then sent to the Senate and smothered by the same votes that screened the chief, caused by the same influence, I presume. In the examination of the report the Colonel is bound to admit that we called upon him several times to explain certain portions of his report, and he could not give us any satisfactory information; his whole manner and bearing seemed to say, "The Senate is mortgaged property; do as you please; you can't touch me."

If the House branch of the committee made a majority report, why did not the Captains from the Senate submit a minority report, and vice versa. We could not, however prejudiced we might be, rob them of that privilege.

I told the committee plainly that I should submit the bogus report, as the Colonel called it, and if they did not agree with me, they of course could make a report to suit themselves.

The report charged the National Agent with willfully squandering \$4,565 of public money in his hands. Admitting that the calculation is mathematically correct, let us examine the law in the case. The law says one competent person shall be appointed, &c., take the oath of office in the constitution, and give bonds to unconditionally pay over to the National Treasurer a half cent per bushel on all stone-coal shipped out of the Nation, one-half the royalty collected on timber and stone, &c., reserving ten per cent for his services.

Did he comply with the requirements of the law? The committee say he did not, but spent a large sum in prosecuting a trumped up claim against the railroad, from which source he says the Nation will probably get a l-a-r-g-e amount of money; that is, if the railroad company will furnish free passes enough to bribe members of the Council to let his reports go through.

The agent gets 20 per cent of all moneys that he may recover, and it is reasonable that he should pay his expenses out of his per cent, and not squander National money, over which he has no control other than to pay it into the treasury, on a wild goose law suit.

He alleges that he spend this money under authority of Chief Cole. Where did Chief Cole get his authority to delegate any such power to Colonel Harkins? The Constitution says no money shall be expended except in consequence of an appropriation made by law. Where is the law authorizing D. F. Harkins and J. S. Stanley to expend \$783 going to and returning from Washington City.

The General Council makes the laws; the Chief sees that they are faithfully executed. Has he done his duty?

If the Chief has usurped the powers of the Council he deserves to be impeached.

If Harkins has violated his oath of office and his official bond, he should be made to disgorge, and the Senate who screened him consigned to oblivion.

For the present I leave this discussion to the unprejudiced judgement of my people. I have no interest in it foreign to theirs. My action as a member of the House, on the committee and in debate, was prompted solely for their benefit.

Hoping you will publish this, I subscribe myself, yours truly,

THOMAS D. AINSWORTH
of Skullyville county, C. N.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Jan. 12, 1878
Vol. 4, No. 48
G. McPherson, Editor

NOTICE OF T. R. MADDEN

Editors Star Vindicator:

"Please give the following notice publication
in your valuable paper, as it may prove of interest to"
-- my successor at Scullyville and the public at large.

My license as teacher of public schools in
the Choctaw Nation was revoked by the District Trustee
of Mosholatubbee District and is renewed at his own
instance.

I will say this in connection that Hon. Green
McCurtain stated to me that his action in the matter
was based on information given him by the party who
now has charge of the school -- namely, T. D. Ainsworth
"of Scullyville County, C. N."

Those who run may read, and it will be seen
that "character" is not as essential to an Indian soi-
dissant teacher as to a white pedagogue.

Very respectfully,

T. R. MADDEN.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

March 2, 1878

Vol. 5, No. 3

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON JACK McCURTAIN

Col. Jack McCurtain gives his people a good
medicine talk in this issue of the STAR VINDICATOR.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 9, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 3
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

The communication in Choctaw from Green McCurtain is one of the most significant documents that ever appeared in the Star Vindicator, and we recommend its careful perusal by every Choctaw reader. Next week it will be published in English. If the rotten rings cannot read the hand-writing on the wall and see that their race is nearly run, then they must be as void of common understanding as they are of common honesty. The people are done with them -- their time is about up; and while they retire to the vales of obscurity with a plethoric purse they go with a brand of disgrace upon them that their ill-gotten gains can never cover up. Sic transit.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 16, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 5
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN
TO EDITORS STAR VINDICATOR

San Bois County, I. T.,
Feb. 24, 1878.

Editors Star Vindicator:

I will write a short communication to the
Star Vindicator for the benefit of its many readers.

In a recent conversation with the Hon. James
King, member of the last council, I asked him if
certain stories in circulation against him were
correct, and his reply was, "I have a great deal
to tell. I did not go to council last fall in
company with my father, Senator McKee King, but
followed after him. When I got to Mishemahtubbee's
his wife told me there was a letter at McAlester
for me. I came and got the letter and when I opened
it I found it contained my pass over the railroad.

I thought it strange -- I could not understand it, but I took it and went on to council. I thought the principal chief, who was likely to do something magnanimous, had probably made arrangements with the railroad company to let the council members pass over the road free.

On my arrival at Armstrong, my father, McKee King, asked me if I had got my FREE PASS and I told him I had. He then said I must not let anybody know anything about it, as this was to be kept secret. Then it struck me that the pass had been paid for out of the Choctaw money. I have a great deal to say about the rascality of David Harkins and those connected with him. I have been with them and found out everything they did.

The communication of T. D. Ainsworth, published in the Star Vindicator about our having FREE PASSES is correct. I am always willing to acknowledge to any wrong I may have committed. I never like to see a man try to lie out of a wrong or make out that the people lie. Had I known it was the Choctaw money paying for this I would not have taken it. But I did not know it and was fooled into it. There are other things they have done and other rascalities

they have committed that I did not participate in.

I have a great deal more to tell you. I will come down some other day and tell you more; and at the next circuit court I will tell all I know." At this we parted.

Being authorized to have this published I send it to the Star Vindicator for that purpose.

Now all who feel interested and wish to know what the National agent has done and who got FREE PASSES over the M. K. & T., will come to our next circuit court in San Bois county.

GREEN McCURTAIN.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 4, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 12
G. McPherson, Editor

MEETING OF THE INDIAN PRESBYTERY

Sandy Creek, I. T., April 18.

The Indian Presbytery met according to appointment, and was opened with a sermon in Choctaw by the Rev. C. Judson Stewart, retiring moderator, from Mathew 6, 19, 20: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" &c. After which the sessions were constituted in due form. There were present seven ministers and sixteen ruling elders. Rev. J. J. Read was chosen Moderator.

Rev. J. J. Read, of Spencer Academy, with Rev. C. Judson Stewart, of Mountain Fort, I. T., Alternate, and Elder David Perkins of Mt. Pleasant church, with C. Byington Wade, of Lenox church, Alternate, were chosen Commissioners to next Gen-

eral Assembly.

San Bois church, in San Bois county, Choctaw Nation, was chosen as a place to hold the next meeting of Presbytery on Thursday before the 2d Sabbath in Sept. A. D. 1878, at 7 o'clock p. m.

Chairman of the Presbyterial Committee on Publication, reported that the Central Committee of Publication through its Secretary, stated that they could not re-print the Choctaw hymn books for want of means. Owing to the urgent need of the hymn books, upon resolution the Presbytery requested the Foreign Mission Committee to re-print the said hymn books for the Choctaw Mission, and the proceeds of the sales of the same to be refunded to the Foreign Mission Committee.

THE NARRATIVE

Some progress has been made. One house of worship has been erected and another one is in course of erection. During the ecclesiastical year considerable members have been added on profession of faith. Baptism of children has been generally observed. There is much to discourage us in some of the churches, yet in a general view of the field there is much more

to encourage than otherwise.

COLPORTAGE

A committee, composed of the Revs. J. J. Read as chairman, W. J. B. Lloyd, H. Dana, C. J. Stewart and Allen Wright, was appointed on colportage on the recommendation or proposition of the committee of Publication.

Rev. J. J. Read was appointed chairman of the Presbyterial committee of Substantiation, Invalid and Evangelistic, and the Rev. C. J. Stewart of Foreign Missions.

SUPPLIES FOR VACANT CHURCHES

Rev. W. J. B. Lloyd is to visit Jack's Fork church once, and the Rev. E. Brewer and James Taylor to visit Jack's Fork and Lenox churches once each, between now and next meeting of Presbytery. Rev. J. J. Read is to have the care of Spencer Academy, Wheelock and Pine Ridge churches.

The Presbytery recommended to the assembly the adoption of the following articles of the new book, viz:

1st. Article II of section IV of chapter V.

2d. Article V of section IV of chapter V.

3d. Article I, II, III, IV, of section VII,
chapter V.

4th. First form of article IV section III
chapter VI.

All the above of the "Form of Government,"
as contained in the proposed "Book of Order." And
also approved and recommended the adoption of the
following in the proposed Revised rules of Disci-
pline, viz:

1st. The second definition of offence in
article I of chapter III in preference to the first
definition.

2d. Article X of chapter VIII.

3d. Articles I, II and III, chapter XII,
and then adopted as a whole.

After examination Mr. John P. Turnbull, li-
centiate, was ordained to the full work of the gospel
ministry by laying on the hands of Presbtery as an
Evangelist.

Rev. J. J. Read was authorized to labor among
the Chickasaws during the vacation.

The usual vote of thanks of Presbytery was

tendered to the Sandy creek congregation and neighborhood for entertaining its members with generous hospitality.

OVERTURE TO ASSEMBLY

Whether the session of a church is competent to receive the tender of resignation of an Elder or Deacon? Or must the matter be referred to the congregation by whom originally the said officer was elected? See proposed Book of Order, Form of Government, chapter VI, section IV, article III.

ALLEN WRIGHT, S. C.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 26, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAW COUNCIL

Monday, Oct. 14

SENATE

Met as per adjournment. Minutes read and adopted. Harris Carnes, of Jack's Fork county, appeared and presented his certificate of election, and after some little parleying as to whether his certificate was regular or not, Mr. Carnes was sworn in and took his seat. Adjourned.

HOUSE

Met as per adjournment. Minutes read and adopted. Report of ex-Chief Cole on the contingent fund which was appropriated in 1874, was read and reported to committee on finance. Adjourned.

SENATE

Met as per adjournment. Senator McCoy presented a petition from E. H. Forbes, praying for the rights of citizenship. Referred to the House. Adjourned.

HOUSE

Met as per adjournment and immediately adjourned for committees to work.

October 15.

SENATE

Met as per adjournment. Minutes read and adopted. Senator Fletcher, of Klamath county, presented a petition from C. E. Nelson and J. D. Davis, asking for permission to construct a switch or tramway from the M., K. & T. railway at Atoka, to the coal mines near that place. Referred to the committee on petitions. Adjourned.

SENATE

Met at the usual hour. A message was received from the Chief informing the Senate that he

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would be ready to meet that body in the Hall of Representatives on the 16th to deliver his message. Referred to the House. Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE

Met at usual hour. Senate resolution, in reference to the visit of the U. S. Senatorial committee to the Choctaw Council, was read and taken up for discussion. The rules were suspended and the resolution passed. Communication from the Chief notifying the Senate and House that he would deliver his message on the 16th was read. Adjourned.

October 16

SENATE

Met at usual hour. Minutes read and adopted. Adjourned to the Hall of Representatives to hear the Chief's message.

HOUSE

Met at usual hour. Minutes read and adopted.

Petition of E. P. Laferty and son, asking for citizenship was referred to the Senate. School report of district trustee, Green McCurtain, presented and referred to the committee on schools. At the hour designated the Senate appeared in the Hall and Chief Garvin delivered his message. The House then adjourned.

SENATE

Met at usual hour. School report of Green McCurtain received and referred to the committee on schools. Report of Edmond McCurtain, Superintendent of Public Schools, received and referred to the House. Petition of Gibson Lewis, of Blue county, asking an appropriation for him to go to school in the States was read and referred to committee on schools. Petition of E. P. Laferty and son, of Blue county, praying for rights of citizenship read and referred to committee on rights of citizenship. A bill to repeal the act establishing Hashahukwa election precinct in Blue county, was read, and on motion the rules were suspended and the bill passed.

HOUSE

Met at the usual hour. Message of the Chief was referred to the committee on Chief's message. Mr. Ainsworth, of Skullyville county, introduced a bill repealing all laws creating National agents, and moved it be read, which was carried. Mr. Harkins, of Blue county also moved the bill be taken into discussion, but Mr. Ellis . . . Kiamatia county, obie . . . bill was laid over . . . eration. Petition . . . was read and referred to the Senate. The rules were suspended and the bill repealing Hauhahukwa election precinct in Blue county was passed. The report of Edmond McCurtain, Superintendent of Public Schools, and the report of E. R. Shappard, Superintendent of New Hope Seminary were read and referred to committee on schools. Petition in regard to the establishment of a U. S. court at Denison, Texas, was read and referred to the Senate. Adjourned.

October 17

SENATE

Met at usual hour. Mr. Winston moved the reading of the treasurer's report, but the motion

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was lost. The report of the National Auditor was read and it and the treasurer's report were referred to the House. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE

Met at usual hour. Minutes read and adopted. Mr. Ainsworth called up the bill he had previously presented, repealing all laws creating National Agents and which was laid over. The bill was then read, and on motion of B. E. . . ., of Atoka county, was . . . tomorrow for further . . . Report of National . . . and referred . . . Adjourned.

SENATE

Met at usual hour. . . . in regard to the payment . . . court of claims warrants were read, the rules were suspended and the bill passed. Petition from ex-Chief Cole was read and referred to the House. A bill for removing the court-ground of Atoka county was then read, the rules suspended and the bill passed. Petition of G. H. Izard, praying for citizenship, was read and referred to the House. Petition of O. P. Hebert, of Atoka, asking permission to build a switch

from the M., K. & T. railway to the coal mines near Atoka, read and referred to the House. Petition of W. J. Hemby, in regard to paying him for printing the laws of '77 and '78, was read and referred to the House. Adjourned.

October 18

SENATE

Met as per adjournment. Minutes read and adopted. A resolution creating a committee to meet the Territorial committee was read, the rules suspended, the resolution was passed and referred to the House. The bill removing the court ground of Atoka county was read and passed. A bill creating an additional election precinct in San Bois county was read and passed. The bill making appropriation for the payment of certain court of claims warrants was laid over for further consideration. The petition of W. J. Hemby, in reference to his printing, was referred to the committee on petitions. Petition of Mr. Hebert, asking permission to build a switch to

his coal mines near Atoka, was referred to committee on petitions. Petition of ex-Chief Cole referred to same committee. Petition of G. H. Izard, in regard to citizenship, referred also to committee on petitions. Adjourned.

HOUSE

Met at usual hour. Minutes read and adopted. The bill repealing all laws creating National agents was taken up and put upon its passage. Vote taken by yeas and nays as follows: Yeas -- T. D. Ainsworth, C. C. Irvin, S. Holston, Alpheus Crosby, Isham Going, Wm. Frazier, C. E. Harkins and W. B. Pitchlynn. Nays -- E. F. Smallwood, S. Williams, C. Homs, Ellis Choate, Thomas Loud, Kampalube, John Loman . . . Walker, Weely Anderson . . . was lost by one vote . . . regard to the . . . committee. . . over for further consideration. The president announced the following committee on part of the Senate to meet the U. S. Senatorial committee: J. B. Jackson, Charles Winston, B. J. Pickens, Isaac McClure and Thomas H. Eyington. Adjourned.

Met at usual hour. Petition from G. W.

Harkins, asking school privileges for Choctaw children living in the Chickasaw Nation, was read. Report of E. McCurtain, Superintendent of Public Schools, and also report of Rev. J. J. Read, Superintendent of Spencer Academy, were read and referred to committee on schools. Adjourned.

INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
Thursday, April 24, 1879
Vol. 3, No. 33
M. P. Roberts, Editor

LETTER OF COLEMAN COLE

Cedar County, C. N.

April 13th, 1876

Friends and Brothers:-

Please read and form your opinion on this subject, matter and things.

Previous to 300 years ago the Indians were the sole proprietors of this Western Continent, from the centre of the earth to the ocean. His dominion was undisputed. Each Indian tribe or nation had their own regular gov't. coextensive within their jurisdiction. The smoke from their wigwams and the fires of their councils; you have seen them You have read about them.

You have seen the smoke rise in every valley and hillside on this continent. Indian tribes standing

independently, happy looking, gazing over the regions under their jurisdiction and the fertility of the soil, mines and minerals, trees and vines, the great eagles and other fowls flying in the air and the great buffalo and other brutes and creeping things in the country were his. As you have seen them, clothed in dressed skins and no land speculators to contend with, no deceivers, and no fire-water to fear. This continent was the land of equality; the head men and rulers did set down and eat with his companions with one spoon, and smoked out of one pipe. There was nothing but peace and harmony. In those days we had Moses' law in operation, life for life, eye for eye, &c., until the coming of Europeans, different color from us. They came in the name of civilization and Christianity, peace and friendship, so we acknowledged them that they were the chosen tribe of the world. We called them War-hol-lo (Superior race). It is not anything like purity or holiness, but having the power of inventing by imagination they made fair living promises to civilize and Christianize the Indians, having the Ten Commandments in one hand and the sword in the other and fire-water in their bosom so

we listened attentively and yield unto their fine promises, gradually abandoning our government, laws and customs. In 1830 we agreed by treaty to repudiate Indian laws and take up white man's ways. I could tell you more about this regulation but not in this paper. I say you do not lack general intelligence of the people or congress. You must remember that the progress of the United States is so rapid. Great, wealthy, rich in abundance of national prosperity, by my comeliness (I will say something more hereafter), but remember the blessings of Providence who is able to direct you by his finger. Questions: Who put the Indian in this Western Continent? The white man is so wise and smart in his own conceit in all its glory to the temporal interest. It seems to me they have forgotten the Spiritual blessings.

Including, this stagnated question of Territorializing the Indian's land which is as dear to the Indians as the Dist. of Columbia to the Americans, in which the Indian Territory is ...

established by treaty, so we hold our land in patent in fee simple title as long as grass grows and water runs,

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guaranteed to us and our descendants forever by the U. S.. It is useless to talk about make it any better for they cannot do it if they repudiate and violate the treaty and destroy the Indian nationalities, the Indians will be like water spilt on the ground. Could not be gathered no more.

Mr. Voorhee's subcommittee of Feb. 25th, 1878 were sent to the Indian Territory in order to find out the sentiments of the Indian people. What the Indian thinks of territorializing on the top of the Indian Territory stands convicted of palpable errors. It is manifested that they have laid their finger to cheat and fraud the Indian out of his land for political purposes. When they came to Indian Territory they went to whisky peddler D. M. Hailey's clan. Entirely forgot the Indian ballot box. When they went back to Washington they told the Congressmen it ought to be changed in some shape. (They never tell what I said to them). While the treaty stands good and speaks for itself in a sound principle, the idea that they have was to deceive, delude and mislead the public mind, so they may destroy the Indian Nationalities, to push Indians out the frying pan into the fire.

Now what profit is that to the European race.

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(white face) will get by slaughtering and massacreing the Indians by millions and millions. Ever since 1408 up to the present called Indian war to which the U. S. cannot denied, what profit is that to the people of the United States when they gain the whole world and loose their own soul.

COLEMAN COLE.

Ex-Principal Chief, C. N.

INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Indian Territory
Thursday, Nov. 13, 1879
Vol. 4, No. 10
M. P. Roberts, Editor

MESSAGE OF I. L. GARVIN

Gentlemen of the Senate and House
of Representatives of the Choctaw Nation
in National Council assembled.

In conforming with the requirements of the constitution, we have again assembled to legislate for the mutual and general interests of our beloved people; and I wish to impress it forcibly upon you that our people will demand strict fidelity to their wants, and a rigid faithfulness to their necessities, Though the duties devolving on you may at times seem arduous and difficult, you should constantly devote to them your best efforts and undivided attention.

Upon this occasion the constitution makes it incumbent upon the executive to give to the general Council information respecting the Nation and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may deem expedient, to assist in legislating for the best rights

and general interest of our people in common.

I now proceed to comply with that duty. But before I proceed farther suffer me to say, that I can but inadequately express the thankful emotions of my heart, when I attempt to state that under all the extraordinary and uncalled for trials through which our nation has been called to pass, that our national autonomy remains firm and unshaken; that all our treaty stipulations with the U. S. Government stand as solid and unimpaired as at any time in the past, and may God in his infinite mercy let them remain so.

It also affords me much pleasure to state that the general relations between our Nation and people and those of the United States and its citizens, and also our sister nations and tribes are of the most peaceful and friendly character.

The preservation of peace is as necessary to our civilization as the enactment of wise laws.

Let the law be vigorously enforced against the lawless, and peace and happiness will follow in its train.

In the resources of personal wealth I am happy to say that our people have made a commendable increase.

I regret to state that owing to the excessive and continued drought in the early part of the season that

our corn crop of the present year will be materially damaged throughout the major portion of the Nation; notwithstanding I do not apprehend serious consequences, as our cotton crop bids fair to surpass any we have made for a number of years.

It is exceedingly gratifying for me to inform you that the sanitary condition of our country for the past year has been remarkably good. Though, it is with the most profound sorrow and regret that I relate the death of our lamented friends and fellow citizens, the Hon. Crittenden Emmet Harkins and the Hon. Sylvester Williams.

On the 25th of February, 1876, in the Congress of the United States, on motion of the Hon. D. W. Vorhees, resolutions were passed that a committee be appointed to visit the several Indian Nations and tribes, for certain purposes therein specified.

These resolutions, accompanied by my memorial to the Congress of the United States, I have the honor herewith to transmit for your minute inspection.

The National Council during its last annual session enacted a law requiring the Executive to appoint five Commissioners on the part of the Choctaw Nation to meet in convention a like number of Chickasaws to

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be appointed by the governor thereof, whose duty it should be to determine the political status of the persons of African descent, who were formerly slaves of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people. This convention met in pursuance of law in the town of Caddo, I. T., and their entire action in the premise I have the honor to submit to your superior consideration.

Pursuant to the invitation of the then Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation an international conference of the various tribes of the Indian Territory as held at Eufaula Creek Nation, May 27th. The object of which was to take into the consideration the common dangers which threaten the prosperity of our common country. And likewise on the 1st of July last another convention was held of like character at the aforesaid place for similar purposes.

In my humble judgment conventions of such character are essentially necessary, as they afford a needed opportunity of conferring upon various topics incident to our future prosperity, and of preserving intact our present nationality.

They act as a medium for the interchange of ideas that may possibly be conducive to our general welfare, in preventing in the near future any further invasion,

or attempted colonization upon our common domain, by those desperate and reckless persons who are ever concocting schemes of the most nefarious character, to successfully accomplish their diabolical purposes.

In accordance with a resolution passed at our intermediate conference July last, another international convention of similar character will be held at Eufaula, Creek Nation the first Monday in May, 1880, in order to take in consideration such measures and diffuse such ideas as may then be deemed expedient for the future protection of our homes and firesides. And I would most respectfully recommend that an adequate appropriation be made by Council to defray the expenses of the delegates, who may be appointed to attend the coming convention; as at our last meeting held at Eufaula many of the personal expenses of the wild tribes were liquidated from the private purses of the civilized delegates.

On the 7th of July last I transmitted a written communication to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C., requesting to be informed definitely, whether the contry known as the "Leased district" was open to settlement by citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. He authorized the Hon. Commissioner

of Indian Affairs to reply thereto, and in his reply, he (Hon. Com'r. Ind, Affairs) stated that the country known as the "leased district" lies west of 98 deg. west longitude, and was leased to the United States by article 9 of the Choctaw and Chickasaw treaty of June 22d, 1855, for the purpose of permanently settling the Wichitas and other tribes thereon. And that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations by the 3d Article of their treaty of April 28th, 1866, ceded unconditionally such lands to the United States Government, and that there is no law now which would authorize the citizens of either the Choctaw or Chickasaw Nation to settle within the limits of the said "leased district."

An act of council was adopted at the last annual sitting thereof, authorizing and instructing the chief Executive to appoint three competent persons citizens of the Choctaw Nation, to codify all of the said laws in force and affect at that time. Pursuant thereto I made the necessary appointments, and I have now the honor to submit the laws so codified for your approval or rejection.

I still entertain the views, expressed in my last Annual Message, in relation to the amendment of the Act of Oct. 1860, relative to circuit courts. I certainly

think that if the Act. was so amended as to obviate the necessity of holding circuit court in each county, that an immense deal of unnecessary labor would be dispensed with, thereby curtailing the expenses and expediting the business.

I again respectfully call your attention to the Act directing a jail to be built in each county, and ask for its repeal, and that you enact a law in lieu thereof, to erect a good, comfortable and secure jail at some suitable place in each district, where offenders may be incarcerated as required by law.

Section 2 of: An act establishing a uniform system of neighborhood schools and regulating the pay of the teachers thereof says, that teachers receiving a first grade certificate shall be paid sixty dollars per month and 2d and 3d grades fifty and forty dollars per month respectively. This in my humble opinion gives the teacher rather too much latitude. The proviso to offset this immense latitude simply being that all first grade teachers shall have not less than 25 pupils in their school; consequently, should it occur in any of the various schools which doubtless will -- that any first grade teachers do not have the 25 students so specified to constitute a first grade school, the

Nation is under the imperative necessity of paying said teacher the \$60 as expressed in the law or pay him nothing. There is no medium ground. The teacher could very readily and truthfully reply, that it was not his or her duty to furnish the required 25 scholars.

This law furthermore repeals and makes void the law heretofore existing, to the effect that Local Trustees "shall select the teachers whom they may wish to teach their children, and those of their neighbors. In fact, it annuls in toto the local trustees in every particular. As under the old law local trustees possessed the right of selecting their teachers; whereas under the new law, no one is allowed to teach unless he possesses a certificate from the Board of Examiners, is appointed and than positively asserts that all laws coming in contact with this law are hereby repealed." It grieves me to be forced to admit that I regard our entire system of neighborhood or Primary Schools as entirely erroneous. They have not produced those permanent advantages which should have been realized from them.

According to the present mode of giving instruction in our primary schools, the pupils live with their parents, or relatives and attend schools for stated hours during the day.

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When out of school they are brought into intimate association with those entirely destitute of instruction, and their time is either devoted to idle amusement or occupied in the performance of such light trivial labor as may be required of them at their respective homes. Their attention is entirely withdrawn from their books and they lose much of the lessons given them during the hours of study. Their evenings instead of being occupied in reviewing the work of the day or preparing for the recitation of the morrow, are spent in triviale employments will calculate to make them forget that which has been taught them during the day. In a manual labor school on the contrary, their whole time would be devoted to avocations which would perfect them in the different branches of home industry, and bring them up to become intelligent and useful men and women.

They would also be entirely withdrawn from associations which induce the formation of idle and vicious habits and would give them an elevated tome of thought and manner, and insure their admission to the better class of society.

A lack of mental culture and discipline is the most serious impediment to the diffusion of agricultural

science among the mass of our farmers. Its language to them is an unknown tongue. Hence the most sublime truths in the economy of nature are shut out from their understanding. This will ever be the case until schools designed to teach those branches of learning which our farmers greatly need, but do not possess, are established and maintained throughout our Nation. So long as we refuse to plant the seed, it is folly to expect a rich harvest of knowledge.

No government should be wanting in sympathy with the people whether the object be the prevention of disease, the improvement of the law, or the education of the masses.

One per cent of the money now annually lost to us by reason of popular ignorance will suffice to remove that ignorance. Then I say educate! educate! or we perish.

Should your Honorable body deem it fit in your wisdom to continue in existence the Board of Examiners for the Primary Schools, I would respectfully suggest that the Board assemble at some Central point in each district, as under the present system it necessitates quite a number of applicants to travel a considerable distance and in many instances would prevent some

efficient teachers from attending at the required time.

As you are well aware, there are within our Nation quite a number of our fellow citizens who are blind, indigent and helpless. They are emphatically the children of charity and should be protected and provided for in this their hour of need. We cannot afford to violate our obligations with helpless people. They undoubtedly should be protected. It is a measure of justice we owe them which has long been delayed. I leave their urgent claims to your protecting care.

In conclusion suffer me again to urge you to work while it is yet called to-day. It will be sad to think when you have closed your labors here that through your indulgence and inattention many irreparable mistakes have occurred.

Remember that the smallest perfect achievement is nobler than the grandest failure.

Remember that the Past has taught its lesson, the present has its duty. Remember that the permanency and preservation of your country, now in a great measure rests with you. Sensitive of this momentuous truth you should enact such laws as will be for the efficacious management of your common concerns. Your country has a just claim to your confidence and support, and therefore

unflinching and unawed you should protect it.

May all your public duties be performed with such pure motives and faithful assiduity, as to secure the gracious approbation of all who love justice and appreciate honor and integrity.

May your deliberations be harmonious and your actions in behalf of your beloved country be guided by wisdom from on high.

I. L. GARVIN

Principal Chief

Choctaw Nation

Charta^h Tomaha, Oct. 2d, 1879

INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.,
Thursday, October 21, 1886
Vol. 11, No. 4
R. M. Roberts, Editor

RETIRING MESSAGE OF EDMUND MCCURTAIN

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives
in general Council Assembled:

In obedience to the duties incumbent on me as Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, I am again permitted to appear before your honorable bodies to inform you as to the affairs in general of the Choctaw Nation. With this address my term of office as chief magistrate of my people expires, and I can only hope that, if in my efforts I have not been successful in settling all questions pertaining to the interests of the Choctaw people, I have at least been the means of settling some, and now I am ready to deliver the gubernatorial reins to my worthy successor, who is a gentleman of ability and will serve his people with patriotic diligence. His past actions in public service is evidence enough

that his untiring energy will ever be devoted to promote the welfare of his countrymen. During our last gubernatorial canvass his unsullied character stood the test of slander, and in the end has been crowned with victory. Therefore, I hope your honorable bodies will concur with him as Chief of this Nation and labor with united efforts, then we, your constituents, will apprehend no fears of a public calamity.

We should be thankful for the general health enjoyed by our people during the past year.

CROPS

In the eastern portion of this Nation a fair average crop has been realized, but in the western portion I am informed it is almost a complete failure owing to the extreme drouth. However, we have hopes there is sufficient corn produced to supply the wants of our people.

SCHOOLS

By an act of the Choctaw Council during its session of 1885, the management of our public schools was changed from being under the charge of the Board of Foreign Missions and turned over to

the Choctaw authorities. The change adopted has not been tried, and I can only hope that your honorable bodies will see fit to leave the change as it is now, and I will venture to say that its intrinsic worth will be realized in the near future. Reports show that in our neighborhood schools remarkable progress is being made in scholarship and the number of scholars in attendance was larger last year than ever before.

CLAIMANTS TO CITIZENSHIP

I have diligently urged a speedy settlement of this important question, but the U. S. Indian Agent being pressed with other business he could not spare the time to give those claimants a hearing. I appealed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking that some means be adopted to adjust these claims in order that the question may be brought to an issue as soon as practicable. This appeal had the desired effect to some extent, and this being the appointed time and place to hold the claimant court, Hon. Robt. L. Owen, Indian Agent, is now with us ready to give all claimants an impartial hearing.

THE FREEDMEN

Those of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Freedmen

who elected to remove have been notified of their per-capita share in the hands of the U. S. Indian Agent, but as yet I have heard of none calling for his or her share. It is rumored that this class of freedmen would like to, and have expressed their desire to register for citizenship, and should petitions reach you to that effect the subject matter is left with you.

FINANCE

The national income as royalty on coal, timber, &c., for the fiscal year ending July 30, 1886, is as follows:

On coal at	
McAlester,	\$15,551.13
Savanna,	9,374.31
Lehigh,	11,173.35
District Collectors	
First District,	6,951.34
Second District,	1,534.74
Third District,	4,451.34
National Tie Inspector,	7,594.72
Total	<u>\$53,630.93</u>

Reports of collector for second district for last quarter not heard from, also first quarterly

report of the inspector.

TRIBAL RELATIONS

We have friendly relations with our sister tribes. We have, however, been in dispute with our Chickasaw neighbors regarding our royalty difference. An act of the Choctaw Council, in October, 1835, exempting the Chickasaws from participating in Choctaw royalties, actuated the Chickasaws to appeal to the Interior Departments through their delegates, claiming one-fourth of all royalties on coal mined in the Choctaw Nation, and asking that the coal mining company be notified to pay the one-fourth royalty to them (the Chickasaws))as in the past. This appeal was heard and considered and the case decided in favor of the Chickasaws. U. S. Indian Agent was required to notify the mining company of this decision which was done, and the one-fourth royalty has ever since been paid to the Chickasaws. Now the Chickasaws have set up a claim to one-fourth royalty on timber. This question should receive a careful consideration by your honorable bodies and some means should be adopted to settle the dispute justly and amicably. Our delegate to Washington, Col. C. LeFlore, is present and will no doubt inform you as

to the result of his mission as your delegate.

My experience enables me to know something of the trials and responsibilities of the office of Principal Chief, and I bespeak your good wishes, patience and support for my worthy successor. He will need them and I believe will deserve them. If in the discharge of my duties I have given offense to anyone, I desire to state it was not so intended, and if I have done any wrong to any one I ask their pardon. I do not pretend to say I have made no mistakes. We are all fallible and should look with forbearance and charity on each other. I am thankful beyond express to the people for the honor I have enjoyed at their hands, and I am thankful to the audience for their attention and respect. I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

EDMUND MCCURTAIN,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.,
Thursday, October 21, 1886
Vol. 11, No. 4
R. M. Roberts, Editor

MESSAGE OF THOMPSON MCKINNEY

To the Honorable Senate
and House of Representatives
of the Choctaw Nation
in joint session:

The people of the Choctaw Nation have seen proper to elevate me to the high and responsible office of Principal Chief at the late national election, and I now appear before you to accept the trust. For the honor thus conferred I tender the people through you my sincere thanks. I am profoundly impressed with the fact that there are others of us who are much more capable of performing the duties of the great trust confided in me, but, as it has been the will of the people that I should occupy the position, I shall earnestly endeavor to the best of my ability and judgment to discharge in strict accordance with the law the various duties incumbent on me, and in

doing so I feel that I shall need your assistance and the support of the people, and that my administration will not be a success without both.

I would most kindly remind you that you are also under most important obligations to the Choctaw people, and may need assistance, and, if I can render you any, it is my duty to do so, and it shall also be by my pleasure. Let us all feel then that we need the moral support and assistance of each other and let us apply to each other for assistance. Let us unite with one mind in the discharge of our various duties to serve the best interest of the Choctaw people.

You are all aware that our government is occupying a progressive attitude. Let us keep it so and keep up with the times, and at the same time guard well our beloved country and government.

You have met here for the purpose of considering laws now in force and enacting such new ones as the condition of the country may require. And in that connection I would urge that your deliberations and actions all be taken in view to the elevation and advancement of the people. Let your enactments be so framed that they will be susceptible of but

one construction, so that all can understand them, and thereby insure a more rigid enforcement of them. My observation has taught me that we need much more the enforcement of law than the enactment of law, and if my observation meets with a response from you we ought to devote ourselves very diligently to the consideration of the former.

The retiring Executive has called your attention very intelligently to the present condition of public affairs, and I ask you to consider his suggestions. I am indebted to him for his kindness and confidence, and he carries with him into private life my sincere benediction.

As I grow in the executive office I shall doubtless find subjects which deserve your attention and consideration, when I will make such recommendations in reference to them as may seem to me best for the country.

Thanking you for your attention and respect,
I am,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMPSON MCKINNEY.

THE INDIAN JOURNAL

Eufaula, Indian Territory

June 9, 1887

Vol. 11, No. 35

Leo E. Bennett, Editor

EDITORIAL ON THOMPSON MCKINNEY

Among the representatives in attendance on the convention is Mr. G. W. Walker, private secretary to Principal Chief Thompson McKinney, of the Choctaws. From him we learn that the reported outbreaks of lawlessness in Towson county, Choctaw Nation, are not due to trouble between the full bloods and the half breeds and whites, but simply family disturbances, in which only the immediate friends of two families are involved. All parties desire the matter settled in a peaceful and amicable way, and have sent for Chief McKinney to come to the scene of the troubles and act as mediator between the parties, all agreeing to accept and abide by his advice and instructions. Gov. McKinney is on the ground, and late reports from him say he has had interviews with the principal participants, and every assurance is given of a prompt and peaceful settlement.

THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 13, 1890
Vol. 9, No. 10
John L. Adair, Editor

OBITUARY ON ED McCURTAIN

Ex-Gov. Edmund McCurtain, of the Choctaw nation, died very unexpectedly on the 15th inst. He was one of the strong men of his nation and during his life held every important office in the gift of the people.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory
Saturday, October 17, 1891
Volume 6, No. 24
B. S. Smiser,)
J. S. Standley,) Editors

MESSAGE OF W. N. JONES

Executive Office,

Choctaw Nation,

October 8, 1891.

To the honorable members of the Senate and House of Representatives in General Council assembled.

Gentlemen:

Under the dispensation of an all-wise providence you have assembled in these legislative halls in the capacity of legislators to act for those who have elected you to represent them. In taking the responsibility upon yourselves it now becomes your duty to think well of every measure and enact only such laws as will tend to benefit the people as a whole.

Let all bickering and strife be laid aside and all party lines ignored. Look only to the interests of your Nation and people. Let all your legislation tend to create and maintain harmony among your people and preserve and protect their common interest.

HEALTH

No contagious disease has visited our people during the past year, and we have been blessed with unusual good health for which we should be thankful.

CROPS

Reports from every part of this Nation show that there has been an unusual acreage of corn and other cereals; that while other sections have been visited by that dread enemy of the farmers -- the boll worm -- we should be thankful that such has not been the lot of the farmers of this Nation and be encouraged in agricultural affairs.

FINANCE

The reports of the National Treasurer and National Agent show that the finances of this Nation are in a healthy condition and increasing; that while the appropriations of the last General Council were greater than ever before there is still a healthy balance. The report of the National Treasurer shows that the receipts of the fiscal year ending July 31st, 1891 were \$310,099.24; that the expenditures during the same time were \$192,083.58 leaving a balance of \$118,015.58, which if wisely expended is sufficient for all wants during the coming year.

COLLECTIONS AND INSPECTORS

I would recommend that an act be passed requiring all collectors to deliver to the Treasurer all monies collected by them within thirty days after the close of the quarter for which such collections were made; also that all collectors and inspectors

must in every instance give receipts in duplicate and that one of said receipts be immediately sent to the Treasurer by the contractor and the licensed trader.

SCHOOLS

Our trustees report that the schools are all in good condition and are fulfilling the purposes for which they were established. If, in the examination of the reports of the several district trustees you deem additional legislation in reference to schools necessary, I hope that you will give the matter your best attention and legislate as seems best.

NET PROCEEDS FUND

The treasurer's book shows that there is a balance of \$22, 163.47 on hand after the expenditures of the late net proceeds payment. I would recommend that this balance be finally disposed of and that the sum would be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number if placed in the general treasury to be used for school purposes.

THE LEASED DISTRICT

It will be remembered that a delegation was appointed to proceed to Washington City, D. C., and in conjunction with the old delegation sign releases and conveyances and other things necessary to secure the amount due from the sale of the leased district. I was one of the new delegation with the others I proceeded to Washington City. We called upon the secretary of the interior. The president was absent. The secretary of the interior said that he

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would have all things ready for the inspection of the president on his return. When the president returned the secretary of the interior went away and the president said that the matter was of such an intricate nature and so difficult to be understood properly he could do nothing until the return of the secretary of the interior and advised us to return home and when in the routine of business he reached the matter he would notify us of his readiness to take it up. So we returned and awaited the call but up to the present time we have received no call. Capt. J. S. Standley one of the old delegates remained to watch the progress of the case, but in the absence of any report by him made I am unable to state to you just what the condition of the case is, but presume that the cause remains in statu quo. I presume the report will be made in due time.

CHOCTAW FREEDMEN

In regard to this class of our citizens I would say that as we have them in our midst as citizens it becomes our duty to provide neighborhood schools for them. This we have done. In addition to these schools although we are not bound by any agreement to do so, yet as a matter of justice to them I deem it necessary that we erect and furnish one high school for their exclusive benefit. Therefore I recommend that you do pass an act authorizing the building of such a school and appropriate as much money as necessary for such purpose. Said building to be ready for occupancy

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by Sept. 1st. 1892, and to be under the control of the national authorities as other such schools of this Nation are.

MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAWS

We, the Choctaws of this country, were once inhabitants of the same country occupied by these. We were fortunate enough to emigrate to this country which we now call our own. A remnant of our tribe are still in Mississippi and clamoring to be aided in a removal to this country. While it is not an imperative duty, yet, bound by the ties of relationship as we are, we should aid them as best we can. Humanity demands that we do so. If in your judgment it seems best you will legislate in such a manner as to aid them.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions are continually arising as to the rights of citizens on the public domain. Abandoned fields or claims are often a bone of contention. I would recommend that an act be passed declaring that abandoned fields and claims after a certain number of years are parts of the public domain and subject to entry as other public lands are. Also that a certain limit around the academies of this Nation be protected as the property of the Nation for the exclusive use and benefit of the schools. This becomes necessary owing to the custom now growing, of fencing as close as possible to those schools. The Nation needs the limit for national stock, wood and other necessities in conducting these academies.

NEW ACADEMIES

It will be remembered that the last general council authorized the building of two new academies, they are now in progress of erection and will be ready for occupancy by Sept. 1st, 1892. I recommend that you pass an act to furnish these academies with suitable desks and other school furniture and appropriate such a sum as may be necessary to render them first-class schools. I would also recommend that an act be passed authorizing the appointment or selection of the children that attend these academies in the same manner as are the students of the other academies of this nation.

INDIGENT CHOCTAWS

At a former session of the General Council an act was passed allowing the sum of \$50 per annum to each blind, crippled or idiotic Choctaw who was unable to obtain the necessaries of life by the labor of his own hands, and had no property to furnish such. While this was an act of humanity it has become a sad fact that some are disposed to abuse the privilege beyond reason. Instead of being a benefit as it should be to some, it has had the effect to raise an army of indigent Choctaws, even increasing in numbers.

I would recommend that you take this matter into consideration and adopt such measures as will benefit those who are really needy and be a bar to those who would unjustly claim the benefits under the law.

If at any time any new matter comes up which needs your consideration I will present it to you in a special message.

Hoping that harmony and peace will prevail and that in all your deliberations you will look only to the best interests of your Nation and people.

I am sirs, your most obedient servant,

WILSON N. JONES,
Principal Chief,
Choctaw Nation.

THE CADDO BANNER

Caddo, Choctaw Nation,
Indian Territory
Friday Morning, April 6, 1894
Vol. 4 No. 14
J. Y. Schenck Editor

RESOLUTION APPROVED BY
W. N. JONES

Be it resolved, by the General Council of the
Choctaw Nation assembled;

That the Principal Chief is hereby authorized and
required to notify the United States Commissioners now in
the Indian Territory under an act of Congress approved
March 3, 1893, that the Choctaw Nation will not agree or
consent to any proposition looking to a change of the present
system of holding their lands in common or any change in
their present tribal government whatever, -- and this reso-
lution to take effect and be in force from and after its
passage.

Proposed by C. S. VINSON,

Approved April 3rd, 1894.

WILSON N. JONES,

P. C. C. N.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 1896

Vol. 11, No. 18

S. S. Smiser & (Editors & Prop.
Norma E. Smiser)

EDITORIALS ON JEFFERSON GARDNER

The announcement is going the rounds of the daily press that Governor Gardner has called a special session of the Choctaw council to meet on the 8th of September next and recommends, in this proclamation, the disfranchising of all of the inter-married white citizens and adopted freedmen of the Choctaw nation. He wants the Choctaw nation to prepare its own roll of citizens and protests against the enrollment of names by any other means or from any other source. We do not believe that it is Governor Gardner's intention to take any such stand against the white citizen and the freedmen; but if we should be mistaken in this, we are sure that the commission of the United States will not permit any such injustice done to any class of the nation's citizens. If this step is being taken against the inter-married white citizen,

it is because of the animosity that has been aroused by his support of Hon. Green McCurtain and his platform; and in supporting this issue in the campaign that has just past, he was supporting the work of the Dawes commission and at the same time his own interests and that of what he conceived to be the interest of every other citizen. In view of all these facts, which are indisputable, his interests will certainly be protected, even though the present administration of the Choctaw nation does take such a stand against him. Such a law passed at a special session of the Choctaw council would be unconstitutional, but with the attorney general on the administration side, its constitutionality could only be determined by some test case in the supreme court of the nation.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 1896

Vol. 11, No. 18

S. S. Smiser & }
Norma E. Smiser } Editors & Props.

EDITORIALS ON JEFFERSON GARDNER

If Governor Gardner convenes the Choctaw council, in special session, as press reports now indicate, in the face of the present financial condition of the nation, with the treasury depleted until the nation can not pay her just debts and national warrants are selling at a great discount, he will be doing his people a great wrong by bringing upon them the extra expenses of an extra session of council. And this with no apparent necessity for a special session, when it is only one month until the regular session meets. The Governor will be charged with (and not without some foundation for the charge desiring something done to some body's interests, that he fears a new council would not do. A special session now would be an unnecessary and

useless expense to the nation that she cannot well afford to hear. Rolls of Choctaw citizens can be prepared after the regular session and in plenty of time to be furnished to the Dawes commission, and this would be the only urgent necessity for a special session.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 1896

Vol. 11, No. 18

S. S. Smiser &)
Norma E. Smiser) Editor & Props.

PROCLAMATION OF JEFFERSON GARDNER

Whereas the act of congress of the United States of America, approved June 10th, 1896, under which the Hon. Dawes commission to the Five Civilized Tribes is required to act in settling citizenship in said tribes, provides, "That the roll of citizenship of the several Tribes, as now existing, are hereby confirmed;" and it further provides, "That the said Commission, after the expiration of six months shall cause a complete roll of citizenship of each of said nations to be made up from their records and add thereto the names of citizens whose rights may be conferred under this act, and said rolls shall be, and are hereby, made rolls of citizenship of said Nations or Tribes, as provided herein."

"The Commission is hereby required to file the lists of members as they finally approve them with

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the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to remain there for use as the final judgment of the duly constituted authorities; and said Commission shall also make a roll of Freedmen entitled to citizenship in said Tribes and shall include their names in the list of names to be filed with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

And whereas, the said Commission is now among the five civilized Tribes of Indians in the Indian Territory, with the authority as above quoted; and since the act of congress has so confirmed the existing roll of citizenship of the several nations, the commission wish to be furnished with full and complete rolls of the citizenship of each nation before the 10th day of December, 1896, that it may thereby be enabled to perform the duty as imposed upon it.

Now Therefore, I, Jefferson Gardner, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, do hereby summon the general council of said nation to convene in special session at the Capital at Tuskahoma, in said nation, on the 8th day of September, A. D., 1896, for the purpose of arranging for taking a complete census of the population of the Choctaw Nation, to the end that

a perfect roll of the citizens of this nation may be made and the work completed before the above date as specified by the said commission.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Choctaw nation to be affixed.

Done at Executive Office of the Choctaw nation, this 20th day of August, A. D., 1896.

L. G. Battiest,
Private Secretary

Jeff Gardner,
Principal Chief

THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Ind. Ter.
Vol. 15, No. 7
Oct. 15, 1896
D. M. Harris, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

In Governor Green McCurtain's message to the Choctaw council he submits the following plan for allotment of Choctaw land:

Our first duty should be to secure to our people their homes and the perpetuation of the government of their forefathers.

To hold our present form of government it is necessary that we should agree to a change in the holdings of our lands, or in other words, to individualize our lands.

By individualizing, I mean to divide up our lands equally among ourselves. Just how this is to be done so as to do justice to the greatest number of our people, will be for you to say. I suggest two ways for your consideration.

1st. To divide all our land into three classes, to-wit: Bottom land, up-land and mountain

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land, and then let each individual take his proportionate share of each class.

2nd. To put a money valuation on each class of land and let each individual take the amount due him according to its money value, having regard to the aggregate value of all the land.

I am inclined to think that the latter suggestion is the more practicable.

Whatever is done with coal lands, I suggest that the nation's interest in royalties be retained, as this is our main hope for our schools.

In each division I think our white citizens, who have married in accordance with our laws should share equally with us. And all white women who have legally married Choctaws by blood, should be entitled to an equal division with us. And to preclude the possibility of our lands reverting to persons who are not citizens of the nation, in cases where inter-married citizens receive their land, in event of their death this land should be heired only by their Choctaw children.

I do not contend that treaty stipulations require such a division, although there are clauses in the treaty with the United States that may be construed to mean this. And if we refuse to accord

to the intermarried citizens this right it will lead to endless litigation.

Our marriage laws compel white men to pay \$100 for marriage license, to forswear allegiance to the United States and swear all allegiance to our government. Hence it is a natural inference if such requirements are demanded we intend to give them certain privileges in return; and it is but common justice they should share equally with us in our possessions. And aside from these considerations such a division would insure harmony among all classes of our citizens and would enable us to work together to check the inroads of boomers and intruders.

At this critical time of our existence harmony among all classes of our citizens is essential.

I favor giving each freedman citizen under our laws and treaties forty acres of land to be selected in the same manner as we do. I favor giving every freedman descendant of freedmen who were residents of our country in 1865 his full forty acres of land.

It may be technical law to say a son or daughter does not inherit his or her parent's citizenship or property, but it surely is not justice.

Having adopted them let us carry out our pledges in good faith. I am anxious personally to do this because I am aware that the freedmen as a whole voted against us and will in the future vote against us; still we must do right in spite of their lack of gratitude.

We adopted them. We gave to them free schools; we gave them their academy, and we agreed to give them forty acres of land when a division takes place. But for all that, history shows that the freedmen as a whole voted against us.

To effect this division of our lands it is necessary that we appoint commissioners to confer with the Dawes commission.

SOUTH MCALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Thursday, February 18, 1897
Vol. 4 No. 13
Hinds & Jobe Proprietors

VINSON TO M'CURTAIN

Lehigh, I. T.,
Feb. 13th, 1897

Hon. Green McCurtain,
Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation:

Dear Sir:

In view of the suffering of our people (Choctaws) owing to the scarcity of money and almost entire failure of crops last year, I hereby ask you as Principal Chief, to borrow the balance of the net proceeds money now in the treasury, or as much thereof or of any other money in the treasury and appropriate it to the several counties according to the population, as you deem necessary to feed those in need, to buy provisions for them, and provisions only. Provisions in this suggestion means something to eat only. Now Governor I acknowledge that this is not law, but the necessity is so great,

meaning death by starvation of so many of our people, it is my opinion that you as Principal Chief have the right to order the treasurer to lend to the nation the said net proceeds money or any other that he has, to feed the most needy, if not all, of our people. It is my opinion also, that this is not a time to stand or stop on technicalities; but we must devise some plan to feed our people until they can make a crop, for the simple reason that they are starving. Now Governor this only a suggestion. Hoping there will be some means suggested whereby our people can be saved at this one time, I subscribe myself your obedient servant

C. S. Vinson,

National Attorney C. N.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, Oct. 7, 1897.
Vol. 12. No. 24.
S. Smiser,)
Norma E. Smiser,) Editors

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Executive Office, C. N.,
Tuskahoma, Ind. Ter.

To the General Council:

In compliance with constitutional requirements, I, as your Chief Executive, herewith submit my annual message, setting forth the condition of our government and recommending for your consideration such measures as I deem expedient for the public welfare.

You, as the legislative department of our government, should realize fully the magnitude of the responsibility which rests upon you. Never before in our history as a self governing people have we been confronted with public questions of such vital importance, and never before have we been in

in such need of wise and patriotic legislation.

Each and every member should bear in mind that he now occupies for the purpose of bringing our people to destruction or grief, but on the contrary, that he was chosen to lead them out of the dangers now about to engulf them, by a permanent settlement of the difficulties which now confront us.

In your legislation be actuated by pure and patriotic motives. Endeavor to do that which you know will bring peace, comfort and happiness to all homes alike. Bear in mind that if there are any people in this world that need protection it is the Choctaw people. As legislators, you hold the life of our government to day in your hands; and whether you will wreck or preserve it depends upon how you legislate.

You should be deeply sensible of the demands made upon us by the government of the United States, and of their evident and earnest desire that our people should consent to a change of some kind. And, although the changes asked of us are repugnant to our feelings and against our wishes, yet we should be sensible of the fact that the government making these demands on us is much more powerful than we are, and is able to enforce these demands should we refuse

to accede to them. We should be sensible of our weakness, and while we should legislate wisely we should legislate according to our strength. It should be taken into consideration how little could be accomplished by our opposition to the changes asked of us. Despite the appeals we made that our treaty rights be respected, and in the face of all our protests all the legislation enacted by congress affecting this country has been aggressive and immi- cal to our rights, and tends to the destruction of our cherished institutions.

The time is at hand that we cannot depend on our treaties for protection. Some other plan must be resorted to that our safety may be assured. The unrestricted right of self government has been the life and main substance of our national existence, and when this vital function was ignored by congress every thinking man must perceive that our treaty was a failure and does not afford us the protection it was intended to.

With all these difficulties before us I appeal to you to use good sense and judgement in all your deliberations. Before you decide upon any measure mark out intelligently what effect it will have on our com-

mon interests. Contend for everything that is justly due your people, but be cautious that these contentions are made not recklessly but intelligently, and on reasonable grounds. And that which you decide upon as the best policy for our government, carry it out at once, as delay will only complicate matters. What it is necessary to do should be done at once if you would preserve your property and avoid losing everything in litigation.

It is self evident that in all governments the majority rules; that it takes a majority to maintain a government. And it is essential that this ruling power be under one head. It is as impossible for two governments to exist in one country as it is for two families to live under the same roof without friction. One or the other must prevail, and it is human experience that the weaker must give way to the stronger. That is the condition that now confronts us.

The majority of the people living among us are not subject to our laws, in otherwords, the law making power of this government is in the minority and therefore cannot exist much longer. It is sad to say, yet it must be admitted that our government has outlived its time. We asked in our agreement with the Dawes

commission that our government may continue eight years longer. While this seems but a short time for us to wind up our affairs it is extremely doubtful if we can secure even this short an extension of our national existence. In demanding these changes of us the government of the United States really believes that it will prove beneficial to us by promoting us to a higher plane of civilization. But as Indians, we look at it from a different standpoint and we can conceive of no greater hardship or sacrifice than to give up our government which is perfectly satisfactory to us, and to which we have become attached from long and fond associations. To give up all our cherished customs and privileges seems fatal to us. We can imagine no worse hardship. But it is inevitable. We cannot check the change. Let us then brace up and accept the conditions imposed upon us like men. Be men in the struggle. Contend for your property and divide it among yourselves while you have the opportunity. If you wait there will be none to divide.

FINANCES

Our Finances are still in a depressed con-

dition. And, notwithstanding every effort was made to remedy this condition of affairs, there has not been enough funds available during the past year to pay all the appropriations made at last Council. This deficit is caused partly by a falling off in the royalty received from coal companies and is partly due to the failure of a few of our Revenue Collectors to turn over all of the revenue due the nation.

The receipts to our Treasury for the last quarter of last year and three of this year are \$177, 210.64.

SCHOOLS

The usefulness of our schools during the past year has been restricted because of the lack of sufficient funds to meet school appropriations. Added to this, we have been unfortunate as to lose two of our Academies by fire during the past twelve months. The pecuniary loss to the nation has been very great, coming as it did when our finances were at a low ebb. It has also deprived two hundred of our boys and girls of school privileges. Our finances will not admit of our rebuilding these schools, as scarcely enough money is available to run what schools are already

in operation. But I do not think we would be justifiable in depriving these two hundred students of school privileges. So I would recommend that additional buildings be added to Tushkahoma Female Institute and to Jones Academy to double their present capacity so each of these schools will have one hundred additional students.

Our Neighborhood schools are in as good a condition as could be expected. I can recommend no change in the law regulating Neighborhood schools, as the present law has not been sufficiently tested to prove its efficiency. There may be some dissatisfaction among the people in regard to the Neighborhood schools, but this is owing chiefly to the conduct of the officials rather than to any defect in the law. The present School Board has not had the opportunity to develop our schools as they would like. Their labors have been greatly retarded because of a large amount of unpaid school accounts left by the old Board. These unpaid accounts have hampered the usefulness of the Board and the Board have been unable to get these accounts off their hands owing to our depressed finances.

I have every confidence in the Board; every

member of it is anxious to improve our schools, and it is striving to do so, but can accomplish but little under present conditions. A time is at hand when every individual Choctaw will have to manage and take care of his property without the assistance of his government. And in order that he may be successful in his affairs he should be liberally educated. If we succeed in retaining our government eight years longer we should, during that time, give every child the means to secure an education, thus enabling them to successfully manage their affairs.

There have been a large number of white persons admitted to citizenship by the Dawes commission and the United States court who are not recognized as citizens by the Choctaw nation. As soon as these persons were admitted to citizenship they at once demanded school privileges for their children, claiming a right to participate in our school funds. To have permitted the children of these people school privileges would have soon exhausted the funds appropriated to run our Neighborhood schools. Under the circumstances I felt it my duty to close all the Neighborhood schools until your body can take action in this matter. Our schools should not be close any long-

er than is absolutely necessary. I therefore recommend that you take immediate action in the premises, and that your action be made known to the Board so that the schools may reopen with as little delay possible.

CITIZENSHIP ROLLS

In accordance with an act of council (Oct. 1896) the Census committee completed the Revised Rolls of the citizens of the Choctaw nation. I have not approved of this roll as required by the act referred to, because, from such information I have received, I am led to believe that names were entered on the rolls through error or misrepresentation that should not be there. I will submit for your consideration hereafter, the names of these persons. Bearing on this matter is another subject that needs action by your body. The law, authorizing the census, made no provisions for those Cherokees who are citizens of this nation. There seems to be an impression among this class of people that they are entitled to citizenship in both nations. I entered into an agreement with the Chief of the Cherokee nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw nation that such persons should

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appear before a commission consisting of one member from each of the nations and make a declaration, under oath, of which they wish to be recognized as a citizen and renounce all claims to citizenship they may have in any other nation. This agreement was only a temporary one. I now submit this matter for your consideration and recommend that some definite action be had by you to settle this question for all time to come and that such agreement include all the other nations that will enter into it with us.

M. K. & T. R. R. GRANT

The Choctaw nation has never, at any time, given her consent to the Land Grants made to the M. K. & T. R. R., but this road has at different times encroached upon our citizens living along its line and has filed suits against our citizens. I have been appealed to, as Chief Executive, to protect our citizens from the encroachments of this road. In order to do this, I entered into contract with I. D. Oglesby, of Ft. Smith, to defend them in these suits. As the fee agreed upon in this contract is very reasonable, I recommend that you make an appro-

priation to pay it.

In accordance with an act of congress, the C. O. & G. R. R. has notified me that they will condemn, and take twenty-five acres of land adjoining the town of South McAlester, for railway purposes. It being imperative that the nations interest be protected I entered into contract with I. D. Oglesby, to test their rights under this act. The act referred to requires the railroad company to compensate the nation for the land they claim for railroad purposes. This road at first proposed to pay \$25 per acre for twenty-five acres, and afterwards offered to take only thirteen acres, for which they agreed to pay \$100 per acre. As I had no authority to accept their proposition, I refer the matter for your consideration.

DISTRIBUTION OF CORN

Short crops last year caused much privations among our citizens and appeals were made for assistance from the nation. In order to procure funds to buy corn to relieve the destitution of the people, I made a demand on the Treasurer for the necessary funds, but he declined to advance them. I was then forced to borrow \$2,600 for 90 days at 8 per cent interest,

from J. J. Phillips, and used the money to buy corn. To meet this note I called upon the Revenue Collectors and received from J. S. Forrest, Collector 1st District, \$628.25; J. H. Miller, Collector 3rd District, \$1,100.00; W. G. Kayser, Inspector Frisco R. R., \$1,000.00; making the all \$2,728 25. The note with interest amounted to \$2,652 00, leaving and unexpended balance of \$76.25. I receipted the Collectors referred to for the money received from them, which receipts they will submit with their reports. The manner in which the corn was distributed will be shown in the report of D. N. Robb, who superintended the distribution. His energy assisted by the hearty co-operation of the distributors in the different counties, made the distribution a success. In some cases it was necessary to hire the corn hauled from the railroad to the different counties and the persons who did this hauling have not yet been paid. I therefore recommend that an appropriation be made to pay these accounts. In order to ascertain how many persons there were in each county that needed assistance, I appointed an Enumerator for each county with the understanding that they were to receive \$5.00 per day not to exceed ten days. I recommend that the sum of \$850 be appro-

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pried to pay these Enumerators.

INTRUDERS

The intruders have become so numerous that they have been a serious impediment to our officers in their endeavors to enforce the laws. This evil, had in itself, has been greatly aggravated by the large number of claimants to citizenship. This subject is of very great importance, and a remedy for this evil should be the subject of serious consideration by you.

These claimants were allowed by act of congress to prove their citizenship, by affidavits, and the nation had only 60 days in which to file answers to these claims. When you take into consideration that there were several hundred of these claimants, and that the affidavits establishing their claims were taken before Notaries Public in several of the adjoining states and throughout the Indian Territory, at about the same time, it will be plainly seen that it was an impossibility for the nation to have been represented in these cases. The testimony in all these cases was therefore "ex parte."

I am further informed that in cases where

false affidavits were made these persons making these affidavits could not be prosecuted for perjury. This has brought on a state of affairs very dangerous to our interests. The people applying for citizenship here are a class who are endeavoring to obtain something for nothing, regardless of all right and justice. They are unscrupulous in their efforts to get our property and there being no penalty for their presenting false affidavits they will soon deprive us of all our possessions, if a remedy is not provided at once. What then is our remedy? I say that the act of congress, giving the Dawes commission and the United States court the right to pass on citizenship cases has reached out further than congress intended it to.

The act of congress conferring this right to pass on citizenship cases to the Dawes Commission and the United States court, was so qualified that these Tribunals must be governed by the laws and usages of the Indians regulating citizenship in their respective tribes. But this provision was in a manner ignored and our laws governing intermarriages were set aside. Not content with this, these Tribunals have undertaken to pass on property rights, involving property of great value to us. All of our school funds and all other

property that we thought we bought from the United States government, and which we thought was ours are about to be taken from us by this act of congress.

While I may be in error in regard to this matter, yet it certainly appears to me that when the court is going to pass on citizenship cases involving property rights of such magnitude and value, it should be required to take the regular course of judicial procedure, and should prove beyond a doubt that the nation is illegally withholding from these claimants their just rights. But no such proceedings have been had. The Choctaw nation has never been confronted with the witnesses in behalf of the claimants. The court has proceeded to pass on these cases depriving the Choctaw people of their property, without properly giving the nation its day in court.

I would be loth to believe that congress ever intended to deprive our people of any of their school privileges, as their policy has been to have the Indians properly educated. I have every confidence in the good faith of the United States government and of their wishes for the welfare of the Indian people, and I feel assured that if you, as the legislative department of your government, will make the U. S. government under-

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stand the bad effect this act, authorizing the Dawes Commission and the U. S. court to pass on citizenship cases, has on our interests; and that if you will memorialize congress to remove these difficulties, by having only Indian Tribunals to pass on their citizens rights that congress will respect your demands. I would suggest such a course, and if your body can agree upon any other measure that will afford us relief from this evil, you will have my hearty co-operation.

THE DAWES COMMISSION

The commission created by act of council (Oct. 1896) to negotiate with the Dawes commission, met at Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 16th, 1896, and after conferring with the Dawes commission on the different matters at issue between the U. S. government and our government, took recess to meet at Muskogee, and there consummated an agreement with them on the 18th day of Dec., 1896. Two of our commissioners, Wesley Anderson and N. B. Ainsworth, accompanied by J. S. Standley (who acted in my stead) went on to Washington to assist the Dawes Commission in having the Agreement ratified; but owing to the refusal of the Chickasaw

commissioners to sign the agreement, it failed to be ratified by congress. In March, 1896, our commission, in conjunction with the Chickasaw commission, met the Dawes commission at Atoka, and perfected an Agreement on the 23rd day of April, 1897, which Agreement now awaits the action of congress (as required by the act of council, Oct, 1896) before it can be submitted to you for your action. It will not be prudent or wise for this council to take any action on the Agreement until the proper time arrives.

It will be superfluous for me to explain the different features of the Agreement, as you have all doubtless seen a copy of it. Suffice it to say that every effort was made to secure the interest and rights of our people; and although some of its provisions are objectionable, yet your commission was obliged to submit to these that other concessions might be gained. This matter will be more fully explained, if your body desires it, at this session of council.

I trust that no unnecessary delays be had in your work and that your labors be characterized by harmony and unity of action.

Party lines should be ignored, and you should be united in your efforts to legislate for the common

good.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

P. C. C. N.

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THE MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, I. T.,
Friday, October 14, 1898
Vol. 4 No. 3
B. G. Logsdon, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE BY GREEN MCCURTAIN

Tushka Homma, I. T.,

Oct. 6.

The Choctaw council convened in regular session last Monday and organized by electing Judge Henry Ward president of the senate, and Joe Dukes speaker of the house.

The Tushka Homma party has a handsome majority in both houses and can pass any party bill desired. The Unions have refrained so far from offering any resistance and did not put up a candidate for any of the offices. But very few of the Union party men are here.

The votes of the August election for governor were counted Tuesday, resulting as follows:

Green McCurtain	1636
Wilson Jones	1223

Wednesday Governor McCurtain was sworn in for the second

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time. He read his message, then both houses adjourned until the next morning.

Nothing has been done so far, except the filing of one or two contest cases. They were referred to the committee on elections.

Several parties have been here this week with the intention of lobbying some railroad and timber bills through the council, especially the timber contractors.

Following is Governor McCurtain's message:

To the Members of the
General Council:

Gentlemen:

For the third time I am before you to deliver my annual message. I will set forth the condition of our nation to-day and give you for your guidance, my views touching our recent and future welfare. It fell to my lot to be principal chief during the most critical and trying times we have ever experienced as a nation. Heretofore the chief had only to deal with mere details as laid out by council, and because our government was running smoothly had little or no trouble. But in my case it was different. The United States had grown tired of our manner of holding our lands and with certain parts of our government, and by slow but sure pressure had

brought us to the point where we had to turn our faces to those difficulties, and regardless of our personal wishes or desires, meet these demands and make the most of them. The history and result of all this is our agreement entered into at Atoka on April 23d, 1897, and ratified by us on the 24th day of August 1898, by the handsome and gratifying majority (counting all the votes) of over one thousand. To fail to add that I feel a great personal pride in this majority would be to withhold the truth. In all these trials and changes I have been actuated by a desire to do that which I believed for the best interest of my people. In advocating and carrying out these changes I have had to contend the most trying difficulties known in politics, viz: Money and ignorance, The representatives of money are those who have drawn large individual royalties from coal as well as from the public domain through large pastures and other monopolies. And so through all this campaign where the bawling has been the loudest, where the dust has been thrown the highest into the air, an examination of the case has always revealed some coal owner wailing and decrying the agreement because it has shut off the royalty. The one thousand majority shows just how much real sympathy they deserve; for it is true of this class as it is of all others actuated by selfishness, they get more than they deserve. For that class against the agreement from prejudice, much can be said that is worthy and true; they are our full-bloods and well advanced in life; they are for the most part uneducated and have heard all of

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their lives that our right to hold our lands and government as they think best, was a treaty right and therefore would be respected by the United States; they know by bitter experience, (for many of them came from Mississippi) that all our changes have worked hardships for them, and while they would admit that there were abuses in our government which ought to be corrected, they thought it best to endure their present evils rather than cut the cable that bound them to the best government (with all its imperfections) they had ever had. Let him who has the heart to, blame these people, for myself, my sympathies are with them. And I have this consolation, that in all this fight the rights and privileges of this very class has pressed harder upon me than all others. I saw three or four years ago that the clouds that were gathering over us would break sooner or later, and having been elected for that purpose, I made the agreement. In all our negotiations I sought to cure the evils that weakened our government and make such a division of our common property as would be equal and fair. In selecting a commission to assist me in the negotiations with the United States commission due care was exercised to get the service of honest, as well as able men, for in those negotiations were involved the interests of all our people. And I am glad to say that so far as I know only one mistake was made in the choice of my commission, and in that we were fortunate by misfortune, as it resulted to our advantage, in so far as it strengthened our cause and crippled the opposition. We, as a people,

are indebted to the faithful services and untiring energies of Capt. Stanley, Wesley Anderson and N. B. Ainsworth for the greater portion of our success. It was they who stood in the thick of the fight at Washington and contested every inch of the ground belonging to the Choctaw people. This they did against opposition that would stop at nothing to accomplish its selfish purpose. These men saved us so much of our government as was agreed upon, and indeed we have much for which we should be grateful to them. I called upon Hon. Wesley Anderson to go to Washington in the interest of the agreement, he being one of the commissioners selected by me to assist in having the agreement ratified by congress, he promptly responded to the call, went to Washington and did invaluable service in the work to which he was appointed. There was no appropriation made at the last council as compensation for such services or to defray the expenses of the delegate there, and, as a matter of course, Mr. Anderson had to bear his own expenses. It would be base ingratitude for us as a people to refuse to compensate Mr. Anderson for his services in this matter. And in passing from this subject I will say that while I am chief it will be my aim and desire to carry out this division in the spirit in which it was made, and I am glad to tell you that I have the best reasons for saying that the president and secretary of the interior will do all in their power to the same end.

Party Strife -- Our future welfare as a nation demands that

we make a good beginning of this new era; that we at once demonstrate an even ability to govern and to be governed within ourselves. This we cannot do if party prejudice is the controlling sentiment. The intention of good government is always defeated whenever prejudice is allowed to enter into legislation. And I therefore strongly council against the agitation of party feeling both in and out of council. Party principles so long as confined to honest differences of opinion and advocated in the interest of good government, are not damaging; but whenever their support degenerates to ill-will and hatred the government is in danger and reform is necessary. Our government cannot withstand the shock of internal dissention, and I appeal to you and to the political parties of our nation in the interest all the Choctaw people to forget the unpleasantness of the past and unite in one common effort to successfully meet the new order of things.

Finances -- Owing to the change through which we are passing now, I am unable to give you the exact figures about our finances. The following is approximately correct:

Col's from all sources		\$152,782.92
Expenditures		152,469.85
Balance on hand		<u>313.07</u>

In view of the fact that we are soon to divide our public domain I recommend that you pass such laws as will absolutely prohibit the cutting and selling of timber of all kinds except fire wood for

one's own use. Of course the contracts now existing with saw mills will have to be carried out, but they should be given proper notice that they must cease work on December 31st next. This law will have to be approved by the president. The necessity of such a law is so plain that no argument is necessary.

Our schools have been hampered for lack of funds. It is gratifying to me though to see that at least two-thirds of our annual appropriations of last year went for educational purposes. I recommend that you take the proper steps to make all necessary repairs on our buildings and that the board of education be authorized to insure all of our academies. I feel that you will do what is for the best interest in the matter of educating our children and will not specify any particular course, other than above mentioned.

One of the most praiseworthy acts of the Choctaw council at its last session was the passage of an act providing that the school text books required for the education of children should be purchased by the nation and furnished free of charge to the children (citizens) attending our schools. Many children have in the past been deprived of an opportunity of getting an education because of their parents not being able to get books for them, but that excuse can be pleaded no longer, the opportunity for getting a common school education is placed within reach of all. The nation has done its full duty in this direction and it remains for the parents to show their apprecia-

tion of this charitable system by availing themselves of the opportunity of educating their children.

In the nature of changes made in our government we will not need certain offices heretofore important factors in our government, in such offices should be abolished to save an unnecessary expense to our government. I recommend that you limit the circuit court to two terms not to exceed two weeks each. And in this connection I would recommend that proper laws for the collection of permits, costs and all fines imposed by the courts be enacted. The necessity for liquidating the outstanding scrip of the various counties has become urgent from the fact that this is the winding up of our affairs; and to this end, I recommend that all taxes and permits, including merchants outside of the incorporated towns and farmer's permits, go to the county in which such taxes are collected, and that the sheriffs collect said taxes and receive in payment of same county scrip or its equivalent in money.

Negroes -- Under our changing conditions these people are giving us no little trouble. Of the millions of negroes heretofore held in slavery in the South the Indians alone divided their lands with them. We have also given them free schools and they have enjoyed the benefits of the public domain and many other advantages which their black brother has had in the states. But for all these advantages given them, candor compels me to say, that now and then with a notable exception, the negro as a people has lifted up his heels

against his best friend, and in these political marches, hog like has followed the man who has the corn in his sack, and true to their nature have squealed all the louder when corn has passed their way and not been thrown to them. But that government is which lifts all the people. They are among us and will remain. If they grow up in ignorance among us it will be only the worse for us. I recommend, therefore, that you make the best provision for them as regards free schools and their academy as our limited finances will admit. You cannot use any royalty from coal or asphalt. You will be confined to the moneys arising from our invested funds. Special provisions should be made to protect us against unscrupulous teachers who report pupils in attendance when they are absent. Also against giving incompetent teachers certificates to teach.

Citizenship Cases -- The citizenship commission created last council has done good work; they have saved the nation thousands of dollars and their good work is not finished. I recommend that you reduce the number of the commission to three and give me authority to continue them in such work as the best interest of the nation demand. We employed ex-Judge James M. Shackelford as attorney during the year and his work has been satisfactory. I also entered into a contract with the Hon. J. M. Wilson of Washington, D. C., and N. B. Ainsworth to look after our interest before congress and the supreme court of the United States. The Indian appropriation bill contains a clause giving us the right of appeal in all cases and also to test

the right of congress to authorize the Dawes commission or the United States courts to say who are citizens of our nation. As these cases have precedence we hope to have a decision this winter on this important question. In the meantime we are doing all within our power to protect ourselves against these would-be Indians. I am particularly anxious to beat these cases for two reasons: first, because a large number of them are whites and have not a drop of Indian blood in them; second, because no good can come from a set of people who deliberately and wilfully perjure themselves for the sake of a few acres of land. Such people are essentially bad. When a man will steal his home by perjury he is bad at heart; and every time he looks at his home and land so gotten the thought of his perjury and robbery will come up. There can no good citizens come from homes whose closets contain skeletons of perjury and robbery. And so I hope you will continue my authority to do all in my power to beat these vampires who are seeking to saddle themselves on us.

Appropriations -- In the matter of making appropriations I especially urge that you exercise great care, for the financial condition of our nation will not admit of extravagant and injudicious legislation, neither will the president under whose official notice all your acts must come, permit it. I recommend that you include all special appropriations in the general appropriation bill in order that they may pass at one time under the president's supervision. His time is precious and he should be given as little

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trouble as possible. I am a firm believer in presidential supervision, and the proper course for us to pursue is to seek the aid and advice of the president in all of our affairs. And in conclusion, gentlemen, I will say that the government that we build up under our agreement must be able to stand the scrutiny of all good men. We must look upon the president and the United States as our friends and must act on the principal that they seek and desire our best political and temporal welfare. If we live up to the spirit and intent of the government created in the agreement we will have our political destiny in our own hands and it will be harder to dislodge us at the end of eight years than it was to make the agreement. But if we are not going to turn our faces towards progress and nineteenth century ideas we simply will be left. Indians must obey as the white people have to obey the laws of progress. So let us look to the future with hope and a determination to meet whatever it contains with honest hearts; let us forget the past; let us be friends in deed and in truth, and that God who is mercy and justice will not forsake us.

GREEN MCCURTAIN,

Principal Chief, C. N.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka I. T.
Thursday, January 5, 1899.
Vol. 13, No. 37.
S. Smiser
Norma E. Smiser } Editors

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Sans Bois, I. T. Dec. 30, 1898

Mr. W. M. Dunn, Red Oak, I. T.:

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 29th instant; and in reply would say that while it is currently reported that the timber act passed at the recent session of Council was not approved, yet I have had no official notice to that effect. Council also passed a law abolishing the office of National Agent, thus leaving the Nation without any one authorized to make a timber contract; but should a contract be made, there is no one authorized to collect the royalty, as Council also passed a law abolishing the office of Inspector. There being, therefore, no one authorized to make a binding contract, one that could be enforced in a

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court, and no one authorized to receive the royalty under a contract, I have decided to take no further steps in the matter, and will let the timber business stop, except mining timbers. I am, however, doing all I can to hurry up the allotment, and am in hopes we will be able to give members of the tribes such title in a few months as will enable them to sell their timber. All there is left for you is to wait until that time.

Whatever my personal feelings might be in this matter, I am compelled to take the above stand because of the unanimous action of the last Council in repealing the law allowing the timber contracts. I find among all my people everywhere, with the fewest exceptions, earnest approval of the Council's action in stopping the timber business. As Chief, I am bound to respect the wishes of so great a majority of my people.

Very truly,

GREEN McCURTAIN

Prin. Chief Choctaw Nation.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka I. T.
August 17, 1899
Vol. 14, No. 17
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Sans Bois, I. T.

July 29th, 1899

Hon. N. J. Holson
Circuit Judge, First Jud. Dist.
C. N., Summerfield, I. T.

Sir:

Your attention is called to a statement made by U. S. Indian Inspector Wright in a letter to me dated May 27th, 1899, written in reference to a letter from me to the Inspector concerning the enforcement of our medical laws, which statement is as follows:

"As I advised you the Interior Department will see that the tribal laws are complied with

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by non-citizens, PROVIDING that the tribal officers comply strictly with the tribal laws in good faith and show no discrimination. Many complaints have been made that this Medical Board is not acting in good faith, and not dealing justly with all, and unless assurance is furnished me that they will so act hereafter, it will be necessary for me to recommend to the Department that the tribal laws be not enforced."

The above statement of the Inspector needs no explanation; nor has it any mysterious application it simply means that the Choctaw officials, not the Medical Board alone, are required and must do their duty and their full duty if they expect to continue the Choctaw government for eight years from March 4th, 1898.

You are, therefore, informed that a strict performance of duty by the officials of this nation is required; of the circuit judges, district attorneys, sheriffs and others, and so much of our jurisdiction as was retained under the agreement be fully exercised and the laws executed to the letter. And any official failing to perform his duties as required by law will be promptly removed

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from office without further admonition.

In the matter of trials before your court, I must insist upon the administration of the law, not only justly but firmly and in the interest of peace and good government. Unnecessary delay in the trial of cases obstructs the course of the law and not infrequently defeats justice; trials should, therefore, be as speedy as circumstances of the case will admit and as would be consistent with a fair and firm administration of justice. Leniency to excess should not be practiced by the court; it creates disrespect and finally contempt for our laws, and renders their enforcement difficult. In the discharge of your duty, you should not be deferred in the exercise of your authority by threats of defendants or their attorneys to seek redress in the courts of the United States, for it is not the policy of the United States government to obstruct or interfere with the course of justice when properly pursued and carried out. I would advise you to thoroughly acquaint yourself with the laws of this nation governing cases over which your court has jurisdiction that you may fully understand their application and readily rule on them.

Without casting any aspersions particularly upon your official character and the manner in which you have heretofore performed your duties, you are informed that better results are expected from the circuit courts of this nation; that a fair, impartial and fearless administration of the laws of this nation is required. The time (eight years from March 4, 1898) allowed us to wind up the affairs of our tribal government is limited and short, and if we continue in the same desultry manner that has for years characterized our court procedure the lapse of eight years will find us in really a more unprepared condition for the contemplated changes than at the time the agreement was made This, I hope, conveys clearly to your mind my intention in thus calling your attention to these facts; and I indulge the hope that you will readily perceive the necessity for firm and speedy administration of our laws -- the continuance of our government for the stipulated time depends upon our conduct of its affairs -- and that you will discharge your duties in a manner looking to that end. I have written to the several district attorneys directing that

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they inaugurate a vigorous and uncompromising prosecution against all violators of the Choctaw law coming under their jurisdiction.

Very respectfully,

GREEN McCURTAIN

P. C., C. N.

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, May 19, 1900
Vol. 24, No. 22
WM. T. LEOSER, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

Ex-chief McCurtain, of the Choctaw Nation,
is said to be slowly dying. Mr. McCurtain has been
a prominent figure in the political arena of his
country, and his death at this time will be a great
misfortune for the Choctaws.

THE DAILY CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Indian Territory
Wednesday Evening, October 10, 1900
Vol. 3 No. 7
D. M. Marrs, Editor

PORTION OF MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain, the able retiring executive of the Choctaw nation, delivered his last message to the Choctaw council Monday. Among other things, he said:

"The Dawes commission gave notice that a land office would be opened, at Atoka, September 1, 1900 for the purpose of making preliminary allotments of Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens. As neither the citizenship rolls have been completed, nor the lands appraised, nothing more than a preliminary allotment of 170 acres was contemplated. After mature consideration, I became convinced that, for many reasons, this arrangement was immature, unpracticable, and would be unsatisfactory to our people. Many of them have inclosed and improved the lands they desire to hold as allotments for themselves and families, and,

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under the rules of the secretary, they would be required to select therefrom homesteads of 160 acres each for themselves, wives and minor children, and the remainder might be taken for homesteads by others.

"The agreement never contemplated this disturbance of the holdings of our people, if within their proportionate shares, and, I was not willing to agree to a plan of allotment that would work this result. In addition to this, every citizen would be put to double expense and trouble, since he would be required to visit the land office twice in order to secure his full allotment. Furthermore, until the rolls are completed, and the number of Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens thus determined, and all the lands appraised, the amount of land to which each would be entitled can not be determined. For these reasons I, jointly, with Gov. Johnston, of the Chickasaws, addressed a written request to the Dawes commission to postpone the opening of such land office, which was accordingly done.

TOWNSITES.

"In the matter of townsites, the Atoka agreement

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provides for the appointment of one commission for each of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, composed of one member appointed by the chief executive of the tribe and one by the president. All townsites in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations are to be laid out and platted by these commissions, such plats to be approved by the secretary of the interior. After completion of survey and approval of plats these commissions, appraise all town lots and sell the same. This is the plan agreed upon between the United States government and the tribes in the Atoka agreement and satisfactory. Under these commissions as many surveying parties as may be necessary to plat all the towns in shortest period of time desirable may be employed, and the appraisement would follow and be completed and the lots sold with all needed despatch; and hence there can be no possible need of added machinery to facilitate the work. At the suggestion of non-citizens, however, congress by provision in the Indian appropriation bill, approved May 31, 1900, authorized the laying out, platting and appraising of our towns by commissions appointed under the Curtis act. The interior department is now proceeding with the

townsite work in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations under the above named act, and the entire work of disposing of our property by these methods is without our consent and in disregard and violation of the provisions of the Atoka agreement, to which the government only three years ago solemnly pledged its faith. In addition to the moral obligations involved, the action of the department in so proceeding is void in that it affects our title and ownership in and to our lands without our consent by carving townsites from our public domain, extinguishing our title and vesting it elsewhere.

"It is clear that such proceedings are void and that no title to lots sold under this regime can ever be conferred upon purchasers thereof, and to my mind, it is unwise policy for the government to proceed in such manner, and will work great inconvenience to the people of the towns to thus suspend the permanent settlement of their affairs and leave them without titles, when they might be so easily secured by proceeding under the agreement.

"Every interest of all classes in this territory demands that such course be pursued in townsite and

other matters as will permanently settle, instead of thus confusing matters of such importance to all concerned. All this I exceedingly regret, since we have tried so hard to work in harmony with the United States government, and were the first tribe to accept its overtures and enter into an agreement.

TRIBAL TAXES

"The collection of our tribal revenues is necessary to the continuation of our government as contemplated by the Atoka agreement. During the past year a sentiment of opposition to the payment of these taxes became quite general. This opposition has become especially active and violent in the Chickasaw nation, and culminated in organized resistance and the institution of suits seeking to enjoin the collectors. The attorneys for the Chickasaw Nation who are our attorneys entered this litigation promptly and vigorously, and succeeded in defeating the suits and securing from the courts a decision upholding the validity of the tribal laws imposing these taxes, and of the laws of the United States governing trade and intercourse with the Indians, under which, non-citizens refusing to pay may be put out of the territory as intruders.

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"Notwithstanding this, this organization of non-citizens sent appeals to Washington imploring the authorities to suspend action. These appeals were met there, as they were in the court, and the result is that, within the last few weeks, Hon. John W. Griggs, attorney general of the United States, has delivered a comprehensive opinion upholding the tribal taxes, the United States intercourse laws, and declaring the power and authority of the interior department to enforce them. Up on this decision the interior department has issued a notice to non-citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations that if they fail to pay the taxes due the nation upon demand after September 28 they will be summarily removed as intruders. It is hoped that there will be no further opposition and that the nations will be thus enabled to collect their revenues without further delay.

"The eyes of the whole country are upon us as we proceed in the discharge of the duties before us, and we cannot be too careful of our conduct. Every act of ours will be scrutinized and criticised, and any misconduct or mistake may work injury and reflect

discredit upon our country and our people.

The ordeal through which we are passing is most trying, and never did a nation or people so need faithful and patriotic service. Let each be true to his trust. Let no bill be even introduced which could be questioned, and which is not clearly designed for the promotion of the very best interests of our people,

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Vol. 24, No. 44
Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.
Saturday, October 20, 1900
Wm. T. Leoser, Editor

PORTION OF MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

South McAlester, I. T., Oct. 8.

The annual message of Governor McCurtain, has been submitted to the Choctaw General Assembly in session at Tuskahoma.

Governor McCurtain is the pioneer in allotment, and his leadership resulted in the Atoka agreement, now being carried out. He is one of the greatest men the Choctaw Nation has produced. After having served his people for four years as Chief Executive, he now retires, and this message is in the nature of a farewell address to his people.

He said in part;

"It is known to all that the life limit of our government as fixed by the Atoka Agreement expires some six years hence, and it is well, for legislative purposes, that we bear in mind our approaching tribal dissolution.

"The settling of citizenship in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations is, by all odds, paramount to all other questions with which our people are concerned.

"The United States took the matter of determin-

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ing tribal citizenship in hand, thinking to do justice to all. The present condition of citizenship matters in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations stands as towering monuments to the misapprehension that impelled the Government to this action. It was informed that there were a number of Indians residing within the tribes and fairly entitled to citizenship who were, for political and other unworthy purposes, denied enrollment by the tribal authorities.

NAMING OF DAWES COMMISSION

"Upon this theory the act of Congress of June 10, 1896 was passed, vesting the Dawes Commission with citizenship jurisdiction, with right of appeal to the United States Court. To this apparently arbitrary action by the government, the tribes protested, upon the ground that they alone, had the right to say who should be their citizens, but this protest was without avail.

"The applicants for citizenship were in almost every instance white people from the surrounding states, who had never before claimed citizenship, but who were induced by the allurement alone of getting something for nothing.

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"The Dawes Commission was composed of men of honor and ability, and the result was that these unworthy applicants were, in almost every instance rejected. Practically all appealed to the United States Courts, and applicants were, in almost every case, admitted. This is not surprising, since the cases were referred to Masters in Chancery, who were in many instances, attorneys interested in like cases, and in no case of which I have ever heard did such masters fail to find in favor of the applicants.

"At the beginning of these citizenship applications and copies of papers were served only upon the Governor of one of the nations. Judgment was rendered only against the Choctaw Nation.

"No such thing as the enforcement of a judgment so taken against joint property would be thought of anywhere else on the face of the earth, as, in law such judgments are void as to both parties, and cannot, in any degree, affect their joint property.

MUST PROTECT CITIZENSHIP.

"Having confidence in your appreciation of the

2400

importance of the subject I recommend that you make liberal appropriation for the protection of the nation from citizenship frauds.

"The Dawes Commission gave notice that a land office would be opened at Atoka on September 1, 1900, for the purpose of making preliminary allotments to Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens. After mature consideration I became convinced that, for many reasons, this arrangement was immature, impracticable, and would be unsatisfactory to our people.

"I jointly with Governor Johnson of the Chickasaws, addressed a written request to the Dawes Commission to postpone the opening of such land office, which was accordingly done.

"The collection of our tribal revenues is necessary to the continuation of our Government, as contemplated by the Atoka Agreement. During the past year a sentiment of opposition to the payment of these taxes became quite general.

"John W. Griggs Attorney General of the United States, has delivered a comprehensive opinion, upholding the tribal taxes, the United States intercourse laws, and declarating the power and

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authority of the Interior Department to enforce them. Upon this decision the Interior Department has issued a notice to non-citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, that if they fail to pay the taxes due the nation, upon demand, after September 28, they will be summarily removed as intruders.

"I deem it not improper to submit a few general observations as to the duties of the officers of our nation. An idea prevails among some that no man can hold an office and be strictly honest. this cannot be so. If an officer elect is an honest man he will be an honest officer, and if he is a dishonest man he will be a dishonest officer."- Republic.

THE INDIAN JOURNAL

Eufaula, Ind. Ter.

Jan. 25, 1901

26 yr., No. 4

Editor's name not given.

EDITORIAL ON G. W. DUKES

About two hundred fullblood Choctaws held a meeting Monday in Gaines county and passed a resolution desposing Gov. Dukes, and elected Daniel Bell, Governor. They also elected new officers for Gaines county and deposed the old ones. They have sent a special message to Gov. Dukes that they have taken the government of the Choctaw Nation out of his hands. It is reported that a band of about two hundred of them are camped beyond Cherryvale and are in an ugly mood. Gov. Dukes has gone to Ft. Smith and has telegraphed for the Indian police. He is uneasy and realizes that his life is in danger. -- South McAlester Capital.

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THE WEBBERS FALLS MONITOR

Webbers Falls, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, June 28, 1901
Vol. 2 No. 14
(Editor's name not given)

NEWS ITEM OF JOE DUKES

Joe Dukes, son of Gov. Dukes, has been
appointed to succeed D. C. McCurtain as revenue
collector of the Choctaw nation.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

July 25, 1901

Vol. 8, No. 36

Hines and Jobe, Editors

LETTER OF WM. H. HARRISON TO THE INDIAN CITIZENS

Wm. H. Harrison addresses a letter to the Indian Citizen in which he discusses the delay in Choctaw allotment in a most pertinent manner and points out how each year's delay is costly to the Choctaws. The letter is a strong argument in favor of the early adoption of a supplementary treaty.

The following is the letter:

"The Choctaws and Chickasaws were the first to make treaties with the United States government looking to a speedy division of our lands in severalty, but it seems that we are not much nearer allotment of our lands than we were one year ago. As nothing is said, and it seems nothing is being done to that end, everything seems to be at a stand. We promised our people an early allotment of our lands and we should use every effort to make good our promise to the people.

"For, as I look at the situation, our people are losing at least five hundred to each and every person for each and every years' delay. The land office should be established and the allotment of at least one homestead made to each and every bonafide citizen of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. Why this delay, why keep the acknowledged citizens out of their lands and lawful heritage any longer?

It seemt to me that the Dawes commission is doing everything in their power to wind up the allotment of the lands in the Creek and Cherokee nations, letting the allotment of our lands severely alone. They have transferred all the land appraisers to the Creek and Cherokee nations and finished the work before finishing the appraisement of our land, leaving six camps of timber estimators to appraise and estimate about 76 townships of land and timber, which will be finished about September 1st. They have also transferred all the subdivision camps to the Cherokee and Creek Nations, leaving the subdivision of our lands severely alone and no protests have ever been made by our chief executive that I have ever heard of.

"The subdivision of our lands is just as

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necessary to an early allotment of our lands as it is to the Creeks and Cherokees. Why let them transfer their subdivision camps from the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations before finishing the work here and without a single protest? Our chief executives may not be aware of these facts, but such is the case. Our people want their lands allotted to them as soon as practicable and not so much quibbling of technical law points by the nations' attorneys. The people want to know further what the nations' attorneys have done in regard to the fraudulent citizenship cases. If the allotment of lands does not commence soon we will not get through with allotment before our eight years of tribal government expire. Then where will we be? or has the United States government promised us more time in which to wind up our business? This delay is ruinous to our people and country, let us have allotment now, this year, not next year, and close our rolls.

WM. H. HARRISON,
Choctaw Land Appraiser.

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THE SOUTH MCALESTER CAPITOL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 15, 1901

Vol. 8, No. 39

Hines and Jobe, Editors

LETTER OF C. W. DUKES, TO HONORABLE J. GEORGE WRIGHT

The sale of town lots in South McAlester may yet take place as advertised, on the 4th day of September. Governor Dukes has notified the United States Indian Inspector that he has appointed B. S. Smiser Choctaw Townsite Commissioner. The following is the text of his letter:

South McAlester, I. T., Aug. 24, 1901

Hon. J. Geo. Wright,
United States Indian Inspector,
Muskogee, I. T.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the sixteenth instant, in regard to the appointment of a Choctaw Townsite Commissioner, I desire to inform you that B. S. Smiser has full power and authority to act on behalf of the Choctaw Nation, in all matters relating to townsites, and you will so recognize him.

Very Respectfully,

G. W. Dukes,

Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation.

It will be remembered that Mr. Smiser was removed by the Secretary of the Interior for refusing to proceed to appraise and sell town lots in towns laid out under the provisions of the Act of May 31, 1900. Mr. Smiser took this course in obedience to instructions from Governor Dukes. This act of congress, together with the amendment contained in the Indian Appropriation Bill, passed last winter virtually repeals the townsite provision of the Atoka Agreement, and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to proceed under its terms to lay out and plat townsites providing that the work of the then existing Choctaw and Chickasaw Townsite Commissions, should only begin upon the approval of the survey by the Secretary of the Interior. The act also authorized the Secretary to appoint a separate townsite commission for any town, and makes other provisions which the tribes contend virtually supercedes their agreement. This act of congress was amended by a provision in the act of March 3, 1901,

authorizing the Secretary of the Interior, "when-
ever the Chief Executives of the Choctaw or Chick-
asaw Nation fails or refuses to appoint a townsite
commission for any town or to fill any vacancy
caused by the neglect or refusal of the townsite
commissioner appointed by the Chief Executive of
the Choctaw or Chickasaw Nation, to qualify or
act, in his discretion, appoint a commissioner to
fill a vacancy thus created."

If the Interior Department will permit Mr.
Smiser to proceed in connection with Dr. Sterrett,
to sell the lots in South McAlester, as advertised,
on September 4th, 1901, this work having been done
under the Atoka Agreement, there can be no doubt as
to the validity of the sale, and the Chief executives
of the two tribes will execute patents to the pur-
chasers. If, however, the department should, at
this time, again raise the issue by demanding to
know whether Mr. Smiser intends to proceed under
the act of Congress, he would doubtless, under
instructions from the Governor, refuse and leave
the situation in much doubt.

The tribes contend that an act of congress
disposing of their property without their consent

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is unconstitutional, and it is their intention if the Secretary of the Interior attempts to ignore the agreement, and proceed under the act of congress to appeal to the courts, and rest their contention only upon the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Inasmuch as the Choctaws and Chickasaws, in the supplemental treaty made last winter and submitted to congress with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, harmonized all these differences and adopted the acts of congress as a part of their agreement, it seems unfortunate that this issue should be forced at this time.

THE WEBBERS FALLS MONITOR

Webbers Falls, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, Oct. 18, 1901
Vol. 2 No. 30
(Editor's name not given)

NEWS ITEM OF G. W. DUKES

John Harrison, county judge of Atoka county, Choctaw Nation, and Cherley Plummer, sheriff of the same, were removed some time ago by Governor Dukes on charges preferred against them in their absence. Both are well and favorably known in the Indian Territory, both substantial Choctaw citizens. They have gone to Muskogee to present their cases to Governor Dukes and try for re-appointment. They were removed soon after they were elected in August, but the matter has been kept very quiet.

THE WEBBERS FALLS MONITOR

Webbers Falls, Ind. Ter.,
Friday Eve., Nov. 8, 1901
Vol. 2 No. 33
(Editor's name not given)

NOMINATION OF G. W. DUKES

Governor Dukes, of the Choctaw Nation,
announces that he will be a candidate for the nomination for governor by the Tuskahoma party next June, at which time it had been arranged that a nomination shall be made. Governor Dukes says he wants an endorsement of his administration.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITOL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Nov. 14, 1901

Vol. 8, No. 52

Hines and Jobs, Editors

EDITORIAL ON G. W. DUKES

The Choctaw Council which has been in session at Taskohoma the last four weeks, has completed its labors and adjourned.

In addition to passing an act authorizing the Governor to appoint a committee to make a supplemental treaty with the Dawes Commission with reference to the citizenship rolls, settling the coal question and all other matters that remain unsettled between the Choctaw Government and the United States Government and a number of other important measures were adopted.

An act was passed abolishing the offices of the three district school trustees, but retaining the superintendent of education at the salary which he has been receiving heretofore.

The number of citizenship commissioners was reduced from three to one, and the office of custodian,

or clerk, of the citizenship rolls was abolished.

An act was passed prohibiting the district royalty collectors from speculating in Choctaw national warrants under the penalty of a fine and jail sentence.

An appropriation of \$11,000 was made and placed at the disposition of the governor to be used in defraying the expense of ejecting cattlemen and intruders.

The council declined to interfere with the action of the governor in removing County Judge Harrison and Sheriff Plummer of Atoka county from office.

-- Dennison Herald.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Dec. 12, 1901

Vol. 9, No. 4

Hines and Jobe, Editors

EDITORIAL ON FRANCHISE TO GET ELECTRIC CARS

The unexpected has happened, South McAlester has at last taken her stand as the most progressive city in the twin territories; the only one that has granted a franchise for an electric line.

After many months of hard work, waiting and watching, the city council of South McAlester has at last made the first move on the new checker board of progress. It has at last succeeded in getting a proposition that does not concede more than was a business-like transfer of one right for another.

The new franchise as passed today bears the ear marks of conservatism and thought. It is the remnants of the best proposition ever presented boiled down and shot to pieces with concessions by the company.

The Capital is proud of the city council and especially so for the able, diplomatic manner they stood for the best interests of the city. They have

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given us the "most for our money."

The successful company evidently mean to give us a fair and square deal. Mr. Boyle, the promotor, has all along been candid and open in his statements and his eagerness to secure the franchise, and willingness to tie themselves down can be construed as evidence of good faith. He has the best wishes of all that are loyal to their native city.

Council convened at 7:30. There was quite a good attendance of spectators and the full representation of city officials.

The usual preliminary business was then disposed of. Chief Collier's report for the month of November showed collections from fines, etc. to be \$108.70.

A number of accounts were allowed. Gus A. Gill filed a petition asking for a reduction in taxes on his burned property, claiming that he had received little benefit therefrom during the fiscal year prior to the fire and as he could not rebuild he prayed the council to make a reduction in his taxation. Referred to finance committee.

A petition from J. F. Craig, J. H. Wilkins,

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D. E. Clark, I. A. Yoes and W. E. Pannell, asking for the alley running north and south in block 479, be ordered open for public traffic. Referred to committee on streets and alleys.

Alderman Genung then presented an ordinance creating the office of city auditor at a salary of \$120 per annum and naming the city clerk as ex-officio auditor. The rules were suspended and ordinance passed to second and third reading. A copy of the new ordinance appears in today's Capital.

By Genung -- An ordinance accepting the map prepared by the Townsite Commission as the official map of the city of South McAlester. Rules suspended and ordinance passed.

An ordinance presented by Mr. Genung, relative to the obstruction of streets and sidewalks, was referred to the committee on streets and alleys.

Mr. Genung then presented another ordinance relating to the storage of powder, dynamite and other explosives. Under this act no merchant is allowed to keep over 50 pounds of explosives for sale at one time and even in that event they must be placed in a strong iron covered box labeled "Powder," and stationed within ten feet of the main entrance of.

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the store in a location selected by the chief of police. The matter was brought to a vote and defeated by a vote of 5 for and 3 against.

An ordinance creating the office of city weighmaster was referred to a committee.

The plans for the Grand avenue viaduct over the Katy tracks were approved.

A printing committee composed of Ambrose, Genung and Mercer was appointed.

By motion of Mr. Genung the Boyle ordinance was taken up for consideration. Then the fun commenced.

Section by section of the electric car franchise was read and in almost every case was amended materially by Mr. Genung who stood with a stack of typé-written amendments ready to puncture the franchise at every step.

Then came sparring matches between the council and Mr. Boyle and one by one they were put to a vote and approved by the council. Mr. Boyle was extremely courteous in accepting the many broadsides fired into his proposition and demonstrated his eagerness to receive the franchise by allowing almost every amendment to go by without opposition.

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On two or three questions the city conceded points in the Genung amendments. The points gained last night through amendments were:

Track to be as near the center of the street as possible and of standard gauge. Construction of road not to retard street traffic and all streets to be replaced in good condition after road is constructed.

Ordinance shall go into effect when the grantees have obtained a franchise from the government to construct the line to Krebs, Alderson and Carbon. Six months thereafter is allowed to begin work and the entire system to be in operation within 12 months from date of grant from the federal government. They shall have six months from this date to obtain the federal government's permit to construct the line. Total length of time from date of passage of the ordinance by the city of South McAlester to the completion of the road, eighteen months. Cars are to run from South McAlester to Krebs, Alderson and Carbon on Saturday's and Monday's as late as 12 o'clock, midnight, and on all other nights, except Sunday, until 11 p. m. On Sunday nights the limit will be 10 o'clock. Cars shall be heated from November 1

to May 1 of each year.

The power house and car sheds shall be located in South McAlester. Fare for adults shall be 5 cents for one continuous passage, inside of the city of South McAlester, children between the ages of 5 and 12 to be 2 cents. Transfers from any one point on the system in this city to any other point shall be given. Such per centum of the gross earnings of the company are to be occupation tax or license charged by the city. Books of the company are to be accessible to by the city at all reasonable times. The city has the right to select which of the two systems: vi-motum or electricity, they desire, prior to the commencement of operation. If the city is not ready to choose which of the two they desire at the time the company will be allowed to make the selection.

The regulation of speed to be attained by the cars is reserved by the city. Streets are not to be obstructed or blockaded by the operation of cars.

Johnson rails must be used in crossing the Grand avenue viaduct and the right to operate other electric lines on said tracks across the bridge, is reserved by the city.

Within 60 days after the passage of the franchise by the city, the company is to file their written acceptance and deposit a bond of \$2,000 in two certified checks. If the company fail to abide with the franchise they will forfeit same. In the event that work is started within the prescribed limit one of the checks for \$1,000 is to be returned to the company. In the event that the road is not completed within the specified 18 months, but has been started, then the company shall forfeit the remaining \$1,000. An annual settlement with the city shall be made and a full and complete statement of gross earnings made annually.

The meeting did not adjourn until almost one o'clock this morning. The numerous amendments accepted placed the franchise in such shape that it was deemed best to rearrange before final passage and an adjournment was taken until 11 a. m. today.

At the session this morning the franchise was gone over again and a few minor amendments made at the suggestion of the council where upon it was passed and accepted by the Boyle company.

Mr. Grant of the new company expressed himself as highly pleased with the franchise and said

his first work would be to get a permit from the
government to survey the route.

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STILWELL STANDARD

Stilwell, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 1, 1902

Vol. 2, No. 43

Augustus E. Ivey, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

There is a hot political campaign going on in the Choctaw nation between Green McCurtain and W. T. Hunter, rival candidates for chief --conducted almost as bad as white man fashion.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Afoka, Indian Territory
Thursday, August 14, 1902
Volume 17, No. 17
Norma. E. Smiser, Editor

ELECTION PROCLAMATION OF G. W. DUKES

Talihina, I. T.,

August 11.

Gilbert W. Dukes, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, issued the following proclamation today, calling a special election to be held September 25 for the purpose of voting on the supplementary agreement.

Proclamation to the county judges of the several counties and to all legal voters of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations:

"Whereas, an agreement between commissioners on part of the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, made at Washington, District of Columbia, March 21, 1902, and ratified by an act of Congress of the United States, approved July 1, 1902, entitled, 'An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, and for other purposes,' contains the following provisions:

"This agreement shall be binding upon the United States and upon the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and all Choctaws and

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Chickasaws, when ratified by Congress and by a majority of the whole number of votes cast by the legal voters of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in the manner following: The principal chief of the Choctaw Nation and the governor of the Chickasaw Nation shall, within 120 days after the ratification of this agreement by Congress, make public proclamation that the same shall be voted upon at any special election to be held for that purpose within thirty days thereafter on a certain day therein named; and all male citizens of each of the said tribes qualified to vote under the tribal laws shall have a right to vote at the election precinct most convenient to his residence, whether the same be within the bounds of his tribe or not. And if this agreement be ratified by said tribes, as aforesaid, the date upon which said election is held shall be deemed to be the date of final ratification.

"Now, therefore, we, Gilbert W. Dukes, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and Douglas H. Johnston, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, in conformity with the preceding provision of the agreement between the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations of March 21, 1902, as ratified by the act of Congress approved July 1, 1902, do issue this, our joint and several proclamation, directing and ordering that a special election to be held at the various voting precincts in the several counties of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations on the 25th day of September, 1902, for the purpose of voting upon the said agreement.

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"Said election shall be held and conducted in all respects as provided by the constitutions and election laws of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, except that all male citizens of each of the said tribes qualified to vote under the tribal laws shall have a right to vote at the election precinct most convenient to his residence, whether the same be within the bounds of his tribe or not.

"All persons who are qualified voters under the constitutions and laws of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and none others, will be entitled to vote at said special election.

"In witness whereof I, Gilbert W. Dukes, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, do hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the Choctaw Nation to be affixed at Talihina, I. T., on this, the 11th day of August, A. D. 1902.

G. W. DUKES.

Principal Chief
of the Choctaw Nation."

The proclamation has this day been forwarded to Douglas H. Johnston, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, for his signature.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, March 19, 1903
Vol. 17 No. 45
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

LETTER OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

Sans Bois, I. T.,
March 14, 1903

Dear Governor:

After much serious reflection I am convinced that it is the duty of the Indians composing the five civilized tribes, to make one supreme effort to make a state out of the present boundaries of the Indian Territory.

I believe that a plan, heartily entered into by the governors of these tribes, which comprehended the calling of a constitutional convention, composed of Indians, and the adoption of wise fundamental laws for the future government of the state, would succeed, said constitutions to be submitted to Congress for its approval, and to become effective upon the expiration of present treaties after it had been submitted to the vote of the whole people of the territory embraced.

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I am convinced that there is a powerful sentiment, in and out of Congress, that is inclined to give us a state, separate and apart from Oklahoma.

The exclusion of the liquor traffic from the Indian Territory, would bring to our side an influence that is world-wide.

It seems to me, in the light of our history, it would be fitting and just to permit the Indian to have a voice in the erection of at least one state, on a continent to which he once lay claim.

These slight suggestions are made with the hope that the plan, once undertaken, may be harmonious throughout, insofar as the Indian is concerned.

I desire to add, in conclusion that I have addressed a letter written in a similar vein, to the governors of the other Nations. I hope, in the event the ideas advanced are in accord with your judgment, that I may hear from you at an early day on this subject. I am,

Sincerely yours,

GREEN MCCURTAIN,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

THE WYNNEWOOD NEW ERA

Wynnewood, Indian Territory
Thursday, March 26, 1903
Vol. 1 No. 36
Editor's name not given.

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN TO THE FIVE TRIBES

South McAlester:

Governor Green McCurtain, of the Choctaw Nation, has sent the following letter to each of the five tribes.

The letter is remarkable inasmuch as it is the first suggestion coming from an Indian favoring calling a constitutional convention for the purpose of getting the Indian Territory into the union without tying our hopes to those of Oklahoma:

Sans Bois, I. T.

March 14, 1903.

Dear Governor:

After much serious reflection, I am convinced that it is the duty of the Indians composing the five civilized tribes, to make one supreme effort to erect

a state out of the present boundaries of the Indian Territory.

I believe that a plan, heartily entered into by the governor of these tribes, which comprehends the calling of a constitutional convention, composed of Indians, and the adoption of wise fundamental laws for the future government of the state, would succeed; said constitution to be submitted to congress for its approval, and to become effective upon the expiration of present treaties after it had been submitted to the vote of the whole people of the territory embraced.

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I desire to add, in conclusion, that I have addressed a letter written in a similar vein, to the governors of the other nations. I hope, in the event the ideas advanced are in accord with your judgment, that I may hear from you at an early date on the subject. I am,

Sincerely yours,

GREEN McCURTAIN

Principal Chief

Choctaw Nation.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, April 23, 1903
Vol. 17 No. 50
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

LETTER OF GREEN MCCURTAIN
TO CHOCTAW PEOPLE

Sans Bois, I. T.,

April 18, 1903

Dear Sirs:

I desire to address you upon the necessity of selecting the best men in your country, in the coming August election, to represent the Choctaw people in the National Council. Our tribal government is nearing its close. It is the duty of the Indian, regardless of party lines, to lend his aid in the selection of such representatives in council as will reflect the intelligence, the common honesty and sterling integrity that has ever characterized the Choctaws as a people. In the crisis, through which we are passing, representatives should be elected to council who are known to possess these commendable qualities. I therefore urge you to attend your county convention and earnestly and actively put forth your personal effort to this end.

In closing our record as a nation I trust each citizen will feel the fullest individual responsibility and labor with a view of making that record so creditable that it may excite the respect of those who accomplished the extinction of our tribal authority.

Very respectfully,

GREEN MCCURTAIN,

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, May 14, 1903
Vol. 18 No. 1
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

INTERVIEW WITH GREEN MCCURTAIN

At Muskogee while Secretary Hitchcock was there, several of the Indian chief executives were present by invitation and each presented to the Secretary matters that were of pressing importance. Regarding the conference with Gov. McCurtain, the staff correspondent of the Kansas City Journal, a very reliable man, writes as follows:

Chief McCurtain of the Choctaws, asked the secretary to do several things for the Choctaws. He called attention to the fact that the Choctaws had no competent expert coal man to put on the commission to appraise and sell the 440,000 acres of coal lands and asked the secretary to put some strong man who is versed in the coal mining business on the commission.

Mr. Hitchcock said he would do that. The Secretary is an old coal mine operator himself, and says his knowledge of the business will enable him to drive a good bargain for the Indians when the lands are sold. "That coal land must bring an adequate price," said he.

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The Choctaw chief also spoke of the vast operations of the timber thieves and the secretary said he would see that the department continued its warfare on the thieves. The secretary showed some disappointment because the federal courts had stepped in and enjoined the department from collecting the tribal tax for the Choctaws and intimated that he might soon order the tax collected regardless of the action of the courts.

At least that is what McCurtain says. "We also want the timber lands withheld from allotment until the Choctaws are brought to realize fully how much the timber means to them," said Chief McCurtain. The land is practically worthless after the timber is cut, but the Indians don't seem to realize it. They are being hoodooed by speculators and sharks into contracting to sell their timber at 25 cents an acre or less. Such robbery as this should be blocked." The secretary agreed to block it and, if it is necessary, to ask congress to pass a law giving him authority to handle and dispose of the timber to the best advantage of the Indians.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.
Thursday, Nov. 26, 1903
Vol. 18 No. 29
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

PROCLAMATION OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

Whereas, The General Council of the Choctaw Nation in regular session assembled, adopted a resolution authorizing the chief executive of the Choctaw Nation to issue a proclamation calling a special election on December 19, 1903, for the purpose of submitting to the people the question as to whether or not an international constitutional convention shall be held for the purpose of erecting a state out of what is now known as the Indian Territory; and,

Whereas, It is provided in said resolution that the various county judges shall name the election officers on the first Monday in December, 1903 and that the ballots shall be cast as follows: Those favoring convention shall vote "For Convention," and those against convention shall vote "No Convention;" and,

Whereas, It is further provided that the returns of said election shall be certified by the election officers and duly forwarded by registered mail to the principal chief of the Choctaw Nation; now therefore,

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I, Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, by virtue of the authority in me vested by the general council of the Choctaw Nation, do hereby call an election to be held on the 19th day of December, 1903, for the purposes above set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the Choctaw Nation to be affixed, at Kinta, Indian Territory, this 17th day of November, 1903.

GREEN McCURTAIN

Principal Chief, C. N.

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CROWDER CITY ADVERTISER

Juanita, Indian Territory,
Friday, August 26, 1904
Vol. 11 No. 3
J. D. Tignor Editor

MCCURTAIN MEANS BUSINESS

Gov. McCurtain, of the Choctaw nation, has announced that he will begin a campaign at once to oust the men who have contracted for and obtained possession of Indian allotments without adequate compensation. The treaty gave the Choctaw Indians the right to lease for periods of five years for adequate compensation, but neglected to specify who should pass on the question of adequacy. Consequently all leases have been made between individuals, without consulting the Choctaw government, or the interior department. Gov. McCurtain says that he has jurisdiction and will spend every dollar in the Choctaw treasury, if necessary, to oust the grafters. He claims that hundreds of acres have been let for five years for as low as \$50, the same land being sub-leased for \$3 an acre for each season.

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THE WISTER INFORMER

Wister, Indian Territory
October 15, 1904
Vol. 1 No. 28
J. Mathews, Editor

STATEMENT OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

The wholesale leasing of the richest lands in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, by adventurers who have flocked into our midst since the opening of the land office, reveals a state of facts that are perfectly shameful. The documentary evidence on file in the various United States courts of record in the two nations discloses the utter disregard of these human vultures who are preying upon the poverty and ignorance of the full-blood Indian. In many instances no consideration has passed whatever, and in the great bulk of these shady transactions a consideration so inadequate and out of proportion to its real value is shown, as to render a mere statement of the contract abhorrent to the minds of fair men. Not only this, but the records show that the certificates of allotment issued to the unfortunate Indians are already in the hands of these grafters. It

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is an open and notorious secret that these grafters are awaiting impatiently the arrival of the patent to the lands for which they hold certificates of allotment, in order that they may complete their nefarious work by securing a fee simple title to lands worth a prince's ransom, which they have secured for asong.

I feel that public sentiment ought to be aroused to such an extent as to drive out these people from our midst. If my administration had accomplished no other result than the hearty dislike of these adventurers around a carcass, I feel that this alone would entitle me to the tribute and respect of all well inclined people that are familiar with the situation, and who have been forced to witness the disgraceful proceedings that have been stealthily carried on here since the opening of the land office.

THE GOTEBO HERALD

Gotebo, Oklahoma
Friday, October 21, 1904.
Volume 2. No. 38.
Harry B. Price, Editor.

TELEGRAM FROM GREEN McCURTAIN

The Indian agent here received a telegram from Governor McCurtain of the Choctaw nation asking that a squad of Indian police be dispatched at once to aid the light horsemen of the Choctaw nation to quell an uprising of the Snake faction in the Choctaw nation. He stated that there were seventy-five Indians congregated near Beech, near the Arkansas line, and that more are arriving all the time, and they are threatening and intimidating the inhabitants of that section. The police were sent as requested. It is the same story of Snakes trying to incite opposition to taking allotted lands, and they are trying to keep all Indians they can from doing so, by threatening their lives if they allot land. The authorities here think the disturbing element can be quickly brought under control.

THE CLAREMORE PROGRESS

Claremore Ind. Ter.,
Saturday, Jan. 21, 1905
Vol. 12 No. 51
A. L. Kates, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. A. HITCHCOCK AND GREEN MCCURTAIN

South McAlester.

A telegram from Washington states that Mr. Hitchcock, secretary of the interior, has drawn a draft on the Choctaw tribal funds held in trust by the government for \$750,000, payable to Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, a law firm here, in payment for services rendered in the prosecution of \$20,000,000 worth of alleged fraudulent citizenship claims. Mr. Moody, the attorney general recommended that the claim be allowed.

THE MANNSVILLE NEWS

Mannsville, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, April 28, 1905
Vol. 1 No. 44
Dr. O. Wood Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON DEEDS ISSUED BY GREE MCCURTAIN
AND D. H. JOHNSTON

Muskogee, I. T.,

April 24.

In the matter of the controversy between Governor McCurtain of the Choctaw Nation and the Secretary of the Interior over the issuance of deeds by the former to allottees before they are approved by the Secretary or recorded by the Dawes Commission there are no new developments.

In well informed circles it is stated that a different form of deed is being used by the Governor (who denies the right of the Secretary to assume authority over the issuance of patents) from the regular deed issued by the Government through the Interior Department.

The action of the Choctaw executive is regarded as of great importance, owing to the fact that it will probably be the result of clouding the title to every tract of land deeded to by him to an allottee. During the present week an official report will be made

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on the situation by the Dawes Commission and a definite policy decided upon by the Department of the Interior. The complications of this problem and the probable reopening of the citizenship cases, supposed to have been finally adjudicated by the citizenship court, has given the Dawes Commission an interesting week.

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MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, Ind. Ter.,
May 19, 1905
Vol. 10 No. 25
Willis Choate, Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON DEEDS BY GREEN McCURTAIN

Muskogee:

The Dawes commission has received a communication from Green McCurtain, governor of the Choctaw Indian nation, in which he sets forth his opinion on the delivery of patents to the Choctaw allottees without the approval of the secretary of the interior. McCurtain says there is no law, made either by treaty or by congress, which authorizes the secretary of the interior to interfere with the delivery of deeds. He also makes some sarcastic remarks in reference to Mr. Hitchcock, whom he charges with meddling. One of the statements made is, "I do not presume that the secretary of the interior has universal power."

This caustic remark was called forth by a decision of the department of justice defining the powers

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of the secretary of the interior. Governor McCurtain's communication is an independent and saucy one. The Choctaw chief also states that he has delivered nearly all the **eight** thousand patents sent him, and if the Dawes commission refuses to forward the deeds he will call in the certificates of allotment which have been issued to Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens, and will issue deed of his own making. This, he insists, according to the treaties and the act of congress, is perfectly legal.

He also says he has had a conference with Governor Johnston of the Chickasaw nation, and the policy as outlined above has been agreed upon. The patents which are being delivered will be recorded in the recording districts, instead of with the Dawes commission. Secretary Hitchcock has ordered the Dawes commission to not deliver any more deeds to the belligerent governors. The Indian chiefs have been fully advised by their attorneys, who insist that they are proceeding according to the acts of congress and the Indian treaties.

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THE MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

Muskogee, Indian Territory
Thursday, June 29, 1905
Volume 4, No. 268
Clarence B. Douglas, Editor

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

June 28.

The Choctaw Council convened here Tuesday in special session, pursuant to call of Governor Green McCurtain. There has been much speculation as to what purposes the Governor had in mind convening the council, many supposing that the matter of tribal taxes and the subject of land patents would be brought up. The Governor's message, however, will ignore these topics completely, concerning itself principally with the disposition of the coal lands, distribution of surplus lands, school facilities for children of full bloods, and the designation of some properly constituted authority for winding up the affairs of the nation after expiration of the tribal government. Following is the message in full:

To the Senate and House of

Representatives of the Choctaw

Council, in Extraordinary Session Assembled.

Gentlemen:

I have convened you respective bodies in extraordinary session for the purpose of taking such action as is best calculated to further protect the interest of the Choctaw people in the final disposition of their affairs.

END OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

It is evident to all who are conversant with tribal matters that it will be physically impossible to wind up the business relations with the Government of the United States within the time limit prescribed by treaty.

It is equally apparent that it will be necessary, in order to properly guard the common interest, that Council shall lodge the unfinished work into competent hands. In vesting this authority, care should be taken that the act designed for that purpose be so reasonable in its nature that it will appeal with such force as will lead Congress to accept and adopt the suggestions contained therein. The absolute necessity of immediate legislation in this respect is so pressing and important that I felt impelled to convene your respective bodies for that purpose.

SEGREGATED COAL LAND

The coal lands that have been set apart from the common domain of the Choctaw Nation have not been disposed of, as contemplated by the Supplementary agreement. The bids received for these lands under the sealed bid plan, proved to be wholly inadequate, and, upon the recommendation of the coal commissioners, were rejected by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior. Council should devise some plan that will be concurred in by the Choctaw legislature and ratified by Congressional Action, for the final disposition of this property. These lands represent the most

valuable undivided asset of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people; and for that reason great care and mature judgment should be exercised in vesting the authority to dispose of the same, to the end that something like their real value may be obtained. I therefore suggest that Council enter into a full consideration of this subject in order that the above results may be reached.

SURPLUS LAND

It is estimated that there will be several million acres of surplus land to be disposed of after allotments have been fully completed. This is an important matter that should receive your serious attention, and some steps should be taken looking to a wise disposition of the same.

SCHOOL FOR FULLBLOODS

The most serious solicitude that I entertained when entering into a treaty with the Government, was in behalf of our fullblood people. I felt then, and I feel now, that they are so utterly unprepared to meet new conditions that it seems almost a crime to force this change upon them. I realized fully at that time the unfortunate results that would spring therefrom; but the fullblood tide of public opinion was then against us and was sweeping everything before it, and merely resolved itself into a choice between two evils. In the matter of the education of the children of this class, I feel a grave concern.

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The disposition of these people are such that their children, by reason of their pride and racial characteristics, will not suffer the humiliation that will be heaped on them as a result of race prejudice in mixed schools; this will result in the withdrawal of these children from these schools. The evils here complained of have been manifested, more or less, even in our own national schools between the half-breeds and full-bloods, and it is certain to be more pronounced and far-reaching in the schools of the future.

I, for that reason, recommend that some provision be made that would tend to furnish schools for these children, that are practical and best suited to their needs in order that their material progress and advancement may continue along the lines of their fixed character and traditional surroundings.

CONCLUSION

The work in hand ought to be vigorously taken hold of and pushed to a speedy conclusion. The time has arrived when we must act with energy and determination. The United States Government, through its various departments, are disposed to accord us fair consideration in matters touching our interests and it becomes our duty to fully express the opinions we entertain relative to this interest. I earnestly hope that you will fully comprehend action, to the end that we may protect this interest in which we all feel a serious concern.

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EARLY ADJOURNMENT

While no undue haste is insisted upon, it is to be hoped that Council will take up these various matters at once with the full determination to act intelligently in behalf of one common interest, and that, upon conclusion of their work, will promptly adjourn. I shall submit by special message such other observations as may occur to me as proper during your deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

GREEN McCURTAIN.

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THE MANNSVILLE NEWS

Mannsville, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, Sept. 15, 1905
Vol. 2 No. 12
Dr. O. Wood, Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

South McAlester.

Think of a man sitting at his desk for a year writing his own name over and over -- nothing else but his name.

This is the unusual task before Governor Green McCurtain of the Choctaw Nation, who is now busy signing the thousands of deeds to Choctaw lands which will be distributed among individual allottees.

Governor McCurtain has been at work on the deeds for about seven weeks. He averages three thousand signatures per week, and at this rate he will be completing the task in about one year from date.

"It is a tiresome and monotonous task," said the governor. "If I could but have something else to write except my own name then it would not wear so on me, but the arm movement is always the same, and it produces cramp or 'pen' rheumatism."

Some mathematical genius could find recreation if he would but figure out how many barrels of ink Governor McCurtain will use before

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all of the Choctaw patents are issued. The number of steel pens worn out might also add to the gaiety of the civersion and be of some interest.

George Scott, secretary and treasurer of the Choctaw nation, and Governor McCurtain's almost constant companion, says the chief of the Choctaws starts in some days and works on the deeds eighteen hours at a stretch.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory
Thursday, October 5, 1905
Volume 20, No. 21
Paul B. Smith, Editor

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

To the Senate and
House of Representatives:

Gentlemen:

The convening of the last General Council, so close upon the dissolution of Tribal Government, on March 4, 1906, clearly indicates that no further legislation looking to the betterment of our condition could become effective before the end of our government.

As Chief Executive, I became so thoroughly imbued with this idea that I convened an extraordinary session of Council in June for the purpose of such legislation as I deemed absolutely necessary to protect our interest in the final disposition of our affairs.

It is clear to the thinking mind that our property will not be divided and the funds equally distributed on March 4, 1906, as contemplated by the Treaties. It is also apparent that any legislation effecting the joint property, to become valid, would have to receive the concurrence of the Chickasaw Legislature; and that un-

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less reasonable time were given for this purpose, no legislation could be had. I therefore deem it my duty to convene council and point out these facts; and urge the enactment of some measure looking to a proper and final disposition of our coal and asphalt lands, and also the extension of such authority already vested in the Chief Executive to act in behalf the Nation after March 4, 1906.

In conformity with these recommendations the special session adopts an act favorable to extending to your Chief Executive authority to act for the Nation beyond March 4, 1906, and by an Act, in which the Chickasaw Legislature must concur, it empowered your Chief Executive to take the necessary steps to dispose of, at its full value, the segregated coal and asphalt lands of the Choctaw-Chickasaw Nations.

SURPLUS LANDS

After thoroughly canvassing the situation I have reached the conclusion that the Government of the United States is fixed in its determination not to allot the surplus lands among the members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Its anxiety to close up matters here and thereby avoid the expense incident thereto, has become so intense that I feel that any attempt to secure a change in the treaty in this regard would not be granted a respectful hearing.

I do not believe it wise to urge a change in this parti-

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cular direction, as it might seriously jeopardize our interest in more important matters.

FINAL SETTLEMENT

It is evident that a final settlement with the Government will not be had on March 4, 1906. There is no question as to the feeling of sore disappointment among our citizens generally over the failure of the Government to live up to the terms of our treaty by affecting a full settlement before tribal government ended.

So far as my efforts are concerned, no stone has been left unturned to secure a speedy conclusion to this end. The fault therefore can not be attributed to your local administration, but is rather the result of a policy over which we have had no control.

The complications which have arisen in the settlement of this vast estate have been manifold however; and any criticism of those in authority might have a tendency to attach where it does not belong. Under the authority to act for the Nation after the end of tribal government, I shall deem it my sacred duty to protect our mutual interest by every means at my command. The confidence you have reposed in me shall in no wise be shaken by any questionable act of mine. As the trustee of this valuable property I shall at all times labor to secure a fair and equitable distribution of the funds among the owners thereof.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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The Constitutional Convention that assembled at Muskogee has completed its labors and will submit the Constitution adopted to a popular vote of the people on Tuesday, November 7, 1905.

This proposed fundamental law has received unstinted praise upon every hand. Its provisions were framed with the view of giving ample protection to every class of citizenship embraced in the boundary of the new state. I therefore respectfully recommend that the Council pass appropriate resolutions endorsing the action of said convention, and memorialize Congress to act in conformity therewith.

CHICKASAW FREEDMEN

By the terms of the Supplementary Agreement (Sec. 40), it was provided that the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes should make final allotments of land to the Chickasaw freedmen, and in event it should be determined by a suit to be hereafterwards instituted that the Chickasaw freedmen were not entitled to allotments in the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands, the Court of Claims should render a decree in favor of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations according to their respective interests, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Pursuant to the provisions of this Act a suit was instituted in the Court of Claims by bill filed by the Attorney General of the United States, requiring the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and the

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Chickasaw freedmen to interplead and settle their respective rights. In this suit it was decided by the court of Claims that the Chickasaw freedmen were not, independently of the Supplementary Agreement, entitled to allotments in the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands and that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations recover of the United States the value of the lands allotted to the said freedmen, as directed by statute. This case was carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, on cross-appeals by the United States Government, and the Chickasaw freedmen, and the decision of the Court of Claims was there affirmed. It was ordered by the Court of Claims as a part of its decree, that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations have leave to apply for an additional decree upon the coming in of the roll of the Chickasaw freedmen and the appraisement of the allotments made to them by the Dawes Commission, determining the amount to be paid by the United States to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, as directed by the statute.

I have not been advised whether or not the roll of the Chickasaw freedmen, and the appraisement of allotments to them have been completed by the Dawes Commission. But it is my purpose to ascertain the status of this matter at an early date, and if the roll and appraisements have been completed, to join the Chickasaws in an application for an additional decree determining the amount due the Choctaws and Chickasaws respectively. Whatever sum may be found to be due us will have to be appropriated by Act of Congress, and it is my desire to get the matter adjusted at the forthcoming session.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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It certainly ought to be a source of gratificatiin to our people generally that the Choctaw Nation is out of debt and has a surplus of \$40,000 in the national treasury, subject to the payment of the regular necessary expense of the Choctaw government. The present excellent condition of our financial affairs is attributed largely to the vigorous efforts of our district collectors in the collection of roy alties due the nation, and the good showing made by the various counties in their quarterly reports filed with the national treasurer.

DELIVERY OF PATENTS

The delay in the execution and delivery of the patents to the allotments was the result of the insistence of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior that his approval was necessary in order to render a valid title. As Chief Executive I earnestly contend that no such authority had been conferred on the Department by either the treaty or Act of Congress, and that his approval of the patents was therefore unnecessary. The Department was backed in its opinion by the Honorable Attorney General of the United States, which upheld the right of the Department to with-hold the patents until the demand in this particular was acceded to. After

After much serious reflection I felt that perhaps the controversy was a needless one, resulting in delay that was working a

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great hardship upon the Choctaw people. So I thereupon directed our National Delegate, D. C. McCurtain, to proceed to Washington and adjust the matter upon the part of the Choctaw Nation.

It was agreed, between the H_onorable S_ecretary of the Interior and our Delegate, that the patents should be transmitted to me by special messenger from the D_awes Commission for signature; that the same patents should be taken in the same manner to the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation for his signature; then taken back to the D_awes Commission to be forwarded, through the office of the Commissioner of Indian affairs, to the secretary of the Interior for his approval; and when approved to be returned to the Commission for record, and when recorded the Choctaw patents to be sent to me, by special messenger from the Commission, for delivery to the allottees; and in like manner the Chickasaw patents to be sent to the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation for delivery.

It has been suggested to me recently that I request the Department to deliver the patents to the allottees; notwithstanding the Treaty explicitly points out that it is my duty to "execute and deliver" the same. I therefore decline to adopt the suggestion, and shall insist upon the delivery of the patents as heretofore agreed upon.

Pursuant to this agreement, the Commission has transmitted to me one-third or more of the patents for my signature, and if the work proceeds without further interruption the bulk of the patents ought to be in the hands of the allottees in a short time.

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It has been my steadfast purpose to live up to the treaties and to urge the government of the United States to do so. The distinction you have conferred upon me, as a leader and last chief executive, renders it my double duty to exhaust every effort in your behalf, and I feel that I have taken no action in connection with the patent controversy that will not meet your hearty approbation.

CONCLUSION

In addressing your body for the last time I cannot suppress the sentiment we all must feel in common over the arrival of the fateful day when we must relinquish the institutions which we have learned to understand and cherish and face a future filled with a strange uncertainty and seeming lack of interest in our welfare. It may be that during the brief period of transition our people have learned much that will be of value to them in after years. It may be that a majority of them will adopt frugal habits and ⁹⁰⁰thorough energetic efforts keep pace with the advances of civilization; and that after all, the things that seem most distasteful now may in the end prove blessings in disguise. I feel at any rate that this is the proper view to take of the change now upon us, and that it is the duty of those who understand the situation to teach their less fortunate neighbors the necessity of thrift and economy in order that they may conform to the new conditions and reap whatever benefits that merit deserves. It is not unreasonable to hope that in the years to come the high standard of citizenship of the new state may be

attributable, in a large measure, to those who can proudly lay claim to their Choctaw ancestry.

I shall submit for your consideration and action, by special messenger, such other suggestions as may seem appropriate before your final adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Prin. Chief, Choctaw Nation.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.,
Thursday, Nov. 30, 1905
Vol. 12, No. 51
U. S. Russell, Editor

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Today, Gov. Green McCurtain transmitted the following message to the tribal council in session here:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Gentlemen:

I am informed that some of the Council object to the setting aside of the land necessary for the successful operation of the Murrow Orphan Home, which is now in course of construction in the western portion of the Choctaw nation. I feel a sincere interest in the welfare of this home, and I sincerely desire to see the Council act magnanimously in the matter. The traditions of our honored forefathers have left to us a precept and example in this respect that we can not afford to ignore. The charter of this home leaves no room to think for a moment that there is any

sort of scheme behind the efforts of the noble people, who have gratuitously donated their time and money, in behalf of a helpless people. Our forefathers took pride in rewarding the good missionaries who came among us for the purpose of bettering our condition materially, spiritually and morally. The earnest work they have performed among our people in the past, has been a labor of love; and we can not, at this late date, with good grace show that we are lacking in appreciation. The result of this grand work is apparent, in the noble character and christian spirit that finds lodgment in the homes and firesides of the great majority of the Choctaw people. It has been urged by some good people who oppose this donation, that it is a whiteman's scheme, and that it ought not therefore pass. In this they are very much mistaken--as there are many Indians by blood among the directors of the home. Its charter forbids any personal advantage to any save the helpless Choctaw, for whom it is designated. I feel it necessary for these reasons to appeal to your better natures and sincerely trust that you will grant this simple request. If this request is not granted, and the land donated; this home with its eighty-five inmates of Choctaw parentage will be thrown

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out of a home and left to the tender mercies of a
friendless fate. I submit in view of this condition
that council could not afford to deny these helpless
people a Christian training that this home accords
them. I hope you in your wisdom, will see proper to
accept these views and adopt them. I feel sure that
in after years you will have no cause to regret having
given this charitable cause the aid here requested.

I believe in doing this you will add to your own
happiness by the fact that you have done what you
could for those who most need your charity, as well
as add to your own peace of mind in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Principal Chief, C. N.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, April 12, 1906

Volume 21, No. 48

Pahl B. Smith, Editor

DEATH OF JEFFERSON GARDNER

Jefferson Gardner, ex-governor of the Choctaw nation, died at Idabel on Friday morning, April 6, after an illness of five days from pneumonia.

Mr. Gardner had been attending court at Antlers and was on his way to his home in Eagletown. He became ill on the train and stopped at Idabel. He grew rapidly worse until the end came on Friday morning.

Mr. Gardner was about sixty years of age and had lived all his time in the Choctaw nation. Ten years ago he served one term as governor. He was very popular with the Indian people and was a man of exceptional attainments.

The remains were buried at Eagletown.

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THE MANNSVILLE NEWS

Mannsville, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, June 15, 1906
Vol. 2 51
Geo. E. Wood, Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

Kinta.

Governor Green McCurtain has about completed the execution of the deeds of allotments in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, and this week is busy signing up conveyances of town lots. About 7,500 deeds were received by the governor last week to lots in townsites throughout the two nations, which have been sold within the past three years, and it will probably take him about a week or ten days to complete the work of signing them. Among the lot were seven South McAlester deeds, conveying parcels which had not hitherto been decided.

The clerical work involved in the execution of so many instruments is tremendous, and grows very monotonous and tiresome. The governor has signed up altogether about 100,000 deeds, most of which are on file in the vaults of the Dawes commission, but which will be delivered to the grantees upon application and the fulfillment of the requisite formalities.

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THE DAILY ARDMOREITE

Ardmore, I. T.
Monday Evening, October 8, 1906
Vol. 13, No. 121
Editor's name not given.

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Governor Green McCurtain, chief of the Choctaws, in his message to the last tribal legislature in session at Tuskahoma the past week, dealt with public questions as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Gentlemen:

Shortly before the adjournment of the last council, congress by appropriate legislation extended the tribal government for the purpose of effecting a final settlement of our affairs. It was the intention of congress to continue the existence of the tribal government as then constituted by retaining in office those who were then acting in that capacity. As an evidence of this purpose and intention on the part of congress, the president was given authority to remove from office the chief executive, for cause, and to appoint in his place some member of the

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tribe. And accordingly the interior department virtually held a few days prior to the time for holding an election that another election was unnecessary.

The last congress passed another act abridging our rights and further tying our hands in the participation in the settlement of our affairs. Under the recent legislation of congress contained in the so-called Curtis bill no resolution or act of council is valid without the approval of the president. We are virtually denied the right to any choice in the settlement of our estate. The interior department has acted with much severity toward the Choctaw people. We can no longer regard the present secretary as a friend. He has in an arbitrary way usurped authority that does not and never did belong to his office. The most recent and flagrant act of usurpation of authority is the denial of the right of the national treasurer to pay the national warrants issued for legitimate expenses of the Choctaw government in payment of salaries of officers for services rendered. Under the arbitrary ruling of the department our courts have been completely suspended on the account of lack of funds. Many criminals that were under arrest cannot be tried because the courts have no funds to pay witnesses who must be summoned to testify in criminal proceedings. The net result is that this

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class of criminals has been turned loose in our midst to again prey upon society.

The most valuable portion of the Choctaw estate, the coal lands, seem to be a toy in the hands of the department to be disposed of in a most haphazard manner. The secretary of the interior agreed and urged upon the last congress that the department be allowed to determine the price of these lands and that the coal lessees be given the preference right of purchase. The proposition became a stench in the nostrils of decent and honest men when it became known. Senator LaFollette denounced it as an outrage and thereby performed for the Choctaw people a great service. It will be appropriate for the council to suggest a plan whereby these lands shall be sold. The senate committee that visits us shortly should be informed, and I suggest a commission be provided for. The last council passed appropriate resolutions along this line detailing the wishes of the Choctaw people, in the matter, and forwarded the same to the president through the department, but for some reason this expression of our views did not reach the chief executive. I suggest that a similar resolution be forwarded to the president through a different channel in order that he may know our wishes.

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I think it desirable that you should bring your deliberations to a speedy conclusion. Congress has seen fit to limit the session of council to thirty days. It may be best, and I suggest the wisdom of adjourning as soon as possible in order that we may preserve as much time after the convening of congress to the end that we may more thoroughly protect our interests after the meeting of the body.

It has been my pleasure to serve you in the past as faithfully as I know how. The end of tribal life is at hand. Let us unitedly make the last stand in the effort to protect our interests. I firmly believe in the divine prophecy that no question is ever settled until it is settled right.

Respectfully submitted.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation.

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THE McALESTER DAILY CAPITAL

McAlester, Oklahoma,
Tuesday, October 8, 1907
Vol. 12, No. 108
Melven Cornish, President

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 8.

The following is the annual message of Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, to the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in regular session assembled.

Gentlemen:

For the past eight years and more our tribal government has been in progress of dissolution and since the convening of your body in regular session in October 1905, it has been expected that each successive session would be the last one. By the terms of our agreement with the United States government, concluded April 23, 1897, and ratified by congress June 28, 1898, known as the Atoka Agreement, it was provided that our tribal government should terminate March 4, 1906; but owing

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to the unsettled condition of our tribal affairs at the time agreed upon for the dissolution of our government, congress deemed it necessary that our tribal authorities be continued for an indeterminate period, and it was accordingly provided that our tribal government, with some modifications, be continued until further direction of congress.

While our government in its modified form is without power or authority to enact any constructive legislation, yet there are many matters of interest and importance to the Choctaw Nation and people which should receive your attention and mine; and shall endeavor in this formal communication to present to you the important affairs of our tribe as they have come under my observation in the course of my duty as your chief executive, and make such recommendations as my very best judgment affords.

First, I desire to make mention of the visit of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Garfield, to our Council House, where he met and freely conferred with many of our leading and representative citizens. In an address the secretary briefly but clearly outlined to us his policy with respect to many of them in a manner which indicated his interest

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and his fairness the secretary gave most respectful attention to what we had to say concerning the various matters of interest to the tribe. After the formal meeting here in the hall of representatives the secretary met many of the citizens present and discussed with them the affairs of the tribe generally and of the individual members personally, and in this way he learned from, the Choctaw people themselves the exact state of their tribal affairs. It is, therefore, my confident belief, and I am glad to express it to you, that the secretary's visit to and conference with our citizens will not be without benefit to the Choctaw people.

I pass now to a discussion of the particular interests of the tribe.

COAL AND ASPHALT LANDS DEPOSITS

Secretary Garfield, in the course of his address to us last August, said that the department rather favored the immediate sale of the surface of the coal lands to actual settlers; but as to the coal, it was desired to make further investigation of its extent and value, which would be done right away under provision of law already made, and that, therefore, the

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matter of the final disposition of the coal must be left to future legislation by congress.

This proposed plan to separate the surface from the coal in the sale is remarkable for its departure from the agreement we had with the United States government to sell the lands and the coal together; and we should, therefore, canvas the new situation very closely in order that we may judge, so far as we can, of its probable effect on the tribal interests and then take whatever course is open to us in our own behalf.

I am frank to state that the plan to sell the land and the coal separately doesn't appeal to my judgment of what is best for the tribes in the premises, so far as regards a profitable disposition of these interests, and I shall briefly and in a general way discuss the proposition here, submitting whatever recommendations I have to make, then I shall solicit your opinion and abide your judgment as to what course we shall pursue as a tribe respecting the proposed plan of sale of our coal and asphalt interests.

The fact that the government now proposes to abandon the plan of sale provided in the tribal agreement makes it imperative that the tribes renew their

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interest in the matter and ask for recognition and consideration in the formulation of other plans, if any, for the sale of our coal and asphalt lands and deposits. If any blame attaches to us in this matter, it is by reason of our failure to display a sufficient amount of interest in the final disposition of our affairs, including the coal and asphalt. The Indians, as a race, are too prone to accept a situation as a condition and suffer the consequences without making any effort to change the situation. In this particular matter of our coal and asphalt interests, we negotiated and entered into an agreement with the government of the United States for the sale of the same, and quit at that, without manifesting any further apparent interest in the carrying out of the plans, agreed upon, trusting to the mechanical operation of the law for the desired results. On the other hand, those whose interests are opposed to or in conflict with ours, the coal lessees, operators and their agents, are industriously and continuously laboring to change the law and the tribal agreements and to procure legislation favorable to themselves. If then the tribes "rest on their oars", so to speak, and content themselves with what has already been done in the way of past legislation, and interpose

no objection to the changing of that legislation, they will be taken to assent to whatever changes are made or proposed.

I would, therefore, recommend, that you memorialize the president and the congress of the United States, setting forth clearly your objections to the proposed plan to sell the coal lands surface and the coal separately, and state whatever views you care to urge respecting the sale and manner of sale of said coal and asphalt lands and deposits.

PROPOSED TIMBER RESERVE

By order of the former secretary of the interior, Mr. Hitchcock, a certain tract of our timber land (the legal description of which I have not before me) was reserved from allotment. That segregation, with some changes as to area, still stands, and if the purposes and plans as indicated by the department at the time the reservation was made are carried out the effect will be to cancel all allotments heretofore made which are embraced within the limits of the segregation.

There are many reasons why this segregation of lands should not be permitted to stand, and especially with its present limits, chief among which is the fact

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that it embraces allotments of many of our citizens and these allotments should not be cancelled. If the allottees within this segregation, who are for the most part full-bloods, should be forced to give up their allotments it would be a great hardship on them in more ways than one; in addition to being forced to give up their homes with a life-long attachment therefor, they would be required to seek allotments elsewhere and for this they are poorly prepared, besides about all the desirable lands are allotted and what little remains seems to be in the control of the speculators and land grafters. To force the fullbloods to seek homes and allotments under conditions like these would be to force upon them hardships that scarcely any of them would be able to weather.

Another objection is that the segregation with its present limits embraces land that has no timber on it at all. It is probable that in some instances the records of the government, by mistake, show land to have on it timber of commercial value, when as a matter of fact it has no timber of any kind; in other cases; and in many of them, the timber has been cut off by lumber companies and today the land is completely denuded of timber. Manifestly it would be improper

and wrong to reserve for timber purposes land on which no timber is standing.

It has occurred to me, and I submit it to you for your consideration, that if the government is determined to make a timber preserve here and can be induced to respect the allotments already made within the proposed reserve or preserve, and will exclude all land that is not valuable for timber, we might indicate our willingness that the government acquire the land and timber from the tribes at a fair valuation. The few full-blood allottees who might be included within the timber preserve would in no wise molest the timber outside of their allotments, besides being surrounded by land under the protection of the government they themselves would be free from molestation by outside parties and could enjoy their ideal life. If you agree with my deas about this you should pass a suitable memorial and submit it to the proper authorities.

SCHOOLS

There is a condition with respect to the a maintenance of schools in our nation, which, if true as represented to me, should be by you called to the

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attention of the authorities of the United States government with an urgent request that it be corrected. It is said that in several localities schools are being maintained and the teachers paid in part from the Choctaw funds, when as a matter of fact there are no Indian children in attendance at such schools. The particular instances reported to me in which such condition is said to exist include the schools of or at Tamaha, I. T., Alikehi, I. T., and Sulphur Springs school in Sugar Loaf county. If it is true that these schools are being maintained partly from the tribal funds when no members of the tribe are attending it is not improbable that there are other instances of the same kind.

I would, therefore, recommend that you pass a proper resolution asking the United States Indian inspector to instruct the superintendent of schools to furnish the tribal authorities with a statement showing the number of schools that are maintained fully or in part from the tribal funds, the number of Indian pupils attending each such teachers at the respective schools. Secretary Garfield, on the occasion of his recent visit here, said that at any time we desired any information concerning the affairs

of our tribe, such as the amount of the coal royalty receipts, disbursements for school purposes, etc., we should be furnished with such information by the local officers of the department, and I am sure if you will pass such resolutions the information you ask for will be cheerfully given.

CLAIMS

There are many claims pending against the Choctaw nation in the courts at Washington, D. C., as there always will be so long as the Indians have any undivided and available funds, and to these I wish to call your attention with the request that you familiarize yourselves with them somewhat and take whatever steps are within your power individually as well as collectively to protect the interests of the nation.

The Pitchlynn claim, so-called, is a claim made by the heirs of Peter Pitchlynn, deceased, for money, corn, etc., said to have been advanced by Pitchlynn during his life time to indigent Choctaws in war times. In this claim an itemized account is submitted showing various articles said to have been furnished the Choctaws by Peter Pitchlynn, and in these statements values are given to the various

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articles and interest charged since the time of their alleged advancement. My opinion is that there is absolutely no merit in this claim whatever, so far as it is a claim against the Choctaw nation, for taken on its face it would impart nothing more than a personal obligation between Peter Fitchlynn as benefactor and those to whom he made advancements, who might be said to have been beneficiaries; for this the Choctaw nation or tribe is in no way responsible or chargeable. And it is strange enough that Peter Fitchlynn during all his intimate association and connection with the public affairs of the Choctaw nation never, so far as my information goes, set up any claim on the account now presented by his heirs. However, suit has been authorized, and I presume that it will be brought in due course.

There is also another claim known as the Charles F. Winton claim. The basis of this claim is for alleged services rendered the Mississippi Choctaws by Winton and his associates, including Robert L. Owen. I understand, also, that one James E. Arnold has been permitted by the court of claims to intervene in this suit, as he claims to have been associated with Winton and Owen in their alleged services to

the Mississippi Choctaws. This suit is not against the Choctaw nation further than the Choctaw nation has been summoned to appear in the case. It is well enough, however, that the case be given strict attention on account of our unfortunate brothers, the Mississippi Choctaws, who seem to be the central figure about which the whole controversy revolves.

While there is little or nothing that can be done by the council that would affect these claims, as they are now pending in the courts and will be finally adjudicated there, yet I feel that you, as the representatives of the Choctaw people, should be appraised of these pending claims that you may co-operate with me in an effort to successfully defend the interests of the nation.

This concludes my annual or general message to you, and if in the course of the session other matters arise in which you desire my recommendations I will be glad to communicate further with you by special message.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

GREEN McCURTAIN,

THE DAILY ARDMORRITE

Ardmore, I. T.

Sunday Morning, Oct. 13, 1907

Vol. 14 No. 121

Sidney Suggs, President

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

Muskogee, I. T.,

Oct. 12.

In his annual message to the Choctaw legislature now in session Governor Green McCurtain takes vigorous issue with the government on important matters now pending in that nation and urges the Choctaws to guard their interests.

He says that the coal interests operating in the Choctaw nation are working night and day to secure amendments to the treaty agreement under which the coal lands are to be sold, and that the Choctaws are sitting idly by trusting that the government will carry out the treaty, a supposition the chief seems to think very doubtful. He asks the legislature to pass a resolution opposing the proposed plan of separating the surface and mineral

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rights and selling the surface separately from the coal in the segregation.

It is further requested that the legislature pass a resolution denouncing the plan of the secretary of the interior to create a large timber reserve in the Choctaw nation and to cancel the allotments of all Indians who have their homes there. The governor says that there is no more good land for these Indians to select, and what there is, is in the control of land grafters against whom the Indian would stand a mighty poor chance of getting an allotment of value. Furthermore, these Indians have from choice made their homes in this timber area for half a century and it is wrong for the government to try to force them to leave their old homes and select land elsewhere.

Another startling condition to which the attention of the legislature is called is that there are schools being maintained from funds drawn from the Choctaw nation in which there is not a single Indian child, and the specific instances pointed out are the schools at Tamaha, Alichko and in Sugar Loaf county. The governor recommends that the legislature demand from the government school

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authorities a complete list of all Indian children
in attendance at various schools in the Choctaw
nation.

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THE DEWEY WORLD

Dewey, Oklahoma
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1908
Vol. 2 No. 49
W. E. Dixon, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

The next big Indian payment to be made to the five civilized tribes will be about \$300,000 to the owners of improvements on the segregated coal land in the Choctaw nation. The schedule shows over 480 owners of such improvements which will net them individually about \$750. In addition to this they get regular allotments elsewhere in the nation.

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THE DEWEY WORLD

Dewey, Oklahoma
Thursday, Sept. 10, 1908
Vol. 3 No. 27
W. E. Dixon, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW-CHICKASAWS

Muskogee.

Commissioner J. Geo. Wright has ordered a field party of government clerks out for the purpose of taking proof of the three years' bona fide residence of the Mississippi Choctaws allotted in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, which is required before the patents to their land can be issued to them.

The Mississippi Choctaws, nearly 2,000 of them, were brought from Mississippi by the government and fed for a year while their allotments were being made. To insure their return to their native haunts in Mississippi, the government required them to live on their allotments three years before they could get title. The field party will be at Stigler, Sep-

tember 14; Wilburton, 15; Kiowa, 16; Atoka, 17; Durrant, 18; Hugo, 21; Idabel, 22; Ardmore, 24 and 25; Ravia, 26; Ada, 28; Pauls Valley, 30; Tuttle October 2.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
Friday, October 16, 1908
Vol. 5, No. 50
C. D. Gibbs, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

Governor Green McCurtain, of the Choctaw Indians, in his message to the Choctaw legislature recommends an early settlement of all tribal matters with strict adherence to tribal treaties, the sale of 2,000,000 acres of surplus lands, including the forest, coal and asphalt lands, opposes the reopening of the citizenship rolls and recommends that the Indian council pass upon certain applications for enrollment, and suggests that a commission composed of three members, two of whom shall be Indians a Choctaw and a Chickasaw, be appointed to appraise and offer for sale the coal and asphalt land.

THE QUINTON PIONEER

Quinton, Pittsburg County Oklahoma
Vol. 8, No. 17
Friday, December 30, 1910
C. F. Benedict, Editor

OBITUARY ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain, governor of the Choctaw nation and principal chief of that one of the five civilized tribes, died at his home at Kinta at 1 o'clock, Dec. 27, at the age of 68, surrounded by the members of his family, including D. C. McCurtain, his son, whose law firm are the attorneys for the Choctaw nation. The immediate cause of his death was erysipelas in his face. He is survived by his widow, his son, D. C., a daughter, the wife of George W. Scott, former secretary-treasurer of the nation, two younger daughters and a son un-married.

He was accounted a wealthy man, leaving a large estate.

Governor McCurtain was a man of remarkable native ability. He served his people as legislator, as national treasurer and for many years as governor.

He was elected at least four terms as governor,

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the last time since October, 1902, when he was elected for life after one of the bitterest contests in the history of the tribe, the supplementary treaty being the campaign issue. Governor McCurtain had favored the treaty. He had had a hand in drafting it. The then governor, Gilbert Dukes, opposed it and his candidate was T. W. Hunter, then of Caddo.

The meeting of the council was so strenuous that federal troops were brought in at the request of Indian agent J. Blair Schoenfelt. Governor Dukes had his armed light horse in possession of the council chamber, while the McCurtain forces camped outside.

Governor McCurtain had two brothers, Jack and Edmund, all three of them were at different times governor of the Choctaws, Jack serving two terms and Edmund one.

He was one of the first Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes who recognized the wiping out of the tribes was inevitable. When the first Dawes commission came to treat with the Indians looking to allotment of the tribal lands in severalty and the creation of the state, Governor McCurtain was friendly.

Governor McCurtain was of massive physique. He was a vigorous fighter who never knew defeat. The

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stories of his exploits in Choctaw politics would fill
an interesting book.

The funeral was held at Kinta Thursday afternoon.

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MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, Oklahoma
Friday, January 6, 1911
Vol. 15, No. 48
H. W. Choate, Proprietor

APPOINTMENT OF D. C. McCURTAIN

McAlester, Okla., Jan. 3.

D. C. McCurtain of this city this evening received a telegram from Secretary of the Interior Ballinger advising him that the President had commissioned him as principal chief of the Choctaw Nation to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Gov. Green McCurtain, which occurred last week.

There were many applicants for the place. The President has set aside the tribal law, which passes the succession first to the President of the Senate and next to the speaker of the house.

The appointment came to Mr. McCurtain unsolicited. He is a son of the late Governor, is 38 years of age and a lawyer. He was educated in Missouri and Virginia, later taking a course of law in Washington. For some three years, since the dissolution of the firm of Mans-

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field, McMurray and Cornish, he, with his law partner,
E. P. Hill, has represented the Choctaw Nation as
general counsel.

He was advised by the Secretary to come to
Washington at once, but one of his children is very
ill with scarlet fever and he can not leave at present.

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THE ARDMORE STATESMAN

Ardmore, Oklahoma
December 18, 1919
Vol. 13, No. 42
E. L. Gregory, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAWS

Antlers.-- To get early action on the tribal affairs of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, and to clear up alleged indefinite points in the treaties of 1865 and 1866, and arrange for the disposal of mineral rights at a fair price to the tribes, a meeting of the Choctaws has been called at Hugo, December 18 by a committee of interested members of the tribe.

Resolutions passed at a meeting held here recently declare the recent sales of mineral rights have been disappointing to the two nations and some new plan will be worked out at the Hugo meeting with recommendations to the proper government officials to get early action. It is pointed out that the interest of the two nations in what is known as the "leased district" has never been definitely settled.

The value of the tribal lands was appraised at \$15,000,000, but at the sales a year ago only

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\$1,000,000 was realized while the last sales totalled but \$11,000. Coal and asphalt lands have failed to bring good prices they say, and much of this property has not been sold. Many tribal matters are still unsettled. The Hugo meeting will be non-political, according to the committee calling it.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
September 29, 1927
Vol. 24, No. 2
R. M. McCool, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF V. M. LOCKE

Antlers, Okla., Sept., 27 -- Victor Locke jr., former superintendent of the five civilized tribes and prominent in Indian and political circles of Oklahoma for many years, was a prisoner at the Pushmataha county jail Tuesday, awaiting arraignment Wednesday on a charge of murder, growing out of the shooting of Abner Battiste, 24-year-old Choctaw Indian.

Louie C. Gossett, county attorney, said that charges of murder would be filed Wednesday and then Locke would be arraigned in district court.

Friends of Locke assert that Battiste was shot after he had made derogatory remarks to two young girls, wards of Locks, who are students at the Goodland Indian school near Hugo, and who were visiting at Antlers.

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REFUSES TO MAKE STATEMENT

Battiste was shot once, the bullet entering his back near the shoulder and ranging upward. He was at his home, about four blocks from the home of Major Locke's father when shot at about 8:30 o'clock Monday night. After the shooting Locke surrendered to Nevin Kirkpatrick, sheriff. He refused to make a statement.

According to Gossett, Battiste had been at the home of the elder Locke and in an altercation Major Locke struck him with an Indian baseball club. Battiste fled and went to his home, after Locke had fired one shot at him and missed.

Locke is said to have gone to the Battiste home, in company with three minor Choctaw boys, Abenezer Wesley, Alfred Johnson, and Jackson Jones.

Locke was armed and when Battiste saw him he started running, and cried out, "Don't shoot."

Locke fired one shot from an automatic revolver at the man as he fled, Gossett said.

ADVANCED RAPIDLY IN ARMY

Locke has been prominent in Indian and political affairs of the state for many years. During the World

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war he served for two years with the grade of major, and has been identified with the reserve corps since leaving the service.

From 1911 to 1918 he was principal chief of the Choctaws after serving on the tribal council.

In 1921 he was appointed superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes by President Harding. He became engaged in a political fight with Miss Alice Robertson, congresswoman from Muskogee, which ended in the dismissal of Locke and appointment of Shade Wallen.

Locke's administration of the tribes bureau was made subject of an investigation by the department of interior, but no charges were filed as a result.

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JOHNSTON CO. CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston Co. Okla
Thursday, April 3rd, 1930

Vol. 12, No. 40

R. M. McCool) Editors
R. P. Smith)

OBITUARY ON J. F. McMURRAY

McAlester, March 31

Funeral services for J. F. McMurray, McAlester attorney, whose death occurred in Washington, D. C., yesterday afternoon, will be held here Wednesday afternoon. He was seventy years old.

One of the most colorful legal careers recorded in the Southwest closed with McMurray's death. As a legal representative of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian tribes, he figured in important national legislation that involved the lands of these people. His first notable public service, which finally paved the way for opening of Indian Territory lands to ownership by white men, was when he obtained insertion of a clause in the Atoka agreement, or the Choctaw -- Chickasaw treaty of 1898,

giving settlers holding town lots a right to
acquire title at one-half of appraised value.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Okla.,
Thursday, September 25, 1930
Vol. 30 No. 117
R. M. McCool,)
R. P. Smith,) Editors

NEWS ITEM OF BEN DWIGHT

Arrangements have been completed for the various conventions to be held by the citizens of the Choctaw Nation in all parts of the State where said citizens reside. At these conventions, which will be held simultaneously on September 27th, 1930, the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Dancing Rabbit treaty, the problems relating to the affairs of the Choctaw Nation will be discussed, and delegates to the national convention, which will be held in Durant, will be selected.

Many matters, such as the disposition of tribal coal properties, the educational problem, and the winding up of tribal affairs, is of vital interest not only to the citizens of the Choctaw Nation, but will also affect the state and federal government. It is the desire of the Choctaw people to work out definite policies with respect to such matters and, if possible, to complete as speedily as possible the winding up of

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the affairs of the Choctaw Nation.

At the various conventions to be held on September 27, 1930, the Choctaws living in the Chickasaw Nation will be entitled to select six delegates to represent them at the Durant convention; the Choctaws living in the old Oklahoma Territory, Creek Nation, Seminole Nation, will be entitled to choose three delegates, respectively; and the Choctaws living within the confines of each county within the Choctaw Nation will choose three delegates from each said county.

The Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Ben Dwight, has designated the following citizens of the Choctaw Nation to act as temporary chairman for their respective districts: W. A. Durant, Oklahoma City, for Oklahoma territory; George Hall, Seminole Nation, Newoks; Will Farver, Creek Nation, Muskogee; Allen Wright, Pittsburg County, McAlester; George Scott, Haskell County, Stigler; Joshua Anderson, Leflore County, Talihina; Cyrus Lewis, Latimer County, Lodi; P. W. Hudson, Pushmataha County, Antlers; James Dyer, McCurtain County, Broken Bow; T. W. Hunter, Choctaw County, Hugo; Frank Anderson, Bryan County, Henry Bond, Atoka County, Atoka; E. N. Wright, Coal County, Alney; Jackson Carnes, Ardmore, for the Chickasaw Nation.

The Choctaws living in the Chickasaw Nation
will meet at Ardmore on September 27, 1930, at 1:30 p.
m., with Jackson Cernes as the temporary chairman.

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THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

Feb. 28, 1937

From F. S. Barde Clipping File
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Okla.

EDITORIAL ON W. A. DURANT

W. A. Durant, 407 Northeast Fourteenth street, recently appointed chief of the Choctaw Indian tribe, Saturday announced he plans to move to Durant.

Durant said he is arranging his business interests here and will change his residence within the next few months. Durant, who has lived in the city since 1918, was appointed chief by President Roosevelt five weeks ago.

Durant returned to the city after making a 10-day inspection trip to familiarize himself more completely with tribal property in the southern and eastern parts of the state.

He visited the Jones academy for underprivileged full-blood boys, near Hartshorne, and the \$800,000 general hospital plant being built at Talihina by the government.

The appropriation was obtained from the last con-

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gress, Durant said, through tribal representatives
and Douglas Johnston, governor of the Chickasaw tribe.

Durant, a native Oklahoman, was born at
Bennington, Bryan county, in 1866. The town to which
he will move, once center of the Indian nation, was
named after his cousin, Dixon Durant, when the Katy
railroad built through his land in 1872.