

To Martin Van Buren, Esquire,
President of the
United States of America

We undesignated a Delegation from the Cherokee Nation, under a conviction of the injustice which has characterized the entire proceedings of the War Department towards them since their arrival at Washington, in December last, and claiming, as they sincerely hope to receive, the protection of the President, feel themselves constrained in the discharge of the high and national duties imposed upon them by their constituents to make the following brief representations—

We will not occupy the time of the President by embroiling herein, documents which have long since been printed showing that we come here with full power to confer with the authorities at Washington on all subjects which either party might present for consideration, and that a part of us were also sitting for a settlement of the accounts growing out of the removal of the Cherokees to the West of the Mississippi under the arrangements made with the U. States through Genl. Winfield Scott— nor will we, on the present occasion, call upon the President to hear our nation speak of the injuries ^{under} which they suffer from the course pursued towards us ^{by} their representatives, and themselves, from the time of the formation of our new constitution of government ^{up to} ^{watch} till the present moment—

Yet we cannot forbear to say, in sorrow and not in anger, that while information has been constantly received from those at either at enmity with us ^{and} from officers of the U. S. whose previous course was not that of Friends, we have been denied the privilege of conference or representation in the exclusion of our two principal Delegates from the Chambers of the Secretary of War and hence have been prevented from giving those explanations and establishing facts which would have relieved

Transcript

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We beg the President, "the Great Father of the Cherokee," to hear us patiently. Many hundreds of moons have passed since the Cherokee and the white man first began to speak with one another, and we call upon the "talking leaf," the record of your nation, to show that ever the chief of our nation told a lie about money. We have been stubborn, as you may call it, and irreconcilable to our removal from the consecrated and "lonely beds" of our fathers. We have the bitter anguish of a "wounded spirit" longing to drop a burning tear on our desecrated hearth stone--ere we passed away to an unknown land, but who until now has ever accused us of fault....

On the 3d Sept. Genl Scott aware of the uncommon drought--the impossibility of getting water--the suffocating dust of the road. He said to John Ross "how in the name of God Mr. Ross do your people expect to get along?" Mr. Ross replied "General, that is not for us to hesitate about--we are under a pledge and will fulfill it, trusting to God to protect us"--The response of General Scott was one which called for the heartfelt gratitude of the nation. "Mr. Ross I have not been sent here to be a murderer of the Cherokees. I call a halt, a halt, until there is such time as your people can get water....