



Ratified treaty no. 124, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of January 20, 1825, with the Choctaw Indians. January 20, 1825

Washington, D.C.: National Archives, January 20, 1825

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Robert Cole & $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{doctor}
David M. Curtis $\frac{1}{3}$ ^{clerk.}

State that James L. McDonald
remained in Washington, at the
request of Robert Cole -

At the request of Robert Cole. James L. W^e
Donald has remained in the City of
Washington until the friends, friends, & his
testimony of the fact we had considered
it proper to make for the satisfaction of
all concerned.

J. Wm. T. Williams

Robert Cole
Mark

David W^e G. Curtis
Mark

Feb. 20. 1825.

Choctaw delegation -

Are much pleased with
the medical attendance of
Dr. Wallace, and request
that his services be continued
to Col. Dole -

U S 8 4

Washington City,
of February 20th, 1823.

Jno:

The Choctaw Delegation have been well pleased with the skill & assiduity of Doctor Wallace whilst in attendance on those members who were sick. He has attended on them sixty days, including today.

Col. Cole is still unwell. We request that Doctor Wallace may continue to attend him until he shall be perfectly restored to health. It is indispensable that a patient should have confidence in his physician; and Doct^r Wallace has the confidence of Col. Cole & of the Delegation.

Respectfully, your friends & brothers,

Moshulatubbe X
Robert Cole
Dan^r McGirtain X
Tukking Warrior. X
Red Fort to
Sittuckachee X
H. M. Donald.

Hon. J. C. Calhoun,
Sec^r. of War.

Washington

14 Jan'y. 1825.

Choctaw Delegation.

stating the ultimate
terms on which they are
willing to treat for their
~~territory west of the Mississippi~~

~~territory west of the Mississippi~~

14 Jan'y. 1825.
Choctaw Delegation
stating the ultimate
terms on which they are
willing to treat for their
~~territory west of the Mississippi~~

0586

City of Washington,
January 14th, 1825.

To the Hon.

John C. Calhoun.

Yrs:

We have attentively con-
sidered the proposition contained in your letter of
the 5th instant. We asked you to state the highest
price which you were willing to give for our lands
beyond the Mississippi. You have named Ninety thou-
sand dollars, to be discharged in ten annual payments.
This, as it stands, we cannot accept. After deliberate
reflection, we have ourselves determined to make a
final proposition. It will not vary much from
yours; but it will be in a shape which holds for the
promise of more permanent benefit to our people.
You will remark that we have made a very great re-
duction in our price. We have done so, not because
our original opinion of the value of the land is changed;
but because of the peculiar circumstances of the case,
and on account of the views which you have given
us in your communications written & verbal.

The terms which we propose are the following:-

1. Six thousand dollars a year, perpetual annuity - that annuity to be sold or continued by the Choctaws, at their option, any time after twenty years.
2. The annuity of six thousand dollars for sixteen years, promised in the Treaty of 1820, to commence the present year.
3. The relinquishment (as suggested by you) of all claims which you may have against individuals of the Choctaw nation for debts due to the Trading House, in consideration that we relinquish our claim to have a trading house established west of the Mississippi.
4. An equitable settlement of the Pensacola claims, and of all other just claims which may be presented.

The foregoing are the principal conditions. There are others which we could wish granted; but upon which we would not insist with particularity. - For instance; - we would rather take money, and apply the interest to the purposes of education, than the fifty-four sections of land, provided to be set apart under the Treaty of 1820; - We wish certain reserves (taken under the same Treaty) to be confirmed in fee simple; - and we wish to sell you two small reserves (the one containing eight, the other, two square miles) which we have on the Pascagoula & Tombigbee rivers. They were retained 92

U S 88

retained under the Treaty of 1805, and are valuable. - Should you wish to make the purchase, we presume there would be no difficulty in agreeing on a price.

We hope that the terms we have proposed may be satisfactory, and that our business will be speedily closed.

Respectfully, your Friends & Brothers.

M. Foster atulbert his mark
Robert Cole X his mark
David McCutain X his mark
Talking Warrior + his mark
Red Fork + his mark
Nittuckachee + his mark
David Tolson
J.L. M. Donald.

I certify that the foregoing
is the correct talk of the
chiefs.

John Pitchlyn

058
Washington

3 Jan'y 1825.

Choctaw Delegation.

Willing to make a reduction in their terms, but suggest that the offer come from the Government.

City of Washington
January 9th, 1828.

To the Hon.

John C. Calhoun.

Sir:

We have received your letter of the 31. December, in reply to a communication some time since made by us. You state that the price which we ask for our land cannot be given; and you convey the wish of the President that we would reconsider our offer, and agree upon one more reasonable.

Notwithstanding we had believed the negotiation terminated, we are still animated with the desire of making an amicable adjustment of the differences between us. We can, therefore, assure you, that although we thought our original offer reasonable, we are nevertheless willing to make a liberal reduction in our price. We have already assured you that we cannot take the price which you proposed to give. We expect that you will make a liberal advance. — It will be unnecessary for us to make an offer. What we should consider more reasonable, you might still think too much.

To 24

U S 9
To avoid delay, therefore, we would respectfully suggest
that the proposal come from you. Tell us at once
the highest price you can give — the utmost extent
to which you can go — and we can immediately
determine whether to accept or reject your offer.

We would take this opportunity to request,
that you would communicate your views on the
points presented for your consideration in our letter
of the 1st of December.

Respectfully, Your friends & brothers.

Mosholatub & his mark
Robert Cole & his mark
Daniel McCutain & his mark
Talking Warrior & his mark
Red Foot & his mark
Nittuckachee & his mark

David Folsom

J. C. of our add

City of Washington,

November 12th, 1824.

To the Hon.

J. C. Calhoun,
Sec. of War.)

Sir:

We have received and considered your proposal in relation to our lands beyond the Mississippi, and also in relation to a cession of land adjoining Monroe County. This latter proposition we will first dispose of.

After a full discussion among ourselves, we have come to the conclusion that we cannot sell any more of our lands bordering on the Tombigbee. The government must be satisfied of our friendly disposition towards our white brothers. In war we have given them our assistance, and in peace we have endeavoured to shew our hospitality. Our determination, therefore, cannot be supposed to result from any unfriendly feeling. It is the result of a thorough conviction on our own minds that we act in conformity with the wishes of our countrymen. - About eight years since, we held a treaty with certain commissioners, of which Genl. Coffee was one. At that time we sold all our lands lying east of the

Tombigbee. We had hoped that that would have been the last request to sell more lands in that quarter. We were induced to hope so from the appearance of the Commissioners. We were told that by selling our lands East of the Tombigbee, and confining ourselves entirely to the West side, we should establish a good boundary. Having the Mississippi on one side, and the Tombigbee on the other, there was a reasonable prospect that our limits would be permanent. We cannot consent to change the line. We wish that the Tombigbee should continue to be our boundary on the East.

We now come to consider your proposition in relation to our lands between the Arkansas & Red River. You propose to purchase all our land lying within the Arkansas Territory. We do not feel ourselves authorized to sell you so much. We consider it a misfortune that our white brothers are settled on the lands which we ceded to us; and it is our earnest desire to effect an amicable and satisfactory arrangement, so as to accomodate our white brothers of the Arkansas, without injuring ourselves. We are willing to sell that portion which is most thickly populated - if not more. Take us to the Western boundary of the Arkansas Territory, and you take all our valuable land. You bring us all in contact with Indian tribes who are in enmity with us. On the banks of the Red River, and below the Kiamishau the lands are fertile. There our people could settle.

Some might cultivate the land, and some would live by hunting. We do not wish that our people should always live by hunting. We wish them to live where there are inducements to Agriculture. Beyond the Kiamiska, we meet with nothing but prairies. That tract of country is by no means so valuable as that on which the white people are settled. We are not, therefore, willing to sell so much as you require, but we are willing to sell some.

^{portion}
that

¹ of country which we propose ceding (provided we receive adequate compensation) lies between the Washitaw & Red River, and is bounded as follows: - day line crosses the same, to its source; thence south to that point on Red River where the Spanish line strikes the same; thence down Red River to the present boundary line; thence to the place of beginning.

This section of Country we believe to be most thickly populated. We know it to be valuable; but our white brothers are there and we wish to live in peace and harmony with them. We make our proposition in the spirit of accommodation; and we trust you will regard it as proceeding from the most friendly feelings of motives.

Respectfully, your friend & brother

Pushamataha

No substitutable / over

Robert Cole
David M. Galloway
Talking Warrior
Red Foot.
Nittuck-a-chee
David Fothom
J. M. Donahue

Washington, D. C., Nov. 1824.

Choctaw Delegation.

Declining to accede to the
proposition of the Secretary
of War, for a cession of lands.

City of Washington,

November 17th, 1824.

To the Hon.

J. C. Calhoun.

Dear Sir:

The Choctaw Delegation
yesterday received a communication from
the War Department on the subject of the mode
in which the price for our lands beyond the
Mississippi was to be appropriated. - The
Delegation cannot, at this time, give a decisive
answer on the subject. We are authorized
to say that the understanding among us is to
appropriate the money which we receive for our
lands for the purpose of educating Choctaw
youth: But we cannot say to what amount,
nor in what particular manner.

The Delegation wish you to tell
them what price you are willing to pay for
the lands which they propose to cede,

and 30

and they can then determine, with the least
hesitation, on the manner in which the
compensation for the cession shall be
applied.

We are, respectfully,

Your obt. Serv't.

David L. Hobson
J. C. Donald.

Washington, 17. Novem.

1824

Choctaw delegation -

Relative to the manner in
which they propose to appropriate
the money which they may receive
for their lands - Want to know
the price that will be given them
by the Govt -

To the Hon. J. C. Calhoun.

City of Washington,

To the Hon.

November 20th, 1824.

John C. Calhoun.

Sir:

The compensation proposed
to be given (in a communication from the War De-
partment of yesterday) for a portion of the Cho-
ctaw lands West of the Mississippi, is considered by
the Delegation entirely inadequate. They can
never consent to surrender their lands on such terms;
and unless the Government can bring itself to the
conclusion to make a far more liberal offer, the
negotiation must come to an immediate close, and
the Delegation return to their homes.

To shew, however, their disposition to
make a satisfactory adjustment on what they
conceive to be just and liberal terms, the Delegation
will

will make a further communication to the War Department on Monday or Tuesday next, in which their views on the subject will be more fully expressed.

Respectfully,
Your obt Servt.

David Holloman
J. L. M. Donald.

On behalf of
the Choctaw Delegation

City of Washington.

20th Novem^r. 1874.

Choctaw Delegation -

Decline to accept the price
offered them in the letter of
the Secy of War of the 19th
~~instant~~ =

~~inclusum~~

C. D. Allerton.

Washington 8. Nov: 1824.

Choctaw Delegation.

Stating the object of their
visit to Washington - and
whilst now to know what talk
the Commissioners appointed
last year to treat with them
were authorized to make to them.

J. McLean
Secy. of War.

The Choctaw Delegation, in opening the business of their Mission, submit the following remarks to the Secretary of War:

At a period about two years subsequent to the Treaty which was made with our Nation in the Autumn of the year 1820, some of the Chiefs were notified by Col. William Ward, the U.S. Agent, that it was the desire of the Government to procure a modification of that Treaty; and that for that purpose, Commissioners had been, or would be, appointed to meet the Choctaws in Council. We were at that time surprised at the proposition; especially when we understood that the contemplated Treaty was with a view of repossessing some of the lands which had been ceded to the Choctaws beyond the Mississippi river. Some of us had been beyond the Mississippi previous to the Treaty of 1820, and knew that white settlers were on the land proposed to be ceded. Genl. Jackson was informed of the fact. He stated that the arm of Government was strong, and that the settlers should be removed. They have not, however, been removed; nor have we learnt that any efforts have been made to effect their removal.

We told the U.S. agent that we were not at that time willing to meet the Commissioners: We wished to visit our Great Father the President of the United States, and hold a talk with him. We had often met Commissioners. We had stated to them, at different times, some of the many grievances under which we laboured, and we had asked for redress. They had uniformly stated, in reply, that they were unable to grant it; that their powers were limited.

We, therefore, on this occasion, wished to visit the President of the United States, (the fountain head of power,) and have a full understanding with him on all the points of difference between our white brothers and ourselves. We have, accordingly, arrived here, (after an interval of more than twenty years since our last visit), and have presented ourselves before you as the representative of the President. We wish, now, to hear from you what talk those commissioners had been authorized to deliver to our Council, and what propositions they had been empowered to make.

Respectfully submitted by

Washington City. 2
November 8th 1874 2

Pushamattahah his
Mooshulatubbe mark
Robert Cole his
mark

Daniel M. Cuitain ^{his}
mark {
Talking Warrior ^{his}
mark { Delegates of
Red Foot - ^{his}
mark { the Choctaw
Nittuckachee ^{his}
mark { nation.

David Stoborn
J. L. C. Donald

Interpreted by me, & signed by the Delegation in my presence. John Pitchlynn

City of Washington,
Nov. 22. 1824.

Choctaw delegation -

Stating their views in relation
to the value of their lands West
of the Mississippi, and the price
they are willing to take for
them -

Yours truly
John C. Calhoun,
Secy. of War.

City of Washington,
November 22nd, 1824.

To the Hon.

John C. Calhoun.

Sir:

We propose, in this com-

= munication, to express our views on the subject of what we conceive to be a just and liberal com-
-pensation for our lands beyond the Mississippi. We
shall speak with some freedom; but not without
respect. We esteem you our friend and brother, and as
the organ of our great Father the President of the
United States, who has shewn himself the friend of
the Red man. We approach you, therefore, with
respect; but, at the same time, it is not inconsistent
with that respect, to speak freely and frankly on
the subject of our business.

The price you have offered us for the land
which we proposed to cede, we consider altoz other
inadequate. The proposed cession contains at least
five millions of acres - the greater part of it
valuable

valuable land. You have considered your offer liberal, because the country is remote. It is remote, undoubtedly, but it is, nevertheless, valuable. To us distance is nothing, nor can it be much to you. By means of the Arkansas to the Mississippi & to New Orleans. A large portion of land embraced in the proposed limits, is, we believe, fit for cultivation. Suppose you should not be able to sell more than one third. That, at the minimum price of public lands, will bring you more than two millions of dollars. Is it not just and right that we should receive, in annuities, a reasonable portion of that sum.

We will advert to another consideration. A part of the country is in the highest degree fertile - especially that bordering on Red River, - and in a fine state of cultivation. We have made no improvements ourselves, we admit; but they have been made for us. It is a well known fact that there are fine farms, dwelling houses, cotton gins, & mills of various descriptions, on the land which was ceded to us by the Treaty of the 18th October 1820; - and are these not in strict justice our property? Those improvements which were made previous to the Treaty of 1820, were sold to us by the commissioners of the United States. They were apprized of the fact of there being white

white settlers on that land. They never ~~themselves~~ sold the land, and the improvements with it. These improvements, which have been made since the Treaty, without any colour of right, and contrary to the laws of Congress, which prohibit settlements on Indian lands, are unquestionably ours. The labour has not been ours, we freely acknowledge; but who can ~~say~~^{say} that the property is not? Suppose the Government, in compliance with its obligation, were forcibly to remove the settlers from our lands: This would be, we are ready to believe, a severe and distressing task: We could not, ourselves, see it without a painful feeling. But we put the case fairly before you: Suppose the measure ~~Treaty~~ accomplished. What in ~~the~~ consequence would not then be presented ^{of our people} to some ^{for} removal across the Mississippi! We should have good farms & dwelling houses for the reception of ~~those~~^{those} who should choose to emigrate. Can we not then with propriety claim and compensation for those rights, & for that property, of which we are deprived by the failure of the Government to comply with its obligation? - We are informed that there are five or six thousand inhabitants on our land. Some of their improvements, especially on the Red River, are very valuable. We may, therefore, without entering into any nice calculation, venture to affirm, that the value of improvements made by such a population, amounts to several hundred thousand dollars.

We do not wish to entrap you. We tell the President by these considerations; nor do we mean to assume any thing like a threatening tone. When the arm of your government is lifted, we are weak, we are powerless. We rely entirely upon your justice, and for that we shall patiently wait. We shall not attempt to remove those people by force; but if you comply not with our request, we ask you to remove them.

Having presented these views to your consideration, we next proceed to state the terms which, in our opinion, present a fair & reasonable compensation for the cession which we propose to make.

We wish, in the first instance, to have some points rectified in the last Treaty - we mean that of the 18th October 1820. We wish the fourth article abolished. It has excited fears and jealousies on the part of the Choctaws, lest a premature incorporation should take place with the citizens of Mississippi.

We wish the annuity of \$6000 promised to be paid in the last Treaty, immediately to commence.

Instead of fifty four sections of land, which were to have been set apart as a school fund, we would rather take the money at the minimum price of public lands - the interest (under the direction of the President) to go to the education of our children.

Those reserves which were taken under the ~~ninth~~^{ninth} article of the Treaty of 1820, we wish should be granted in fee simple to the occupants. They are capable of managing for themselves, and there were but two reserves taken. A few also petitioned for reserves in 1820, and received the recommendations of the commissioners. These reserves in justice ought to be granted, and we request that they may be.

The foregoing points (in relation to the Treaty of 1820) we are persuaded are a matter of indifference to the Government. We presume that it neither gains nor loses by a compliance with our request.

We now make a direct proposition for the proposed cession west of the Mississippi. After the views we gave in the beginning of this letter, you will not be surprised that we think our terms reasonable. We ask, first, that thirty thousand dollars worth of goods be distributed as presents to our nation - \$15,000 the first year, & \$15,000 the second. - Second, that nine thousand dollars a year, for twenty years, be appropriated for the support of Mechanical institutions among the Choctaws. Third, that the same sum be appropriated annually for twenty years, for the education of Choctaw Children in Colleges or institutions out of the nation. Fourth, that three thousand dollars a year for twenty years, be appropriated for the education of Choctaws

beyond 41^m

bey and the Mississippi, when they shall have settled there,
and an agent appointed to live among them. These am-
-nities to be applied, for the purposes expressed, under the
direction of the President of the United States.

The price we ask may be more than has been
usually given for lands lying so remote. But it is not more
than what we think to be their just value. We wish our
children educated. We wish to derive lasting, if not transient,
benefits from the sale of our lands. The proceeds of those
sales we are desirous should be applied for the instruction
of our young countrymen. It is for this important object
that we may seem to you to be unreasoning in our
proposition. We feel our ignorance, and we begin to see
the benefits of education. We are, therefore, anxious that
our rising generation should acquire a knowledge of
literature and the arts, and learn to tread in those
paths which have conducted your people, by regular
gradations, to their present summit of wealth & greatness.

Respectfully, your friends & brothers.

Push-a-mataha & his mark.

Mosholatubbe & his mark.

Robert Cole & his mark.

Daniel McGaugh & his mark.

Talking Warrior & his mark.

Red Fox & his mark.

Nittuck-a-chee & his mark.

David Tolson

J. M. Donald.

City of Washington
Letters from
1. Decem^r. 1824.

Choc-taw Delegation
submit inquiries relative
to claim, for services on the
Revacola campaign; to the
murder of their people by white men;
to their annuity; to provisions at the
distribution of annuities; and to claims
for horses &c stolen from them - to
which they wish an early answer

City of Washington.

December 1st, 1824.

To the Hon.

John C. Calhoun.

Gent:

The Choctaw Delegation suggested,

in their communication of yesterday, that they had certain claims to present on behalf of their people. Though not all ^{coming} grievances strictly under the title of claims, they are yet respecting which they request your decision. The most prominent are the following: —

1. About eight hundred & fifty Choctaws served in the expedition to Pensacola under Genl. Jackson, for stipulated in the Treaty of 1820, that they should be paid. Four years have elapsed, and they have not yet received one cent. Whose fault is it? Muster rolls have attached are not considered sufficient proof that the Choctaws are entitled to pay. — The Delegation wish to know, precisely, what proof is necessary, and the manner in which it shall be obtained.

2. Indians have frequently been murdered with impunity by white men. The murderer is seldom, if ever, punished: He usually escapes through the connivance or assistance, ~~or assistance~~ of his white brothers, and the aim of justice is defeated. This does not satisfy the relatives of the murdered Choctaw. They expect to receive

satisfaction in some shape or other; and if it be denied, fatal consequences may sometimes ensue. If the punishment prescribed by the law cannot be inflicted, on account of the flight of the culprit, pecuniary compensation to a certain amount, as a peace offering, should be made to the injured family. This was formerly the practice, and its effects were happy and salutary. It tended to heal divisions and allay animosities. Would it not be the part of policy to revive the practice? Should it not be revived, private vengeance will be sought in spite of the authority of the Chiefs. — Five Indians have been murdered within as many years, and no satisfaction has ever been received. One of the cases was of a very aggravated nature — the proofs of which are probably in your Office.

3. The 8th article of the Treaty of 1820, provides that a tract of good land shall be set apart to raise the sum of six thousand dollars annually for sixteen years. Would it not be as well that the annuity should commence at once? You are bound to raise the money at all events. There is no contingency in the case. Land is to be sold for the benefit of the Choctaws, and is to bring that exact sum. How much land is necessary to produce at public sale, that precise result? It would be difficult to answer. No surveyor, we apprehend, can be found, whose perception shall be so accurate as to enable him to hit the happy fraction. — Let us then have the annuity at once. You have already been reaping the fruits of the cession which we made you: You have realized 44

realized money - and it cannot, we presume, make a grain
of difference to you, whether we receive the annuity now or in
five years hence; but it is a question of importance to the
Cherokees, and one on which they have felt much anxi-
ety and solicitude.

4. It was formerly the custom, when Choctaws af-
fembled to receive their annuities, to distribute beef &
corn for their subsistence whilst they remained on the
ground, and until the annuities were paid. This practice
appears to be discontinued, and has been productive of
some dissatisfaction. The Delegation wish to know whether
present system, be distributed as formerly.

5. Horses and other property have been frequently sto-
len from the Choctaws by white people, and great dif-
ficulties have been encountered in obtaining satisfac-
tion. The laws of Mississippi forbids an Indian from
giving his testimony in a court of justice. He cannot,
therefore, obtain a trial in the State courts, even were he
sufficiently enlightened to know how to pursue the legal
forms. How is a Choctaw then to establish his claim?
Should not the testimony of two or three Indian neighbours
of good character before the agent, entitle the injured party
to compensation?

The Delegation will be pleased to have your views,
as early as practicable, on the foregoing points.

Respectfully, Your obt Servt

David Hobson. G
J. L. McDonald. G

City of Washington
Novemt. 30^t. 1824.

Choctaw Delegation -

Cannot depart from their original proposition - They may be in error, but cannot consent to any great reduction of their terms - They now consider the negotiation at an end & shall prepare to start home. If they do so, wish to present a number of claims which their people have against the Govt. -

City of Washington

November 30th, 1824.

To the Hon.

John C. Calhoun

Sir:

We have received your letter in

reply to our communication of the 22nd instant. - You state that the terms proposed by us are considered by the President wholly inadmissible; and that unless the Delegation shall determine to make a very great reduction in the price which they ask for their lands it is useless to attempt to conclude a Treaty.

Our determination is made: We cannot depart, essentially, from our original proposition. We may have erred in the estimate we made of the value of the land which we proposed to cede; but we cannot consistently with the opinions we have formed, consent to make the reduction of price which you expect. Our situation is one of great responsibility. Our people are looking towards us with interest and anxiety. They expect that we shall either make an advantageous Treaty or none. We do not believe that your terms offer us the advantages we were prepared to expect. The Negotiation, therefore, comes to a close, and we shall prepare to return to our homes.

Before we leave the City (which we wish to do in a few days,) we shall present for your consideration a number of claims which our people have against the Government of the United States. These are subjects on which Commissioners have seldom given us satisfaction; and it was for that reason we were the more desirous to visit this City, and see the President. We hope to have a perfect understanding with you on those points.

Notwithstanding we have differed on the most important subject of our negotiation, we can still say with the utmost sincerity of heart, that we are now, as we ever have been

Your friends & brothers.

Pushamataha & his mark
Mooshulatubbe & his mark
Robert Cole & his mark
Daniel McCurtain & his mark
Talking Warrior & his mark
Red Foot & his mark
Nittuckachee & his mark
David Hobson
J. M. McDonald.

City of Washington -
16th Novr 1824.

J. L. McDonald,

of the Choctaw delegation.

States that the delegation accedes
to the proposition of the Secy
of War, of yesterday, for a
cession of lands - Enquiring
as to the compensation to be
given for the lands proposed
to be ceded -

City of Washington,

November 16th, 1824.

To the Hon.

J. C. Calhoun.

E
J.
Sir:

I am instructed by the above-mentioned Delegation to inform you, that they have received and considered your proposal of yesterday, in relation to the establishment of a new boundary line to our possessions beyond the Mississippi. The Delegation, after full consultation on the subject, have determined to accede to the request of the Government. They have done this in that spirit of accommodation & compromise which brought them to your city. They are sensible that they are parting with a valuable and a large tract of country. The majority of the Delegation have, themselves, seen and traversed it. They know the quality of the soil, and the value of the improvements, which have been made on the

Canal 48

land. But they are anxious to remove every cause of dissension between themselves and the white people. - They have long been friends with you, and they wish to continue so. They are, therefore, willing to establish a line which shall include the greater proportion of white population in our country. They could not consent to include all the white settlers in their cession; for that would have deprived them of the most valuable portion of their country. - Should this line be established, they expect that all the white settlers who are living West of it, will be removed; and that all future intrusions on their land will be repelled by the Government of the United States.

The next consideration, and perhaps the most important one, is, what compensation are the Choctaws to receive for the land which they propose to cede? The Delegation are now prepared to receive your propositions on the subject.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obt. Servt.
J. L. Mc Donald.