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Tuesday, October 24, 1826.

To our beloved brothers, the Commissioners of the United States:

We have received the talk of our father the President of the United States . . . We find it is the wish of our father to exchange lands with us, lying on the west side of the Mississippi river, which we are very sorry to hear, as we never had a thought of exchanging our land for any others, as we think that we would not find a country that would suit us as well as this we now occupy, it being the land of our forefathers, if we should exchange our lands for another, fearing the consequences may be similar to transplanting an old tree, which would wither and die away, and we are fearful we would come to the same . . . We have no lands to exchange for any other. We wish our father to extend his protection to us here, as he proposes to do on the west of the Mississippi, as we apprehend we would, in a few years, experience the same difficulties in any other section of the country that might be suitable to us west of the Mississippi.

Friends and brothers; we know that our white brothers are crowding upon us daily, which we know is not just. We further consider that there are a number of nations west of the Mississippi that have been enemies to us as well as our white brothers. It would be as much impossible to unite us with them as it would be to unite oil and water, and we have every reason to believe that those tribes that have left their country are not well satisfied; and if that should be the case, we are fearful that those tribes will take satisfaction on us for injuries done by us as well as our white brothers. We are a small tribe, and unable to defend our rights in any country . . .

Our father the President wishes that we should come under the laws of the United States; we are a people that are not enlightened, and we cannot consent to be under your Government. If we should consent, we should be like unto young corn growing and met with a drought that would kill it all.

We hope our brothers the commissioners will take our situation into serious consideration; they know we are not qualified to become citizens of the United States, and we are ignorant of the pressure of laws.

LEVI COLBERT,

EMMUBBIA,
ASH-TA-MA-TUT-KA,
J. McCLISH,
M. COLBERT.

The Commissioners: The United States sent a delegation of three commissioners, William Clark, Thomas Hinds, and John Coffee to meet with the Chickasaw to persuade them to exchange their homelands for territory located west of the Mississippi. Indian delegates responded to their presentation. This document is an excerpt from the report of the commissioners. Communicated to the Senate, January 15, 1827 by the U.S. Secretary of War, James Barbour.

For injuries done by us. The Chickasaw allied with Andrew Jackson to oppose the Red Stick Creek Indians in the War of 1812.

Levi Colbert was principal chief of the Chickasaw and interpreter for the Chickasaw leaders during negotiations with the U.S.

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