

MEMORIAL
OF
CITIZENS OF THE CHICKASAW NATION,
REMONSTRATING

Against the organization of a territorial government for the Indian Territory.

JANUARY 15, 1875.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Congress of the United States :

The undersigned citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, resident in the Indian Territory, respectfully represent: That they have learned with profound astonishment and grief that the honorable Board of Indian Peace Commissioners, represented by Messrs. Clinton B. Fisk, C. S. Hammond, B. R. Roberts, and J. D. Lang, (the chairman thereof being, as we understand, treasurer of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, which claims large contingent land-grants in our country,) have, on their late return to the seat of Government of the United States, reported that there exists an *immediate necessity*, on account of the frequency of crime, for the organization of a territorial form of government over the people of this Territory; and that such action by Congress would receive "the hearty indorsement of a great majority of the inhabitants of the Territory." It is not necessary for your petitioners to inquire into the means by which the honorable commissioners arrived at this astonishing conclusion; but we may be permitted respectfully to enter our solemn protestation against its justness. It is true that crime, to some extent, exists among us—where does it not exist?—and that sometimes offenders escape the penalty of the law; but we affirm, without fear of successful contradiction, that the one or the other is not of more frequent occurrence in any of the nations or tribes of the Indian Territory than in any State or Territory of the United States that, like our country, has been subjected to the calamities and demoralization attending the late war among your people. We respectfully deny that there is any considerable number of Indians in any tribe, resident in the Territory, who desire the establishment of such a government by Congress, over the people thereof. There are a few misled or deluded individuals or persons perhaps, subsidized and corrupted by the Atlantic and Pacific and other railroad interests, against which we have been compelled from year to year to fight for our property-right in our lands, and for our very national existence, who may or do desire such a government; but they form no considerable portion of the intelligence or otherwise of the people of the Territory. You are respectfully

referred to the many protests and remonstrances emanating from time to time from the several national councils of the Territory, or from their respective, duly-authorized delegates, and to those of the general council of the Indian Territory, all of which have been heretofore laid before you, as the true exponents of the sentiments of the people of this Territory upon this subject, and as the only legitimate source of information, upon which you can justly base your action toward us, especially in a question so grave and important; one in which the honor of your Government is involved, and upon which the weal of the Indians for all time to come depends.

We therefore, respectfully, but earnestly, protest against any legislation by your honorable bodies that will directly or impliedly impair or destroy any right, national or individual, that your Government has so often, by solemn treaties, pledged its honor to guarantee unto us. We have not resorted to the usual means by which nations defend their rights, but we have and do rely upon the justness of our cause, upon the honor, faith, and integrity of yourselves, and other departments of your Government, and upon the providence and protection of that God who is your Master as well as ours.

SENATORS.

Winchester Colbert.
 Willis Dickerson.
 Charles Sheco.
 Thomas J. Parker.
 Shumil Underwood.
 Ahittotubby.
 Nelson Chigley.
 J. D. Harris, *President*.
 W. H. Bourland, *Secretary of Senate*.
 Wm. P. Brown, *Attorney-General*,
C. N.
 G. D. James, *Superintendent of*
Schools for the Chickasaw Nation.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Joseph James.
 Elijah Brown.
 Martin Acher.
 Wilson Colbert.
 D. O. Fisher.
 Simon Keel.
 Eastman Harney.
 Fletcher Frazier.
 Sampson Sealy.
 Claburn Im mer ho ti che.
 Geo. Wilson.
 McKinny Cobb, *Speaker*.
 B. F. Perry, *Clerk pro tem*.

Done in legislative assembly at Tishomingo City, Chickasaw Nation,
 on this January 6, 1875.

Attest:

B. F. OVERTON,
Governor.

CHARLES E. GOODING,
National Secretary.

P. R. Goldsby, county and probate judge of Panola County, C. N.
 S. D. James, county and probate judge of Perkins County, C. N.
 C. P. Harris, county and probate judge of Tishomingo County, C. N.
 S. Hawkins, sheriff, Tishomingo County, C. N.
 John Rennie, postmaster, Tishomingo County, C. N.
 R. B. Bourland, ex-judge Tishomingo County, C. N.
 B. C. Burney, national treasurer, Chickasaw Nation.