

November 2, 1830. }

I lay before each House of the General Assembly, a document which, although not officially communicated to this department, is undoubtedly authentic, and is believed to contain information upon the subject of our Indian Affairs, which may be beneficial in directing the legislation of the State. Signed,  
**GEORGE R. GILMER.**

The document alluded to is the following :

**DEPARTMENT OF WAR.**

*Office of Indian Affairs,* }

6th June, 1830. }

SIR :—I am directed by the Secretary of War, to inform you that the President has concluded it proper to suspend the mode of enrolling and sending off emigrants in small parties as heretofore.

The removal of the Cherokees, and other advantages which would result to them from it are so obvious, and have been so often explained, as to need no further efforts to make it better understood, at least in the way in which it has been done in the past. If they as a people, think it for their interest to remain in the States within whose limits they are, and be subject to the laws of those States, the consequences, whatever they may be, following their own choice, will be chargeable to nobody but themselves; but it is made your special duty to inform the Cherokees, not their chiefs only, but the people, and in such mode as you may think proper to adopt, which shall be most likely to make the information general, that the President, having no power to interfere and oppose the exercise of the sovereign of any State over and upon all who may be within the limits of any state, they will prepare themselves to abide the issue of such new relations without any hope that he will interfere. But assure them at the same time that such power as the laws give him for their protection, shall be executed for their benefit, and this will not fail to be exercised in keeping out intruders. Beyond this he cannot go. It is important there should be no misunderstanding on the subject. Intruders will be kept out; but the states will not be interfered with, by the President, in exercising their laws over them. Such, therefore, as will be satisfied to remain under the state laws, will, if they choose, remain, others who prefer to remove can do so, and these will be supported by the Government in their removal free of any expense to them, and have a full, and just value paid for such improvements as they may leave, that add real value to the soil, and maintained for one year after their arrival in the west, by which time they will have prepared by opening farms and otherwise for the support of themselves and families. You can further say to them, if they are disposed to treat with the general Government, that liberal terms will be extended to them, their limits beyond the Mississippi shall be enlarged, and all things done for their protection, and guidance, and improvement, which the President may have the power to do.—Their limits in the West shall be surveyed and marked, so as to avoid any difficulty arising out of a confusion of lines, between them and neighboring tribes.

This suspension of present operations, is designed to afford the Cherokees an opportunity to ponder on their present situation; and to deliberate, calmly, as to what is best for them to do.—The President is their friend. He seeks not to oppress, or deceive them. He feels for them as a father feels for his children; and is deeply solicitous for their welfare. It is probable that in the fall, or the spring following, they may be prepared to act with intelligence in this great matter. The President wishes the Cherokees to be fully informed upon all the points connected with their pending and future relations. He will not deceive them; and he wishes that no misunderstanding should exist, as between the Cherokees and himself, or between them and you. Speak to them as their friend, and with all the sincerity of a friend. Use no threats, exercise no unkindness. If they stay, it will be of their own free will, if they remove, it will be of their own free will also.—There will be employed no force, any way, but the force of reason, and parental counsel, unless it shall be to protect them in removing.

When the Cherokees shall have finally determined what course they will pursue, you will inform the department. If the whole, or the greater body of the Nation determine to remove, the President will send to them a confidential commissioner, who will receive a Delegation at some convenient place, and one that will be most agreeable to them.

The President or Secretary of War will probably visit Tennessee in this month; they will have reached Nashville by the 20th or 30th July. If the Chiefs or principal men of the Nation desire to see the President upon the important matters which concern them, he will gladly see them, in person, there. But if they cannot go willingly prepared with FULL POWERS to make a treaty for a removal, it, inhabi

will not be necessary for them to go, since, in that way, only, can he assist them, promote their welfare, and establish their future prosperity. If the Chiefs shall come with this determination, all their necessary expenses will be borne.

You will discontinue the agency of Messrs. Bridges and Hunter; after they shall have valued what improvements may remain to be valued, and those of the issuing agent, after the supplies are disposed of to such Indians as may be *in transitu*, and after you shall have disposed, to the best advantage, of what supplies, and other matters, may remain on hand, have their accounts and all other accounts brought to a close immediately, and forward them to the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Signed THOS. L. MCKENNEY.

To Col. HUGH MONTGOMERY, Cherokee Agent, Calhoun, Tennessee.

---