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CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

EMIGRATION OF INDIANS,

BETWEEN

THE 30th NOVEMBER, 1831, AND 27th DECEMBER, 1833,

WITH ABSTRACTS OF EXPENDITURES BY DISBURSING AGENTS,

IN THE

Removal and Subsistence of Indians, &c. &c.

FURNISHED

IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE, OF 27th DECEMBER, 1833,

BY THE

COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE.

VOL. III.

WASHINGTON:
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1835.

CHEROKEE AGENCY, *January 25, 1832.*

SIR: Your communication of the 20th ult. has been received. The Rev. D. O'Bryant desires his most hearty thanks be returned to the department for the privilege given of accompanying the first expedition. He has improvements here, which I have directed the appraisers to value, the amount of which he pledges himself to expend in the Arkansas country for the encouragement of education.

Under the treaty of 1817, the Philips family received a life estate reservation of 640 acres in Tennessee. There was a law of that State allowing reserves by taking out grants at the minimum price, of \$1 25, to hold or dispose of the same in fee. In order to enable them to dispose of it to purchasers, a grant was taken under that law. The land was sold to citizens of Tennessee, and the reserves removed, with their effects, from off the reservation into the Indian territory. At the time this reservation was taken, the reserves promised to become citizens of the United States. Had they continued on their reservation during life, the same would have passed to their children in fee. But as they chose to convert their life estate into one of a fee simple character, in order to sell it, upon investigating the character of this claim, it appears not to be founded upon principles of justice, and perhaps cannot be granted with propriety. And, furthermore, it appears upon a more full consideration of this case, and others of a similar cast, that inasmuch as reservations were taken as a full consideration for their interest in the Cherokee country, they cannot be properly viewed in any other light than as intruders, or at least mere permissive tenants, at the will of the General or State Governments.

Your letter of the 27th ultimo, announcing the appointment of Colonel Harding, of Georgia, as enrolling agent, has also been received. The appointment is perhaps a good one, because the Colonel, for a Georgian, it is supposed, would have influence, and be listened to with attention by the Cherokees.

Although Dr. Reese and R. Thornton, esq., are gentlemen of fair character with their respective friends, they have not been able to render that effective service, which I am satisfied it was their wish to do. Their failure is attributable more to the fact of their being residents of Georgia than a want of zeal in promoting the happiness of the Indians, or the views of the General Government.

In getting off such Cherokees as preferred receiving an advance of the estimated expense of transportation and subsistence, small draws on the Indian agent could not be avoided in some instances, bearing but a very small proportion to the amount which will be due them on the approval of the valuation of their property by the War Department.

Unjust claims of long standing have been placed in the hands of Cherokee sheriffs, and the property of emigrants seized on the highroad, to extort money from, or annoy, them in their passage thither, and to the town of Calhoun, opposite the place of embarkation. They have been decoyed by the irresistible influence of ardent spirits, and there induced to create debts without the prospect of advantage to themselves or families.

By the 21st section of chapter 44, regulating intercourse with the several tribes of Indians, approved March 30, 1802, the President of the United States is authorized to restrain the vending of spiritous liquors amongst or to them. Should he not consider it too great a stretch of power, it might

be well to forbid that privilege to all persons for any distance within five miles of the place of embarkation, especially to emigrants.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your very obedient servant,

BEN. F. CURREY.

ELBERT HERRING, Esq.

I occasionally need money to defray my own expenses; would it be proper to call on the Indian agent for money, not exceeding at any time the amount due for my services, as I am directed to do in the case of the other enrolling agents.

BEN. F. CURREY.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. TER., *January 26, 1832.*

SIR: I reached this place on the 22d instant, and found a party of about fourteen hundred Indians, with Netuchache, their chief, encamped in the neighborhood of this place.

The rifles, &c., forwarded for Fort Smith, passed here a few days since, on board the steamer Reindeer. The ploughs, it appears, are yet at the mouth of the river Arkansas; which river is low, and somewhat doubtful, whether the boat above named will reach her destination with the present tide. There are perhaps five hundred Indians who intend to settle on this river, being the party named on board the steamer Reindeer. You have, no doubt, been apprized of the other party, headed by Colonel Folsom, that passed through this place some time since, as well as those that embarked at Vicksburg, belonging to Laflore's district, both of which last named parties have probably reached their new homes.

I have employed a blacksmith and striker, and purchased a set of tools to take on to Fort Towson, so that no complaint can be made by the Indians. I shall be able to make ploughs, and have them stocked, cheaper perhaps than those already purchased, and of the description that will please the Indians.

The commutation to Indians will be promptly paid on their arrival, say about 400 in number. I have handed over to Captain Brown thirty-five thousand dollars, and forwarded his receipt to General Gibson, agreeably to his instructions.

Some legislation, it would seem, will be necessary, in order to carry into effect the Choctaw treaty. Should this be the case, I hope to reach Washington in time to afford some information which will be important in governing the whites that are intruding amongst the Choctaws, and who cannot be effectually reached by the present intercourse law.

Respectfully, &c.,

F. W. ARMSTRONG,
Choctaw Agent.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

LEBANON, OHIO, *January 28, 1832.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I returned to this place last evening, after an absence of three weeks among the Wyandots. Having

of Wyandots residing on a reservation of 16,000 acres at the Big Spring. I had always promised them that, in case the chiefs at Upper Sandusky, utterly refused to unite with them in ceding *the whole* of the Wyandot lands to the United States, the Big Spring band should have the privilege of concluding a *separate treaty* for the cession of *their own reservation*. Accordingly I sent for some of their principal men, and ultimately made the accompanying *treaty*. The Upper Sandusky chiefs at first made a violent effort to *force* the signers to petition the President to withdraw their names, and actually threatened *to saw their ears off with a file*, seize their chattel property, and drive them out of Ohio. After an interview with me, however, they thought it *prudent* to cease all opposition to the measure; and before I left Upper Sandusky they had acquiesced, and even appeared anxious the treaty should be ratified. This solely arose from prospective views of *gain*. Those chiefs, with their white and yellow auxiliaries, are as avaricious and envious as they are subtle and insincere. It was intimated to me that they intend to compound with the Wyandots of the Big Spring to remove to the "grand reservation," and give the Upper Sandusky people the whole, or part of the avails of the Big Spring tract.

The treaty, you will perceive, is not made on the basis of the other conventions with the Ohio Indians. Those Wyandots refused to accept of any lands west of the Mississippi, on any terms whatever. The price given is very high; but the sales, I feel confident, will reimburse the Government in a year or two. It is not indeed such a treaty as I could have wished; but, under existing circumstances, it was *the best I could get*. The Big Spring reservation lies partly in the counties of Hancock, Seneca, and Crawford, and the extinguishment of the Indian title is greatly desired by the citizens of those new counties; and it is believed, that notwithstanding the apparent determination of the Upper Sandusky Indians to maintain their present position, this treaty will be the means of producing a final cession of all the Wyandot lands in Ohio in a year or two more. It remains for the President and Senate to decide upon the expediency of its ratification.

I design to remain at home a few days yet, to recruit from my late exposure and fatigues, and prepare my reports and other papers for your inspection. I am in hopes to reach Washington by the 15th or 20th of next month. It will not, therefore, be necessary for the department to address any further communication to me at this place, as I shall probably have left home before they could arrive.

I have the honor to be,

With very great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES B. GARDINER,
Special Agent, &c.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

The examination of Silas Armstrong, (an educated quarter-blood Wyandot,) respecting the tract of country which he examined as one of the Wyandot exploring delegation.

The following questions were propounded to the said Armstrong, by James B. Gardiner, special agent, &c., and the corresponding answers, taken down

in writing at the time by Cornelius Clark, an attorney at Greene county, Ohio, employed for that purpose. The said questions and answers were then read over, and he acknowledged said answers to be fairly stated, and signed the same as being true.

Question. When did you arrive at St. Louis?

Answer. I do not recollect the precise day.

Question. How long did you remain there?

Answer. Three days.

Question. How did you travel up the Missouri?

Answer. Partly in the stage, partly in a wagon, and partly on foot.

Question. When did you reach the boundary line of the State of Missouri?

Answer. In about two weeks; cannot recollect the precise day.

Question. At what place did you strike it?

Answer. Fifteen miles from Liberty, in the State of Missouri.

Question. On the north or south side of river Missouri?

Answer. On the north.

Question. How far did you go up the river above the line?

Answer. We travelled from Liberty, in the State of Missouri, to the point where Smith's fork of the Platte crosses the State line, which is probably from thirty to forty miles from where the river Missouri crosses the State line; so that we did not go up the river at any time after leaving said State line.

Question. How far north or back from the river did you go?

Answer. We did not explore the country along the Missouri river at any time, and therefore I cannot tell precisely how far we were from it; but suppose we were nearest said river when at Bee creek, which was said to be five or six miles.

Question. What is the character of the country along the river above the line as far as you went?

Answer. We did not touch the Missouri river, or its margin, after arriving at the boundary line of the State of Missouri.

Question. What course did you go after reaching the boundary line?

Answer. We struck the boundary line about twenty miles from the Missouri river, and explored the country from the State line to the river Platte.

Question. What is the general course of the river Platte?

Answer. From north to south.

Question. How far from its junction with the Missouri did you first strike the river Platte?

Answer. Fifty or sixty miles by water, and probably twenty-four by land.

Question. Did you cross the Platte, or continue down that stream?

Answer. We did not cross the Platte at that time, but continued traversing from the river to the State line, until we arrived as low as the falls of the Platte; which embraces a scope of country of about fifteen miles by eight, on the east of said river.

Question. Did you approach nearer to the Missouri river than the falls of the Platte?

Answer. We did not; making our nearest approach to the Missouri river fifty miles by water, and nine or ten by land.

Question. What course did you go after arriving at the falls of the main Little Platte?

Answer. We crossed it, and proceeded west six or seven miles to Bee creek, which is the furthest we went west.

Question. Do you believe the map which accompanies this report of the delegation, to be a true plat of the country examined by you?

Answer. I do.

Question. Does the tract between the lines marked A, B, and C and the Missouri line, include the country explored by the delegation?

Answer. That contains the country explored; we were not outside of those lines, as I believe.

Question. Is the line marked A the nearest approach you made to the mouth of the Little Platte on the north, and the mouth of the Kansas, on the south side of the Missouri river?

Answer. It is.

Question. How far is said line from the mouth of the Little Platte?

Answer. About fourteen or fifteen miles, as I suppose.

Question. What is the character of the country between the lines as examined by the delegation?

Answer. On the east side of the river Platte to the Missouri line, the country is generally rich rolling plains, though some parts of it, and the largest portion, is broken by rocky and steep hills.

Question. Are there any groves of maple or sugar tree upon the part just described?

Answer. Yes; there are two, containing, I think, twenty trees each.

Question. What other timber is there on the tract?

Answer. Pine or jack-oak bordering on the plains, which are, in general, three or four miles wide; and from the plains to the river the other timber consists of walnut, hackberry, black oak, lynn, a few coffee, bean-trees, and groves of red elm of a small growth. Most of the above described timber is low and small, and the oak especially very knotty. The walnut is generally a foot and a half through, the oak the same, and the lynn two feet through. We saw no buck-eye on the east side of the Platte.

Question. What is the character of the tract you examined west of the Little Platte, within the limits of the line A, B and C?

Answer. We only examined the country between the Platte and Bee creek, which creek is five or six miles north of the Platte. The country on the west side of the Platte, is a timbered country. It is low, and the red elms are large. The largest portion of the timber consists of elms, with large bodies, and spreading branches. There are some buck-eyes, and a very few sugar trees, and those scattering. The soil is generally black, and a dry, rich loam. The face of the country is what might be termed steep, hilly and broken. The gullies or ravines are deep, and of considerable extent, though not very numerous. The bottoms of the Platte are narrow, and subject to inundations. The bottoms of Bee creek are rich but narrow, and annually overflow.

Question. Is the tract you examined a good corn country?

Answer. The ground is rich and strong enough for corn, but the seasons are not so favorable as in Crawford county, Ohio.

Question. Speak of the wild game on the tract you examined.

Answer. The principal game consists of bears, deers, some racoons, and some otter and wild turkies. The bear are numerous; the deer not so much so.

Question. What Indians are on the tract?

Answer. The Sacs, Ioways, and Foxes. We saw none of the latter, and only a few of the two former tribes—probably fifty in number, including women and children. They were friendly and hospitable, and the Ioway chiefs proposed a council if we would remain to attend it.

Question. When you told them the object of your visit, did they object to your coming?

Answer. They seemed to think they owned the land there, and requested an understanding, and for that purpose they wished to call the council but as we did not intend to go there, deemed it unnecessary; and, moreover we had not the time to spare.

Question. Did you cross to the south side of the river Missouri in any part of the Indian country?

Answer. We did not.

Question. Did you see any of the Shawnees or Delawares who are settled on the Kansas?

Answer. We saw one Delaware and two Shawnees, who were hunting on the Platte, and could not return on account of the ice; but had no conversation on the subject of their country, or what progress they were making.

Question. Were your explorations exclusively confined to the tract, marked on the plat accompanying the report, and had the delegation personal knowledge of any other part of the country assigned to the emigrating Indians?

Answer. We examined no where else, and have no other personal knowledge of the country.

Question. Why did you not examine the country at the mouth of the Kansas and Little Platte rivers, and from thence up and down the banks of the Missouri?

Answer. We were informed by hearsay that the country at the mouth of the Platte and along the Missouri bottoms overflowed, and that the hills were steep and high; and we also heard that it was sickly on the Missouri river, and that the soil of the bottoms of said river washed away by inundation when cultivated.

Question. Why did you not examine the country from the line marked A, lying between the west boundary of Missouri and the Missouri river?

Answer. The information we received from white people respecting it was discouraging.

Question. Why did you not examine the country of five or six miles wide and twelve or fifteen miles long, lying between Bee creek and Cantonment Leavenworth?

Answer. We heard it was similar to the country we had examined.

Question. How many days were you engaged in actual exploration of the country west of the Mississippi?

Answer. I think we were six days.

Question. Where did you make up your report?

Answer. We made it at St. Louis.

Question. How many days was Wm. Walker with you in the Indian country?

Answer. I think he was with us four days. He explored with us two days on the east side of the Platte and two days on the west side.

Question. What part of the six or seven days you tarried in the Indian country, was actually employed in exploring?

Answer. For the first three days we returned every night and staid with a white man in the State of Missouri, named Owens, living on the line; the next night we staid in the woods, and the next at the house of a white man named Martin, at the falls of the Platte; the next at the camp of an old Sac Indian, and the next again at the said Martin's—the next day we started and arrived at Liberty, in the State of Missouri—so that we staid in the woods but one night during the time we were exploring; C. B. Garrett, one of the delegation never entered the Indian country.

Question. At what time of each day did you set about to explore, and what time in the evening did you return?

Answer. We set out in the morning after breakfast, and generally returned in the evening before or about sundown.

I certify that the foregoing are true answers to the questions propounded to me by James B. Gardiner, special agent, &c., to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

SILAS ARMSTRONG.

Attest: C. CLARK.

THE STATE OF OHIO, } ss.
Crawford County, }

Personally appeared before me, Joseph McCutchen, an acting justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, William Brish, a citizen of Seneca county in said State, and being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was employed as an assistant to Capt. Henry C. Brish, in the removal of the Seneca Indians, lately residing on the Sandusky river, and was at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, at the time Wm. Walker, and the party of Wyandots accompanying him, returned to that place from an exploring tour up the Missouri river and west of the State of Missouri, in the country set apart for the permanent residence of the emigrating Indians of the United States. While at St. Louis, this deponent had a conversation with the said Walker, respecting the success of his tour and the character of the country examined by him and his party; that in this conversation the said Walker stated that he never laid his eyes on better land, but that the timber was somewhat scarce, but by using economy there would be a sufficiency.

Question, by James B. Gardiner, special agent, &c. Did he complain of the character of the timber, as being twisted, knotty, and otherwise valueless?

Answer. He did not.

Question, by the same. When he spoke of the sufficiency of timber, did you understand him to mean that there was enough for the uses of building, fencing and fuel?

Answer. I so understood him.

Question, by the same. What did Walker say respecting the game of the country?

Answer. I do not recollect hearing him speak of any herd of game except the bear; and that was so numerous, that his party were so excited in hunting, that they could not properly explore the country. They had borrowed dogs, and had to send them back, on account of the hunting of the party interfering with the exploration of the country.

Question, by the same. Did Mr. Walker complain of the country being

Answer. He expressed no complaint of that kind to me.

Question, by the same. From the description he gave of the country, do you infer that the delegation would report favorably, on their return?

Answer. I did. And I was much surprised to hear they had reported unfavorably.

Question, by the same. What was the character of the corn crops you saw?

Answer. They were excellent—as good as I ever saw. The corn was as good as I ever saw in my life. We saw a great many crops of corn, and some very extensive, and heard no complaint of any being frostbitten; it was sound, large and ripe. Further, this deponent, &c.

W. BRISH.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, on this 16th January, A. D. 1832.

JOSEPH McCUTCHEM, J. P. [SEAL.]

STATE OF OHIO, } ss.
Crawford County, }

Personally appeared before me, Joseph McCutchen, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Henry C. Brish, a citizen of Seneca county in said State, and being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was employed in the removal of the Seneca Indians, lately residing on the Sandusky river, and was at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, at the time Wm. Walker, and the party of Wyandots accompanying him, returned to that place from an exploring tour up the Missouri river and west of the State of Missouri, in the country set apart for the permanent residence of the emigrating Indians of the United States. While at St. Louis, the deponent had a conversation with the said Walker respecting the success of his tour and the character of the country examined by him and his party. This deponent, living near to, and being well acquainted with him, felt anxious to know how he and his party were pleased with the country they went to examine, and make inquiries accordingly. Mr. Walker replied, that it was agreed on all hands that there could be no better soil in the world, that it was extremely rich; and observed, that we have no objections to the country except on account of the scarcity of timber; but that, they thought, by prudent use of it and economy, there would be sufficient. On the subject of game, Mr. Walker stated that there was a great number of bears; that they had three dogs, belonging to some gentleman, and in one day of their exploring excursions, they had killed three bears, and several others on the two succeeding days. After which they came to the determination to send back these dogs, that they might pursue their exploring tour without interruption; that if they had kept their dogs with them, they would have been constantly giving chase, and the party could not have refrained from following in the pursuit of the game. He observed, that they met with some Sacs and Ioways, and were treated very friendly and hospitably. The only inference I could draw from Mr. Walker's statement, was that they were pleased with the country, and would report favorably on their return. He spoke of the great excitement of the party in hunting the bear, so much so as to absorb their whole attention while in the pursuit. From the way the party were armed, and the kind of dogs they had, they were not prepared for any other kind of game.

Question, by James B. Gardiner, special agent, &c. Was the scarcity of timber the only complaint made against the country?

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Answer. I drew that inference, as a matter of course.

Question, by the same. Did you subsequently ask Mr. Walker if he thought they would confirm the provisional treaty made by me?

Answer. I did; and he equivocated, by replying that timber was scarce.

Question, by the same. Did he say the timber was too scarce to justify their living on the land?

Answer. No, he did not; and gave me no other intimation but that they were satisfied with the country.

Question, by the same. Did you understand by Mr. Walker that their several bear hunts were on horseback or on foot?

Answer. On horseback.

Question, by the same. From your knowledge in the business of surveying and exploring lands in the woods, do you suppose that men engaged in hunting bear or other game, on horseback, could have a fair opportunity of making a correct examination of the face and quality of the land and timber through which they passed?

Answer. I could not myself correctly examine a country while thus engaged, nor do I suppose any one else could. The pleasure of the sport would seem to me to divert the entire attention of those participating in it.

Question, by the same. Did you have any conversation with any other members of the delegation, while at St. Louis?

Answer. I had with Silas Armstrong, but do not recollect the particulars. He appeared to be studiously on his guard in answering questions, but expressed himself pleased with the country.

Question, by the same. In the conversations you had with Mr. Walker and Armstrong were any other persons present?

Answer. At the first conversation, none except strangers; at the second, Captain Brish and brother, and a number of strangers.

Question, by the same. How far did you go into the interior of Missouri?

Answer. Fifty-five or sixty miles.

Question, by the same. What was the character of the corn crops you saw?

Answer. They were as good as I ever saw. The corn was large, sound, and ripe. From St. Louis we went to St. Charles, when we crossed the Missouri river, and continued our route until we arrived at Troy, in Lincoln county, in the State of Missouri; most of which is a farming country, and pretty thickly settled.

Further this deponent saith not, &c.

GEO. W. GIST.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, this 16th day of January, A. D. 1832.

JOSEPH McCUTCHEM, J. P. [SEAL.]

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
Crawford County, } ss.

Personally appeared before me, Joseph McCutchen, an acting justice of the peace in and for said county, George Williams, an inhabitant of the Wyandot reservation in said county, who being by me duly sworn, deposes and saith, that he well understands the Wyandot language; and in conversation with *Baptis*, a Wyandot Indian, who composed one of the Wyandot exploring delegation, the said *Baptis* informed this deponent that the reason he was chosen by the chiefs as one of the delegation, was, that they

well knew he, the said *Baptis*, was always opposed to removing west of the Mississippi, and also that the other Indians selected by said chiefs as part of the delegation, were chosen from a like knowledge of their entire aversion to removal, on any terms whatever. And the said *Baptis* further stated, that the reason this deponent was not accepted by the chiefs as one of the delegation, was, that they knew this deponent was in favor of removal, if the country proved to be good. This deponent was originally nominated to the chiefs as one of the exploring delegation, by James B. Gardiner, the commissioner to treat with the Wyandots. And further this deponent saith not.

GEORGE WILLIAMS, his x mark.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, this 23d January, A. D. 1832.

JOSEPH McCUTCHEM,

An acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county.

I certify that the conversation mentioned in the within deposition, took place in my presence, and was interpreted to me by Jonathan Pointer, who is considered the best interpreter in the Wyandot nation.

JOSEPH McCUTCHEM, J. P.

St. Louis, December 15, 1831.

Your delegation appointed to examine the country west of the Mississippi, proposed to be given to the Wyandots of Ohio, beg leave to report:

That they have, pursuant to instructions, made the examination as directed. After a long and tedious journey, we arrived at the last town, near the western limits of the State of Missouri. Some of our company, viz., William Walker and C. B. Garrett, being sick, four of your delegates proceeded on, crossed the State line, and commenced the examination of the country, near the western line of the State and the river Platte.

Within two or three days the exploring party was rejoined by one of our sick men, viz., William Walker; the other, C. B. Garrett, continuing sick. The examination was made by five of your delegates.

We must be permitted here to say, that your delegates entered upon the examination with minds unbiased, unprejudiced; feeling the responsibility that rested upon them, and fully prepared to do ample justice to the reputation of the country.

The country we examined, it is universally admitted by all who are acquainted with the whole tract of country, purchased by the General Government for the purpose of settling the emigrating Indians of the United States, to be decidedly the best for the settlement of Indians from the northern part of the United States.

The lands between the western line of the State of Missouri and the river Platte, (see map accompanying,) are generally prairie—high, dry, in some places rolling, and in many places cup up with deep ravines, but generally of a rich black soil. In these prairies the small runs and ravines are so deep, and the banks perpendicular, that it frequently happens that a traveller has to trace them to near their head before they can be crossed. In all this tract, (the average width of which is about eight miles, and in length thirty miles,) there is but little timber, and what there is, is of a low scrubby, knotty, and twisted kind, and fit for nothing but fire wood. It has

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been said that within this scope of country, sugar trees abound; this is a mistake. We generally suppose when we hear of a country abounding with sugar trees, that there is enough to afford good sugar camps; for there is little else that gives value to them, but this simple and yet good property, viz., the sap they yield, from which sugar is manufactured. This article, we are well aware, is one of the principal commodities of commerce with our nation.

In all our examination, we discovered but one solitary spot on which there was any thing like a collection of sugar trees, and that was thirty trees on ten acres. On the west side of the river Platte the land is timbered; but the timber is of that description, generally, that is of no great use to an agricultural community. The best and most useful timber is scarce, and what there is of it, is deplorably defective. We noticed that the wood land was not thickly timbered, and yet the major part of the timber is of the useless kind; such as red elm, linwood, mulberry, hackberry, slippery elm, cotton wood, honey locust, buck-eye, and a small growth of pin-oak and white hickory, &c. While upon the subject of timber, we will add, that the conclusion with your delegation is irresistible, that there is not good timber sufficient for the purposes of a people that wish to pursue agriculture.

With regard to the quality of the soil, no objection can be urged against it. It is generally a dark rich loam, varying in depth by being either hilly or bottom land; it is rich and productive, but the situation, or rather face of the country, is certainly not friendly to its continuing so when cultivated. The reason we assign for its not continuing so when put under cultivation is, (and we think we will be sustained by all practical agriculturists,) that the lands are so steep, broken, and uneven, with so many ravines and runs, that the rich soil, when cultivated, must necessarily wash away, and be carried down those steep and rapid ravines and runs, and totally lost; indeed, we have seen enough in that country to satisfy us on this head. From all the information we could obtain with regard to the climate, we are satisfied that it is colder than it is in our part of the State of Ohio, though it is thirty-nine and a half degrees of north latitude. The corn crops throughout the State of Missouri have been the last season, with very few exceptions, frostbitten. It is said that seven-eighths of the corn crops have been thus injured.

We do doubt its being as good a corn country, generally, as the country we now occupy. For farming, generally, we can with safety say, that it will not suit the Wyandot nation as well as the country they now hold.

It may be urged that a part of the nation procure a subsistence by the chase, and as game has become scarce in this country, there is an absolute necessity for the nation to seek a new home, in a country where game abounds, to save them from want and indigence.

If it being supposed, that by removing to this new country, the interests of the hunting part of our nation will be promoted by the abundance of game in that country, we must say it is a mistaken idea. The game consists chiefly of bear, deer, and racoon, and the smaller kinds of game. There is a strip of wooded country situated between the Missouri river and the Missouri State line, in the middle of which runs the river Platte, in which there is, it is true, a considerable of bear; but we would ask how long would they continue to be plenty in that region, if the Wyandots got there? Particularly as they are acknowledged to be generally good bear hunters. We venture to say, that in three years' time, they would be as scarce as they now

are upon our reservation. As for deer, they cannot be said to be plenty in that country; the same may be said of racoon. Go out of this track, you will then come in contact with some other tribe that will view you as intruders, and certainly be driven off their hunting grounds, if you do not receive rougher treatment.

Independently of these considerations, there are many other circumstances that weigh much in the minds of your delegation. The country, proposed to be given to the Wyandots, is now occupied by the Sacs and Ioways; these tribes, it is true, have not the right of soil, or fee of the lands, but they claim the right of occupation for the term of ten years from the ratification of their treaty with the Government, leaving yet nine years of occupation, one year's only having expired. This they claim, and will contend for. The consequences resulting from our settling there, while they make this claim to the land, can be more easily imagined than described.

Moreover, the leading politicians of the State of Missouri are opposed to the settling of Indians upon her frontier; speak of Indians as "a nuisance," "a curse to the State," &c.; in short, they evince an unfriendly, and, indeed, hostile disposition.

Great exertions have been made, and are now making, to have the whole "Platte country" added to the State. Strong memorials have been sent on to Congress, and the representation from that State, are now actively engaged in endeavoring to carry the measure through Congress.

The inhabitants, generally, upon the frontier of the State, (those who would be our neighbors,) are, with a few honorable exceptions, the most abandoned, dissolute, and wicked class of people we ever saw. Fugitives from justice from the States of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other southern States, form a large portion of the population upon this frontier. With such neighbors on one side, not only unfriendly to us, but to Indians generally, the Sacs and Ioways viewing us as intruders, we think the situation of the Wyandots, settled there, would not be an enviable one.

Missouri is a slave-holding State, and slave-holders are seldom very friendly to Indians. (See Georgia.) At least they have, whenever they have got Indians in their power, proved themselves to be the greatest and most merciless oppressors they ever met with among all the American population. Situated as we would be, upon the borders of the State, our territory would be an asylum and sanctuary for runaway and vagrant negroes; for, as soon as they cross the State line, they are without the limits of the United States; and we are sure we have enough of that class already amongst us.

It has been said repeatedly, that by removing to this country, we should be freed from the troubles and evils we experience by being surrounded by a white population, especially from the destructive influence of intemperance. We can assure you that we shall never realize this in that country. On the contrary, we shall have a more worthless and corrupt class of whites to deal and associate with, than is to be found in this part of Ohio; so far from being removed from the temptations to intemperance, we shall, to say the least, be as much exposed to this curse to human society as we now are. Not even the strong arm of military power can prevent the introduction of ardent spirits among the troops at Cantonment Leavenworth, which is west of the tract of country we would occupy, should we remove; and the road, leading from the white settlement to the garrison, passes through nearly the centre of this tract of country, and crosses the Platte river at the falls. (See map.) Our nation would be constantly exposed

to this evil; and not only to this, but all manner of impositions from the hordes and bands of rambling trappers and bee-hunters that infest the country west of the State of Missouri. If military force cannot suppress whiskey traders, we would ask how an Indian agent is to succeed?

We cannot avoid putting but a small estimate upon the promised protection of the General Government, after we shall have settled there. If we should be able to protect ourselves, well; if not, then the consequence must be, we must suffer much before the Government would afford any relief. Of all the countries for civilizing and improving the condition of Indians, this would be the last we should select for that purpose. If it be the object of the Government to promote the interests and happiness of our nation, by settling them in this country, we must say we do not believe that, by this measure, this desirable object will be attained.

The Indians that have settled on the south side of the Missouri and on the Kansas river, we are confident, instead of improving in civilized habits, good morals, or their condition being in any degree improved or ameliorated, have, on the contrary, retrograded, especially the Delawares, from Indiana.

Your delegation, it is supposed, were to consult and keep in view the general interest of the nation, by whom they have been deputed; and after completing their examination, weigh all the advantages and disadvantages with fairness and candor; then to report whether, in their opinion, the interests of the nation at large will be promoted by their removal to that country or not. They have at least governed themselves by this belief, and acted accordingly in the difficult task assigned them.

In conclusion, your delegation must say, and that in all truth and sincerity, that they are decidedly of opinion, that the interests of the nation will not be promoted, nor their condition ameliorated, by a removal from this to the country examined; and recommend to the chiefs and nation at large to cease all contentions, bickerings, and party strifes; settle down, and maintain their position in the State of Ohio.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES GOULD, his x mark.
JOHN BAPTISTE, x
JAMES WASHINGTON, x
WM. WALKER,
SILAS ARMSTRONG.

To the CHIEFS OF THE WYANDOT NATION.

UPPER SANBUSKY, OHIO, *January 27, 1832.*

I certify, that the foregoing is a true copy from the original report made by the delegation, of which I was conductor.

WM. WALKER.

CLARKSVILLE, GEORGIA, *January 28, 1832.*

DEAR SIR: The people of Georgia, and in fact of the whole Union, must ever feel grateful to you for your exertion to rid the country of the embarrassing and dangerous question of Indian emigration. Your able views of that subject have disposed most of the intelligent Cherokees to abandon the country at present occupied by them, provided they can do so with conve-

nience and safety. Many of the intelligent part of the tribe, who are not under the immediate control of Ross, or the enemies of General Jackson, have, since the publication of your report, enrolled their names; and their example would be followed by almost all the common Indians if an alteration could be made in the present method of enrolling. The alteration to which I allude, is to authorize the commissioners appointed to enrol to value the improvements, and pay down for them at the time of enrolling. You are sufficiently acquainted with the Indian character to know, that they are naturally suspicious, and are taught from infancy to doubt every promise made by white men; and, in fact, with white or red men, money in hand is much more acceptable than any promises to be performed at a future period. I have been amongst the Indians and have conferred much with them, and I am clearly convinced, that if the arrangement I have mentioned could be made, that a very large portion of the Cherokee tribe would emigrate in less than three months.

If you wish to know any thing of my character, &c., I would refer you to General Newnan, a member of Congress from our State.
Very respectfully, yours,

THOS. J. RUSK.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. TER., *January 29, 1832.*

SIR: I wrote you a few days since, directed to the office of Indian affairs, in relation to the movements and business connected with the Indian emigration.

The doubt expressed as to whether the steamboat Reindeer would be able to reach Fort Smith, has been unfortunately realized, for she returned to this place last evening, leaving a detachment of Indians about eighty miles below Fort Smith, destined for the settlement on this river.

The articles furnished by the Government, alluded to in my last as being on board the boat, are now here. I have, however, issued the proportion of arms, hoes, and axes, that this party, consisting of about fourteen hundred, commanded by their chief, Netuchache, are entitled to. I leave for Fort Smith to-day, and from that point cross over to Fort Towson, to meet several parties that must be near their homes.

With a view to establish the proper points to issue, the year's supplies from the articles furnished by the treaty for the Red river settlements, will have to be transported in wagons from this river. I will propose to the officers having charge of the public teams, to engage them in this duty, so soon as the Indians are settled, which I have no doubt will be acceded to.

I see hourly the necessity of my returning to Washington as early as possible, for the purpose of giving such information as I may possess, growing out of actual observation.

Respectfully, &c.

F. W. ARMSTRONG, *C. Agent.*

To the SECRETARY OF WAR.

CREEK AGENCY, *January 30, 1832.*

SIR: Your letter of the 19th inst. has this moment reached me. In reply to your inquiries relative to the...

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tioned for the faithful application of that money in conducting the party to their western home, and paying their necessary expenses while on their journey. On the coming in of the said receipts and bond, the money will be remitted to Parks, to be disbursed by him according to the condition of his bond.

To compensate you for your services, you will be allowed five dollars per day, including your expenses, for the few days you may be engaged in this business; the total expense in no event to exceed forty dollars; and it is requested that you will execute these instructions with all convenient speed.

With great respect, &c,
ELBERT HERRING.

Col. JOHN McELVAIN,
Indian Agent, &c.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, April 6, 1833.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ultimo, addressed to the Secretary of War, relative to a reservation of land claimed by Isaiah Walker, son of Isaac Walker, deceased.

On referring to the treaty of 29th September, 1817, and the supplement of 17th September, 1818, adverted to in your letter, as the basis of the claim, the name of Isaac Walker cannot be found as one of those for whom provision was made. If that be the case, the department has no authority to act in this matter. If it be not the case, you will please designate the foundation of the claim.

You will perceive, by referring to the 12th article of the intercourse act of 1802, that the Government recognizes no right on the part of any Indian, or tribe, or nation of Indians, to convey or lease their lands unless by treaty. The proposed condition, that the lessee should surrender the lease in the event of sale by the Indians, could not confer a right prohibited by the Constitution of the United States.

With great respect, &c.
ELBERT HERRING.

Mr. JOSEPH CHAFFEE,
Tymochtee, Crawford county, Ohio.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, April 6, 1833.

SIR: Your letter of the 6th ultimo, with its accompanying papers, marked No. 1 and No. 2, relative to intruders upon the mineral lands west of the Mississippi, has been received.

My letter to you, dated 29th ultimo, renders it unnecessary to add any further observations on this subject at present.

The Winnebagoes having stipulated, by their late treaty, to leave the ceded land by the 1st June next, instructions have been given to effect their removal by that time. The measure is imperatively demanded by considerations growing out of their own interest, and the safety of our citizens, and will be enforced.

With great respect, &c.
ELBERT HERRING.

Gen. JOSEPH M. STREET,
Prairie du Chien.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, April 6, 1833.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 5th ultimo, I would observe, that concurrent representations from various persons, induce the belief that the Pottawatamies are inclined to exchange their lands in Illinois, and remove to the west of the Mississippi. Desirous of such an event, Congress, during the last session, made an appropriation for holding a treaty with the Pottawatamies, to extinguish their title to land in that State. A delegation of some of their chiefs, conducted by Colonel Pepper, has gone to the west to find land in that region suitable for the residence of their nation. If successful in their search, the nation will remove; and a favorable report of that delegation will accelerate the contemplated treaty.

No exertion will be spared by the department to conclude a treaty with them, being fully of opinion that their removal to the west is indispensable to their welfare, and the safety of our frontier citizens.

With great respect, &c.,

ELBERT HERRING.

Col. T. J. V. OWEN, *Chicago, Illinois.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 8, 1833.*

SIR: I will thank you to direct the surveyors of the public lands to forward to Governor Porter, at Detroit, with as little delay as possible, a plan of the Pottawatamie reservations in that part of Michigan Territory east of Lake Michigan, and south of Grand River; also, a plan of the unceded country belonging to the Indians, bounded on the east by Lake Michigan, on the west by the tract ceded last fall to the United States by the Winnebagoes, on the north by the tract ceded to the United States by the Menomones, and by the treaty ratified with them at the last session of Congress, and on the south of the northern boundary of Illinois; also, a plan of the unceded Pottawatamie lands in the State of Illinois.

In preparing the plan last mentioned, the surveyor must advert to the "cession" made by the Pottawatamies in Indiana in October last.

Very respectfully, &c.,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. ELIJAH HAYWARD,
Comm. Gen. Land Office.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 8, 1833.*

GENTLEMEN: An appropriation was made, during the last session of Congress, of the sum of ten thousand dollars, for the purpose of holding a treaty to extinguish the title of the Pottawatamies to land in the State of Illinois. The President has appointed you commissioners jointly, or if circumstances should prevent a joint action, severally, to carry the above provision into effect. For this purpose you will select the time and place of holding the treaty, and will make such arrangements as are usual and proper for the occasion. Your expenditures will be guided by a well regulated economy

and you will, in no event, exceed the sum appropriated. You can draw upon this department for such sums as you may require.

As an intimate relation exists between the several bands of the Pottawatamie tribe; and as it is desirable that all our proceedings with the Indians should not only be just, but satisfactory to them, it will be proper to convene all who can be considered interested in the section of country contemplated by law. The extent of their claims along the shore of Lake Michigan is unknown to me, and perhaps not very well defined. If the whole country south of the Menomonic cession, and east of that made last autumn by the Winnebagoes, could be purchased, it would be a very important arrangement, and conduce greatly to the security of that frontier, and, I have no doubt, to the permanent advantage of the Indians. I do not know where the Illinois boundary divides this tract, nor is it of consequence, as a division of it does not seem necessary. You are at full liberty to extend your operations to include all this region, if you can do so, and keep within the appropriation. Should you find it advisable to make this effort, you will take particular care to summon all the Indians who have any just claims to an interest in these lands. And as it is possible the Mel-wa-kee Indians may set up pretensions, interfering with some of the southern part of the Menomonic cession, I will thank you to investigate that subject, and quiet any just claim you may ascertain to exist. The Indians are so broken into separate bands, and the boundaries between them are so unsettled, that we may at times purchase from some what actually belongs to others. But when such a case is discovered, it becomes us, by a just consideration, to indemnify all parties. Should you succeed in this arrangement, it would relieve the whole country between lake Michigan and the Mississippi, and south of the Ouisconsin and Fox rivers of the Indians, an event equally desirable for us as for them; as it is not possible they can retain their present position much longer, pressed as they will be by our settlements, and exposed to all the evils which these produce.

There is likewise no objection to an arrangement with the Pottawatamie bands in Michigan east of the Lake, and south of Grand river, for the cession of their reservations, if they can be induced to attend to the treaty, and if the amount of the appropriation be not exceeded. Being all connected together, there can be no impropriety in convening them on this occasion.

It is important that all these Indians should be induced to migrate to the country west of the Mississippi. That step is essential to their prosperity, and even to their existence; and the sooner they resolve upon it, the better. To this object your efforts will be directed, nor will you abandon it till all hopes of success are exhausted. Decline, in the first instance, to grant any reservations either to the Indians or others, and endeavor to prevail upon them all to remove. Should you find this impracticable, and that granting some reservations will be unavoidable, that course may then be taken in the usual manner, and upon the usual conditions. But I am very anxious that individual reservations should be circumscribed within the narrowest possible limits. The whites and half-breeds press upon the Indians, and induce them to ask for these gratuities, to which they have no just pretensions; and for which neither the United States nor the Indians receive any real consideration. The practice, though it has long prevailed, is a bad one, and should be avoided as far as possible.

You may stipulate for the payment of annuities in the usual way, not ex-

ceeding, however, the term of twenty years; and they will be proportioned to the value of the cession, and to the other stipulations provided for the Indians. If these agree to remove, you can provide for the expenses of their journey, for a year's subsistence after their arrival in their new country, and for such arrangements with relation to agricultural assistance to stock, to mills, schools, farming utensils, blacksmith shops, &c., as have been inserted in the treaties recently concluded with emigrating Indians, and as may be suitable to the condition of the Pottawatamies. The stipulation respecting a country had better be in the same form it was in the treaties with the Ohio Indians; that is, that a country sufficiently extensive and fertile should be assigned to them by the President. This arrangement would ensure them full justice.

In examining some of the treaties concluded last year, the expenditures were found unnecessarily large. Too many people, and with selfish objects, attend upon these occasions; and they either advise the Indians not to sell, or urge them to make some demand in which they have a direct interest. I would recommend to you to hold your treaty upon the Indian lands, so that you can exercise a sufficient and legal control over all persons attending, and prevent the introduction of spirits. Of this, however, you will judge. The commanding officer at Chicago will be directed to furnish a sufficient guard upon your requisition, and to place them under your orders. This will be necessary to the preservation of the proper police.

Your provisions you will procure upon the best terms; and should it be found that any can be spared to you from the stores at Chicago, it shall be done, and the necessary information immediately communicated. If not, you must purchase whatever you find necessary.

For all the articles procured by you, you will take regular bills of parcels, receipted by the parties, and you will show the disposition by proper certificates. The provisions will be issued upon regular returns, to be drawn by you daily, stating the number of Indians and the name of the principal man of each family. At the end of the treaty these returns will be consolidated into a regular abstract, exhibiting the quantity of each description of provisions daily issued. This will be certified by you and transmitted with your accounts. You will please to observe, that articles purchased by you must be accounted for.

You will be allowed eight dollars per day for every day engaged in this duty, and eight dollars for every twenty miles going to and returning from the place of holding the treaty, to be paid on your respective certificates upon honor. You can appoint a secretary, who will be allowed in like manner five dollars a day, and five dollars for every twenty miles of travel.

This letter is written in triplicate, one to each of you, and you will communicate with each other upon the subject committed to you.

As soon as the treaty is terminated, you will please to transmit your vouchers to the commissioner of Indian Affairs for settlement. The treaty, if effected, will be sent by mail, and not by a special messenger.

The Surveyor General of the United States, and the surveyor of public lands for Missouri and Illinois, will be requested to prepare and transmit to Governor Porter, plats of that portion of the country referred to in this letter within their respective districts, exhibiting the unextinguished Indian title.

Very respectfully, &c.,
 His excellency GEO. B. PORTER,
 Colonel THOS. J. V. OWEN,
 Colonel WILLIAM W. WEATHERFORD, }
 Commissioners, &c.

LEWIS CASS.