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in the extreme to hear of such a conduct, fearing it may be attended with serious and disagreeable events. The people of this country are far from being in a temper disposed to receive insults accompanied with aggravated injuries, nor will it be prudent in the indians to conduct themselves in a manner that might invite a retaliation for the innumerable murders and other crimes of the deepest die, that they have but too recently committed upon many of the harmless and innocent Citizens of this country.

I beg that you will use your interest and influence to have the goods and horses that have been taken returned as soon as possible; and let the indians be informed the dangers of such a conduct, should they be so unwise as to suffer it to be carried on any longer. I wish sincerely to cultivate peace and harmony between our frontier citizens and the indians, and shall take all the necessary measures in my power to promote the same. Inclosed you will receive a letter directed to the chiefs, which you will please to have read and explained to them.

Silas Dinsmore, esquire,
Agent to the Cherokees.

Knoxville, 12th January 1797.

Brothers: I have now arrived at this place, and am sorry to be informed that some of your foolish young people have been taking horses and plundering waggons on the Cumberland road; such conduct will soon darken the bright chain of friendship that now so happily is joined to each nation. I hope you that are warriors and chiefs do not encourage such proceedings, and I have a better opinion of you than to suppose you would any longer suffer it to be done. You have no reason to think I wish you any ill, neither does the great majority of the white people, in case your nation will be friendly; you know I have always advised you not to let foolish young fellows destroy the good understanding between us.

I request that you will proceed to make inquiry after the horses and other property that have lately been taken by your people and send the same into this place, in order that the owners may have it again; by which means our friendship will continue to be firm and strong, I have wrote to Mr. Dinsmore on this subject, and hope you will persue such measures as will enable you and him to recover the stolen property.

Warriors and Cheifs
of the Cherokee Nation.

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Knoxville, 13th January 1797.

Sir: Mr. Abraham Martin on his way to Cumberland, near South West point, lost a black horse, four white legs nearly to the hams, a bald face, near five feet high, if any brands not remembered.

Mr. Martin is of the opinion he was stolen by the indians, as he followed the tracks to one of their old crossing places; please to make inquiries in the nation and obtain him if possible.
Silas Dinsmore, esquire,
Agent to the Cherokees

Knoxville, 13th January 1797.

Sir: For some time past much of my attention has been engaged to provide ample and permanent protection to our frontiers, for which purpose two full and complete companies of regular troops well officer'd has arrived at this place; and two more is expected by the spring of the year, to be stationed at such places as will be thought most useful and conducive to the protection of this State. Under these regulations and arrangements, I have my firm and sincere hopes our country will enjoy perfect peace and safety.

I have also the strongest assurances that the President of the United States is perfectly disposed to grant us every protection that may be necessary and adequate to our defence and security.

Under these promising and flattering prospects of our affairs, in our embryo situation, give me leave to offer you and my country my congratulations, hoping the time is already approaching when peace, oppulance, numbers and our local advantages will characterize the State of Tennessee.

Circular. To the several
Colonels in Mero District

Knoxville, 17th January 1797.

Sir: Since my last nothing of material moment excepting that several waggons on the road through the wilderness to Cumberland have been plundered by the indians and some of them left without a horse, supposed to be done by the Cherokees.

The Agent to the Cherokees has complained about settlements being made as low down as the Tennessee, on which subject I to him replied, a copy of which is enclosed for your information; should anything on that head be sent forward to the department of war it will elucidate in some measure the circumstances attending the matter, and you will take such measures as in your wisdom,

will best promote the interest of the State. I wish the line could be extended to the Tennessee.

It has for some time been reported that one indian was killed and another wounded on the waters of Clinch; I hope the report is not true, and I am induced so to believe from this reason, that neither the indians nor Agent have complained to me on the occasion.

Our post rider has several times been disappointed in meeting with and recieving in order the mail at Abbingdon, which neglect may prove very injurious to us. A letter from the department of war to the executive of this state dated 13th August last only arrived here on the 11th instant, brought by Mr. John Deaderick from Cumberland; another from same department dated 29th September came by our post a few days before. How these irregularities happen I am at a loss to know; it is not the first time letters directed to me at this place from Philadelphia has went round by the way of Cumberland, and some of them came forward with a broken seal. I hope you will please acquaint the Post Master General of such irregularities, in order that the defect may be remedied.

Captains Wade's and Sparks's companies²⁷ have arrived neither of them compleat, if no more is sent, these will be inadequate to the protection of our frontiers, and the defect ought to be supplied by militia; three companies of infantry and a troop of horse would answer the purpose, on which I have wrote the Secretary of war.

Circular, To the Honorable
Messrs Blount, Cocke, and Jackson
in Congress

Knoxville, 17th January 1797.

Sir: I had the honor of receiving your favours of 29th September by the mail on the 11th Instant and that of the 13th of August on the same day, the latter came to hand by Mr. John Deaderick from the district of Mero; from such circumstances it appears there is great delays and irregularities in conveying your dispatches to this place.

Captains Wade and Sparks have arrived, neither of the companies compleat. I would beg leave to mention, that three companies of infantry and a troop of horse, in my opinion, would not be more than adequate. The valuable consequences that would result from cavalry being employed in addition to the infantry would ensure the safety of the frontiers. The very appearance of well

²⁷ Capts. John Wade and Richard Sparks. The latter married Ruth, daughter of Gov. Sevier, June 29, 1797.

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 deterring the indians from hostilities.

I have continued the militia guard at fort Blount to remain
 there until relieved by regular troops.

Several families on the road to Cumberland through the wilder-
 ness have had their horses stollen and waggons plundered by the
 indians. I have wrote the Agent and Cheifs on the occasion, and
 have my hopes they will put a stop to any farther robberies being
 committed of the kind.

I shall endeavour to prevent encroachments on the land reserved
 to the indians for their hunting grounds, altho as in a former
 letter, I observed to you, it will be difficult to accomplish, and will
 require time and address, nevertheless have no doubt I shall effect
 it without having recourse to any violent and coercive means.

Honorable James McHenry,
 Secretary of war

Knoxville, 17th January 1797.

Sir: Several times our post rider has been disappointed by not
 meeting with and receiving the mail at Abbingdon; delays and
 irregularities too often happen in same quarter.²⁸ A letter from the
 department of war, dated August 13th, only arrived here on the
 11th Instant; came round by the way of Cumberland, and by
 the hand of Mr. John Deaderick, as a private conveyance; another
 from the same department, of the 29th September, brought by the
 mail on the same day. Several other failures in letters to and
 from this place, has taken place. I have taken the liberty to give
 you a short sketch of the foregoing circumstances, in order that
 you may be able to take measures for remedying the defect, lest
 it should prove more prejudicial and injurious to the public, and
 to individuals.

The Post Master General
 of the United States.

²⁸ In the early days letters were sent by "express"—private messengers—or by
 merchants and traders going to or returning from markets in the East or on sea-
 board. Then came private contractors who established post-routes. John Chisholm
 in the latter part of 1792 established such a route from Knoxville to Abingdon, Va.,
 by way of Greeneville and Jonesborough, with return trip by way of Sullivan Court
 House (Blountville) and Rogersville. *Ante*, p.—. In 1794, the Postmaster Gen-
 eral let a contract in behalf of the national government for carriage of the mails
 over the first-named route. Mails left Knoxville on alternate Saturdays at 6 o'clock
 in the morning and arrived at Abingdon 6 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. *Knoxville*
Gazette, of July 31, 1794. In 1792 a public or official route was established between
 Abingdon and Rogersville. *Ib.*, of Dec. 12, 1792.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
JOHN SEVIER GOVERNOR IN AND OVER THE
SAME.

To William Maclin, esquire, Secretary of State:

Apply to Daniel Smith, esquire, the late secretary of the Territory of the United States south of the river Ohio, for the original Acts and ordinances passed by the Governor and Judges, and the Acts of the General Assembly, of the said Territory, or attested copies thereof and record the same in a book which you will provide for that purpose; for which services you shall receive a reasonable compensation.

Given under my hand and seal at Knoxville
this 26th day of January 1797.

By the Governor
Wm. Maclin, Secretary

Knoxville, 29th January 1797.

Sir: Yours of the 4th Instant I am honored with by Mr. Teele. I should have been glad the running of the boundary line could have been delayed til after the next Session of Congress. Before your favor arrived I understood it was to be run in the Spring.

The Chickasaw indians sets out to day for their nation; and, so far as I am able to understand, are by no means well pleased with the treatment they recieved while at Philadelphia. Pemingo told me that "a certain great man there was like unto a cowardly old woman—through fear would treat her enemies better than her friends."

Reports are circulating that two indians were killed by Edward Mitchell and John Leviston [Livingston] near the head of Kentucky river, and I fear there is too much truth in the report.²⁹ I am informed the indians are much exasperated, and threaten to take satisfaction, in case the murderers are not punished. I shall endeavour to have them apprehended, and should, ere this, had either the indians or agent lodged any complaint. They have not done it, neither do I expect it, having reason to think the indians are lead to believe that the executive have nothing to do in indian affairs. Should my suspicions be well founded, the indians will be too ready to indulge unfavorable ideas, and consider themselves

²⁹ Ramsey, 678.

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wholly independant of any measures proposed or held out by the Government. If they are to be directed and regulated altogether by men wholly ignorant and unacquainted with the practices and customs of indians, we may consider ourselves in a very indifferent situation.

The trading house³⁰ established for the support of the Cherokees is not very favorably thought of by these people, and many view it as fixed for the destruction of their traders and nation. The trading chiefs and white men, whom you know are the influential party, speak of it with much contempt, and reprobate and despise the measure, frequently calling the President and Congress pedlars and indian traders.

Should a rupture happen between the United States and any of the Beligerent powers, we should find in all the southern tribes inveterate enemies. The traders of every description would conceive it their interest to divert the attention and intercourse of the indians from the United States to a quarter where they could recommence their trading as usual, by which means enhance a profit to themselves who alone they think are entitled to it. They conceive the present mode of monopolizing the indian trade as a total prohibition intended against every trader in the nation; and in fact they cant well consider it in any other light.

Red-headed Will, as I am informed, has already with the whole of his large town left the nation, to settle on the west side of the Mississippi;³¹ and his address and influence will be the means of numbers more going after him. This fellow swore "that Congress was scratching after every bit of a rackoon skin in the nation that was big enough to cover a Squaw's—; that their hunting was nearly over, and after that their land was the next object." From these statements you may readily percieve their ideas and apprehensions on this piece of novil national traffic and indian trade, which has occasioned general jealousy among the different tribes, and I may add much clamour among the good citizens of this State.

If Congress has any bounty to spare, their charity would be more justly bestowed on the lame, the halte, and the blind soldier, whose very appearances are daily distressing the feelings of hu-

³⁰ At Tellico Block House.

³¹ Following Chief The Bowl, who had left the Chicamauga Country for the West in 1794. For early migrations of the Indians, Cherokee and Chicamauga, to the Arkansas Country, see Mooney, *Myths of the Cherokee*, 100, *et seq.*

manity, and to whom we are indebted for our existance as a nation, and our liberties as freemen, and decline giving thousands to those who despise it; and, when at the time of the most imminent danger, exerted their utmost efforts for the destruction of America.

Circular to the Honble Messrs Blount Cocke and Jackson in Congress.

Knoxville, 10th February 1797.

Sir: Many reports seem to confirm that two indians were very inhumanly murdered some where near unto the head of Kentucky river, by two men supposed to live in Hawkins County; I have waited to hear from you or the indians on the subject, but as yet neither have sent forward any complaint or information, from which circumstance I was induced to believe for a length of time that the reports were premature.

The indians have lately killed in several different places, to wit: one in Powel's valley and one more badly wounded; three more killed near the head of Kentucky; and one at Cumberland; it is also reported that five more are missing and believed to be killed that were out hunting in the Cumberland Mountain, tho of this last there is no certain accounts as yet come to hand. I am extremely sorry for these disturbances, and very much fear the approaching consequences, and am fully determined to put an end to any further mischief if in my power; and will if possible have the perpetrators of the first murder apprehended. I flatter myself that you will use your influence to have peace and tranquility restored, by endeavouring to restrain the indians from any farther depredations, and convince them of the dangers of bringing on a war, which would be the destruction of their nation.

Silas Dinsmore, esquire,
Agent to the Cherokees.

Knoxville, 10th February 1797.

Brothers: I am sorry to hear of so much blood being spilt; it is a thing I never expected would again happen between the Cherokees and white people. When I first heard that two of your people were killed, I did not believe it, and my reason was, that none of your people sent me any information, neither did the agent, or any person make any complaint, which ought to have been done; and then I would have endeavoured to have the men taken that killed your people, altho it was done as I am informed in the state of Kentucky, tho I believe the men lives in this state that com-

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mitted the murder; they are bad men and have committed a cowardly and black action, and I am very sorry to hear of it; but it is done, and if the persons can be taken they must suffer agreeably to our laws and the treaty existing between your nation and the United States.

It is very wrong in your people to take any satisfaction until you had made complaint, and let us had an oppertunity to have taken the murderers, and let them that did the mischief suffer. Your own good sense must tell you that it is a very wrong thing to make the innocent suffer for the guilty; it is contrary to our reason and the laws of the Great Being who made all things. Your people has lately taken several lives, and of those who are entirely innocent, and had not done you any injury; this my brothers is contrary to our treaty, and your interest; if you dont put a stop to such conduct, your nation will bring on a war, and then the consequence must be very bad on your side; you are but a handfull of people, and you would have to leave your Country, which will cause your women and children to suffer very much. Our people dont want to go to war against you, tho they are not afear'd, and you know they are not; therefore I expect you will consider your own interest and keep your foolish people from doing any more mischief, otherwise the consequence will be bad.

The Warriors and Chiefs
of the Cherokee Nation.

Knoxville, 14th February 1797.

Sir: Yours of the 3d Ultimo by Mr. Carey⁸² came duly to hand. I expected ere this reaches you Congress will have risen; but, as there is a probability that you may remain in Philadelphia some time after the Session is over, I think it necessary to inform you that the indians have killed one person in Powel's valley and wounded another; also have killed one more on harpeth (Cumberland). I conjecture that this has been done in retaliation for two indians said to be very inhumanly murdered by Ned Mitchell and John Liviston some where near unto the head of Kentucky river. I hope to have the matter shortly made up so as to restore peace and harmony.

The reports of a probability of a war with the French and direct taxation seems to cause much clamour, and excites apparently much indignation among many here against the measures of the American Government.

⁸² James Carey of Blount conspiracy fame.

I have not wrote to the other members, expecting they will in all probability leave Philadelphia before this letter will arrive, which I hope will be a sufficient apology should it be otherwise.

I have inclosed a copy of a letter, which was sent to Silas Dinsmore, Agent to the Cherokees.

Honorable William Blount
in Congress.

Knoxville, 17 February 1797.

Sir: Some time past two negro fellows belonging to Captain James Richardson, of this county,³³ ran away and went into the Cherokee nation; from thence to the Creeks, where they were taken by a half breed by some called Fife and by others Lastly; he pretends to hold them until he is made whole for some horses stollen from him by the Cherokees.

There has been a man killed, and a number of horses lately taken from the Cumberland Settlements, supposed to be done by the Creeks or Cherokees.

I beg of you to exert your influence to keep the indians within bounds, and have both the negroes and horses returned as soon as possible, otherways we need not expect to support peace and tranquility much longer; the negros belongs to a person in moderate circumstances and the loss is very sensibly felt by him and his family.

I hope the pleasure of seeing you in the spring at this place; in the mean time request you will communicate to me every thing that may be interesting to our frontiers or the state.

Benjamin Hawkins, esq.,
Superintendant of indian affairs

Knoxville, 17 February 1797.

Captains Sparks and Wade:

As you are now on the eve of setting out to hold a conferance with the inhabitants settled on what is called the indian lands;³⁴ permit me to solicit your paternal, benevolent, and favourable indulgence towards those unfortunate people, by granting unto them all the time and suitable opportunity adequate to a preparation for their removal; and in every other instance afford unto them

³³ Ramsey, 583, 589.

³⁴ These officers were sent by the general government to enforce treaty stipulations and compel removal of the whites from Indian lands. Ramsey gives their official proclamation and long accounts of occurrences, drawn from files of the *Gazette*. P. 678, *et seq.*

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such marks of your humanity and tenderness as the duties of your office and the nature of the case will permit you; in doing of which you will lay me under very great and lasting obligations.

Knoxville, 17 February 1797.

Gentlemen: It appears that the Secretary at war is fully determined to cause all those who are settled outside the treaty line to remove. I hope my sincerity will not be doubted when I assure you that I sensibly feel for the disappointments, troubles and distress such a removal will cause many of the poor inhabitants settled in Powel's valley to undergo; had I it in my power to afford and yield you any relief it should be cheerfully and readily granted. I have the consolation to inform you that the gentlemen officers who meets you on occassion is benevolent, humain, and compassionate, and I make no doubt will readily favour you with every indulgence the circumstances and nature of the case will admit of.
The inhabitants of Powels Valley.

Knoxville, 3 March 1797.

Gentlemen: Yours of the 15 Ult.,³⁵ I had the pleasure to receive this day, and am glad to find such a military spirit prevailing in Rogersville.

I have already commissioned the officers of several companies of volunteer cavalry, and intend indulging each county with similar appointments on their application for such; the commissions are temporary, until the end of the next session of our Assembly, which body I expect will at the formation of a militia law continue the appointments and form them a part of the cavalry of the State.

It is recommended that none be suffered to engage but such as are persons of reputation, good deportment, and a readiness to equip themselves in a handsome military uniform, with arms and accoutrements suitable to the occasion; the sooner the better, for it is unknown how soon they may be wanted.

Your officers must be elected by the company in a similar manner to the other elections for cavalry is conducted, and the commissions will be attained on certificates in the same manner.

Messrs

Alexander Nelson, John Mitchell, James Dardis, and Edward Sherman, Hawkins County

³⁵ For this letter: *Tenn. Hist. Mag.*, VII, 270.

Knoxville, 5 March 1797.

Brother: Your letter of the 4th came to hand to day, in which you say that your people have done no damage on either the person or property of the whites. I wish this was the case, and I make no doubt you think so, but you may be sure several is killed; one in Powel's Valley by a fellow called Dick, can talk some english, has hunted there, and is well known by the people. I mention this that you may know the person. There has also been a great many horses taken from Cumberland and one man killed and another wounded; and yesterday another was killed and scalped on little Pigeon about thirty miles from this place; this conduct my brother has a bad appearance and, as I told you before, will be attended with disagreeable events should your people be so foolish and unwise not to decline such practices.

You mention that I wrote you in a threatning manner, but my brother if you listen to the words of my letter, there is no threats in it. I have only spoken to you the language of truth, and the fatal consequences that must attend your nation, should you be so imprudent as to again go to war. I dont nor never did speak to you with a false tongue; nor do I wish your people to be treated ill, but on the contrary, that they may live in peace and safety and raise their children in quietude.

I know very well that some of the white people are bad men and have been guilty of a horrid crime in killing the Red Bird and Will, and when ever they can be taken they shall suffer for it; one of them has run away and the other as yet is not taken: as I told you in my last I tell you in this, that the innocent ought not to suffer for the guilty, neither ought your people to take any satisfaction until you had first made your complaint and stated your sufferings. It is impossible for me to know when damage is done to your people without you inform me, and your own good sence will point out to you that a murderer seldom ever discovers upon himself, which I suppose is the reason why your people denies they have done any mischief.

You say you have been a long journey and while at Philadelphia received very different talks from that of mine; and say, that I say you are but a handful of people and in consequence of our superiority in numbers we have a right to do as we please. I deny saying we had a right to do as we please on any such a supposition; neither is there any such a word in my letter. It is true I said you

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ny such a supposition;
. It is true I said you

were only a handful of people, which is the truth, and I also
advised you of the dangers of going to war. If the people at Phila-
delphia have told you that you are a numerous and strong people,
and that you ought to go to war and kill your white brothers, they
have not told you that which is true, nor that which would be for
your good and the interest of your nation, was you to take such
advice. What I said in my letter was to convince your nation of
their danger and the great evils that always attend a war, and the
distressing condition your people would be in, should such a thing
take place.

You wish I would talk to my people and tell them not to cross
the river Tennessee, or to survey your land. I have often told them
that; neither do I wish or intend any such thing should be done.
But you know I am a great way from that place, and cant see what
every foolish man is doing. I expected that the guards at Tellico
would stop such people from crossing over, and I suppose they would
was they to see them, but neither them nor myself can see the trans-
actions of every bad man, no more than you can your people, who
come over on our side and kill our people and steal our horses.

Now brother I hope I have said enough to convince you that I
dont wish our people and yours to enter into war against each
other, and I hereby declare that I wish to have peace and friendship
subsisting between the two nations, and shall with all my heart
and strength do every thing in my power to promote the same.
I hope you will also endeavor to keep your people within the bounds
of reason, and let us try to prevent any further effusion of blood.
I wish us to live friendly and bury all animosities deep in the earth.
If you have complaints the Government will redress them, and
you know they are taking measures to effect the same, but if your
people will undertake contrary to the articles of the treaty to re-
dress themselves, you cant expect the government will do it. I
request that you will make inquiry into the murder lately done on
Pigeon, and if possible have the murderers punished agreeably to
the articles of treaty. Your people could have no colour of excuse
for committing any depredations on that quarter, for they are not
on lands claimed by your nation, neither have they interrupted
any of your people.

I hope to have an answer from you as soon as possible.
John Watts, and other Chiefs
of the Cherokee Nation

Knoxville, 5 March 1797.

Sir: Yours of this day came duly to hand, in which you have given me the melancholy account of the death of your unfortunate, and much to be lamented companion, whose death I do most sincerely regret.

I am so extremely sorry to hear of the inhuman murder committed on the body of Thomas Shields³⁶ by indians, a circumstance very unexpected to me, and what may be the cause of such a conduct in the indians, I am at a loss to imagine, for this day I received a letter from Watts in which he makes great professions of his sincere desire for peace, and utterly denies that any of his nation has committed any depredations either on the person or property of the white people.

I applaud the method you have taken in issuing your orders to the followers of the murderers, and recommend that no harsh or violent measures be made use of until we can have the cause of the murder fully investigated, for it would be a distressing circumstance to have our State involved in a war at this juncture of time, and I fear a calamity almost insurmountable. I recommend to you to send out two active and expert men, to reconnoitre round the frontier of your county for a few days, with instructions not to commit any violence or injury on any indian or indians that may appear in a peaceable and friendly manner; in the mean time I shall dispatch an express into the nation in order to obtain information on the subject of the murder. Should any future occurrences of alarming nature take place you are to protect your county the best possible manner in your power, and communicate to me thereon in the most speedy manner and shortest way.

P. S. Present my thanks to the men who turned out on the alarm and let them know if in my power they shall be rewarded.

Colonel Samuel Wear, Sevier County.

Knoxville, 8 March 1797.

Sir: Your election like a number of others is contested and the complaint principally is, that General Winchester, contrary to law, voted for Major General at Knoxville in the district of Hamilton, at the same time he was Brigadier of the district of Mero; and they contend was only entitled to have given his vote in his own district; as I have no power to determine contested and disputed

³⁶ On Pidgeon River, Sevier County. *Knoxville Gazette*, Mar. 4th. Ramsey, 686,

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Knoxville, 5 March 1797.
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 property, and communicate
 in the shortest way.
 I am glad you are out on the alarm
 and may be rewarded.

Knoxville, 8 March 1797.
 contested and the com-
 mander, contrary to law,
 in the district of Hamilton,
 in the district of Mero; and
 in his vote in his own
 contested and disputed
 case, Mar. 4th. Ramsey, 686,

elections, it must of course be laid before the next General Assembly
 for their determination.
 George Conway, esquire, Greene County

Knoxville, 10 March 1797.

Sir, Yours of the 9 Instant, I am honored with, and am much
 obliged for the information therein contained. With respect to
 what you observe respecting Watts, I know to be true and you
 may be sure I shall keep my eye on his conduct, and don't mean to
 leave any thing in his power more than cannot be prevented. Watts
 in writing to me was in answer to a letter I had previously wrote him
 on the subject of the depredations before committed, by his nation;
 and in his letter he denies that any of his people has committed any
 depredations on either the person or the property of the whites.

In a letter received last night from the agent is inserted this
 paragraph, "On the evening of the sixth instant Colonel Watts
 called on me at Tellico block house and related the following:
 A runner just now arrived from Chilhowee, informs me, that about
 twelve days ago a party of Cherokees from the fork of Hightower
 arrived at Notley on their way to Swananoë, or the settlements
 near the head of French Broad, to take satisfaction for one of their
 friends killed near that place in the autumn of 1796. The head
 men of Notley endeavoured to persuade them to return but in
 vain; they proceeded to Tamotly where the head men took their
 provisions and ordered them to return, with which order the head
 men supposed they complied, as they took their course homeward;
 but it was only an evasion; they went around and continued
 towards the settlements. When this was known Choocunnestattee
 or the Stallion sent a runner to the settlements to inform the people
 to beware. The intention of this communication is that the uper
 towns may be exculpated from the imputation of taking any part
 in the enterprize."

It is possible that some of that party did the mischief on Pigeon,
 and the Agent I believe thinks so.

I would advise you to keep out the two men, as before directed
 six or eight days longer, and then discharge them if not otherways
 directed, for probably the party which is mentioned to have set out, is
 yet lurking in the mountains; and I advise diligent search to be made.
 Colonel Samuel Wear, Sevier County.

Knoxville, March 1797.

Sir: From the great defects in the North Carolina militia law, and that is the only code which seems to be left for our guide, I have been induced to grant several temporary commissions to volunteer companies of cavalry to act more efficaciously for the protection of the State, should it be invaded. You will therefore please to notice and consider those companies as part of the cavalry of your district, until the Assembly or myself shall otherways direct.

(CIRCULAR)

To the Brigadier Generals
and Colonels of Cavalry

Knoxville, 17 March 1797.

Sir: Yours of the 10. Instant I am duly honored with, and shall observe the contents.

The wanton and unprovoked murder committed on the Red Bird³⁷ and another indian of the Cherokee tribe, is a crime so atrocious and aggravating in its nature, that it is my sincere wish and desire to have the perpetrators apprehended, in order they may suffer agreeably to the demerit of their crimes. The taking of them will be attended with some difficulty. Levingston I have been informed left this State in a few days after it was known he had been guilty of the murder, and Mitchell is constantly on his guard in such a manner that will render it difficult to have him apprehended. You may rest assured that nothing shall or will be lacking in the executive, to have them taken and safely conducted into the State of Kentucky, if by any means the same can be accomplished.

By the Governor.

Wm. Maclin, Secretary

His Excellency, Governor Garrard.

Kentucky.

Knoxville, 17 March 1797.

Sir: Yours of the 8 Instant I am honored with by express. There has not any murder been committed on any person in the town of

³⁷ The killing of this chief of the Cherokees was deeply resented by them. At one time Red Bird who disliked Wm. Cocke, of Mulberry Grove, Hawkins County, paid two buckskins to have inserted in a newspaper of the time a "talk" with another chief, in which the latter was warned to leave alone "one Wm. Cocke, the man who lives in the mulberry trees," because "the mulberry man talks very strong and runs very fast." The reference was to Cocke's supposed conduct in the battle of Island Flats (1776), stories of which, denied circumstantially by Cocke, followed him throughout the greater part of his career. Nicolay, *Our Nation in the Building*, 254.

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His Excellency
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Knoxville, March 1797.

Carolina militia law, and left for our guide, I have commissions to volunteer for the protection of and therefore please to notice the cavalry of your dis- otherways direct.

Knoxville, 17 March 1797.

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committed on the Red e tribe, is a crime so atro- it is my sincere wish and nded, in order thay may crimes. The taking of ulty. Levingston I have ys after it was known he hell is constantly on his it difficult to have him t nothing shall or will be ken and safely conducted eans the same can be ac-

Knoxville, 17 March 1797.

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deeply resented by them. At berry Grove, Hawkins County, of the time a "talk" with an- e alone "one Wm. Cocke, the mulberry man talks very strong supposed conduct in the battle mstantially by Cocke, followed ay, *Our Nation in the Building*,

Jonesborough, that I have yet heard of, either by Seth Waddle³⁸ or any other person, nor has he been charged with any felonious crime of any kind that I have heard of.

Seth Waddle is a person that will at times drink too freely, and at such times say things in order to excite laughter, etc., and is fond of horse raceing. Such is his greatest failings I have ever known him to be guilty of.

His Excellency, Governor Garrard,
Kentucky.

Knoxville, 28th March 1797.

Brothers: I have just received an express from the Governor of Kentucky which informs me that two men, citizens of the State of Tennessee, has murdered two men of your Nation, (one of the name of Red Bird). This murder was committed within the bounds and State of Kentucky, and the Governor thereof has demanded of me to send them into that State to be tried for the murder agree- ably to the laws of the State. I have sent forth orders to have the murderers taken, and when taken to be immediately sent to Ken- tucky in order that they may be tried and receive the punishment due their crime, if found guilty. Now my brothers you have had time enough to find out the persons that have killed the several people belonging to the State of Tennessee; one has been killed and another wounded on the Kentucky road since I wrote you be- fore. I therefore request and demand of you, that you have those murderers apprehended and punished agreeably to the treaty en- tered into between your nation and the United States. I am de- termined to have the white transgressors taken and punished if it can be done; and I shall expect you will apprehend the murderers on your part and have them punished; let us convince such dis- orderly people that they shall not be the cause of shedding the blood of innocent people and bringing about a war, which never fails to produce very fatal and disagreeable events.

I have frequently informed you how disagreeable a war would be to the whites of this State, and the United States in general, and also the dangerous consequences that in all probability might and would attend your nation should such an event take place.

³⁸ The Waddle family was of high standing in Washington County. John Wad- dle, Jr., married Rebecca, the fourth daughter of Gov. Sevier, Feb. 26, 1795. They lived near Broyesville, about eight miles below "Plum Grove," on the Nolachucky River.

I hope your nation will consider well the dangerous consequences, and put a final stop to the further effusion of blood, otherwise I am afraid it will tend to bring about very disagreeable events, which is the wish of this government to prevent.

The Warriors and Chiefs
of the Cherokee Nation

Knoxville, 30 March 1797.

Sir: I am induced to believe that the Chiefs of the Cherokee nation have possessed time sufficient to fully ascertain by whom the late murder have been committed on several of the Citizens of the State of Tennessee.

I demand that the chiefs of the Cherokee nation apprehend, and bring to condign punishment those of their nation who have been guilty of the perpetrations, and shall expect the leaders will evince a disposition to strictly and explicitly comply with the articles of the subsisting treaty between their nation and the United States. On the part of this State, permit me to assure you that those white persons who have so flagrantly violated the laws of this and the United States by committing violences on any part of the Cherokee Nation, shall not be suffered to escape with impunity; that it is the perfect intention of the executive, and a sincere desire, that such violators of the laws and treaties existing between the United States and the indian tribes, as also their disregard to the feelings of humanity, may and shall suffer agreeably to the demerits of their crimes, so far as the government shall have energy sufficient to inflict the same which I have no doubt is fully competent and adequate.

This is accompanied by one to the chiefs on the subject, which you will please to have read and explained to them; and assure the nation that it is the desire of the State of Tennessee to continue uninterrupted peace, reciprocity of friendship, and a friendly intercourse, so far as the good conduct of the nation may warrant and merit the same.

Silas Dinsmore, Esquire,
Agent to the Cherokees.

STATE OF TENNESSEE

To the Sheriff of Hawkins County, Sir:

I am just now informed by an express from the Governor of the State of Kentucky, that a Most Cruel daring and unprovoked

murder was perpetrated by several Citizens of this State on the Indians of the Cherokee Nation hunting in the State.

The perpetrators of this crime are contrary to the treaty between the Indian tribes, and the progressions of the State. Suitable to the State, have, so flagrant.

In conformity with the error of the State in such Cases, take the affairs of them if to safely and securely then and there keeper thereof.

In order to and convey either of the and call upon this State, to adequate and conveying them command and assisting Livingston dealt with a

Given under my hand and seal
March 1797

Sir: You are informed, and the Indians to the hands or persons from the same into the

And for the same are hereby

murder was perpetrated by Edward Mitchel and John Livingston, Citizens of this State and inhabitants of Hawkins county, on two indians of the Cherokee Nation (one of the name of red Bird) who was hunting in the State of Kentucky, on the Waters of Kentucky river.

The perpetration of such horrid and unwarranted an act is contrary to the treaties existing between the United States and the indian tribes, as also All laws human and divine, and such aggressions ought to meet exemplary and adequate punishment Suitable to the demerit of their Crimes, agreeably to the laws they have, so flagrantly and wantonly violated.

In conformity to the demand made by his Excellency the Governor of the State of Kentucky, and agreeably to an Act of Congress in such Cases made and provided: I do hereby command you, to take the aforesaid Edward Mitchel and John Livingston, or either of them if to be found in your County, and them or either of them safely and securely to convey unto the public Jail of Kentucky, then and there, them or either of them, you are to deliver unto the keeper thereof.

In order that you may be the better enabled to apprehend, take, and convey the said Edward Mitchel and John Livingston, or either of them as aforesaid, you are hereby informed to apply to, and call upon, any officer or officers either Civil or Military within this State, to furnish you with such guard or Guards, as may be adequate and necessary for the purpose of taking and safely conveying them to the public Jail of Kentucky as aforesaid. I also command and enjoin that all officers Civil and Military be aiding and assisting in having the aforesaid Edward Mitchell and John Livingston apprehended and taken in order that they may be dealt with as the law in such Cases may direct.

Given under my hand and seal in Knoxville this 19th day of March 1797.

Sir: You are hereby authorised to arrest and take into your possession, and the same safely keep, all the books and documents, belonging to the office of Martin Armstrong, that may be found in the hands or possession of James Holland esquire and others Commissioners from the state of North Carolina, appointed to take the same into their possession.

And for the purpose of arresting and detaining the same, you are hereby empowered to call on any officer or officers of this state

to assist in making the arrest should it become necessary, and this warrant shall be your authority for the same.

You are hereby directed to permit the said James Holland esquire and others to take such authenticated Copies, and transcripts of the aforesaid records as they may think proper, for the purpose of detecting the frauds and Villanies alledged to have been committed by Terrell and others.

Given under my hand and seal at Knoxville this 17th day of February 1798.

Pactolus Iron Works 3d March 1798.

Sir: After the receipt of this you will please to take Notice, Not to Issue any passports for persons to descend the Tennessee, lower than the Mouth of Clinch River, until I arrive in Knoxville, which I intend to be in a few days.

Honble Wm. Maclin, Esq.

Knoxville, 2 April 1797.

Sir: In a report from the Secretary of the treasury of the United States, I observed he has stated Sundry claims for Military services filed in the office of the accountant of the war department performed in the years 1794, 1795 and 1796 within the States of Georgia and Kentucky, but no mention is made of any claims for similar services rendered within the State of Tennessee.

One of the members of Congress has also informed me that the Secretary of war told him that no papers relative to Ore's or Major Johnson's commands were forwarded to his office. I have no doubt but your conduct on the occasion has been circumspect and impartial; therefore, I have taken the liberty to mention this circumstance to you wishing to be informed why or what may be the reasons those papers have not been forwarded in due order of time; otherways if they been transmited, you may have it in your power to exculpate yourself from the imputation of neglect.

Colonel David Henly,
Agent to the war department.

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STATE OF GEORGIA³⁹

By his Excellency George Mathews,
Captain General Governor and Commander
in chief in and over the said State and of
the Militia thereof.

To all when these presents shall come GREETING

KNOW YE, That in pursuance of the Act of the General As-
sembly intituled "An Act supplementary to An act intituled An
act for appropriating a part of the unlocated territory of this State
for the payment of the late state troops and for other purposes
therein mentioned declaring the right of the state to the unap-
propriated territory thereof for the protection and support of the
Frontiers of this state and for other purposes" passed at Augusta
on the seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand
seven hundred and ninety five and of the Sovereignty and inde-
pendence of the Unites States of America the nineteenth and by
virtue of the power in me vested I have given and granted and by
these presents in the name and behalf of the said state do give and
grant under and by virtue of the before mentioned supplementry
act and securing to the State according to the directions, reserva-
tions and Stipulations therein contained and expressed unto Zacah-
ariah Cox and Matthew Maher and their Associates their heirs and
Assigns forever in Fee Simple as Tenants in Common and not as
joint Tennants all that tract or parcel of Land including Islands
situate lying and being within the following boundaries that is to
say BEGINNING at the mouth of Bear Creek on the south side
of Tennessee river thence up the said creek to the most Southern
source thereof thence due south to the lattitude of thirty four
degrees Ten minutes North of the equator thence a due east course
one hundred and twenty miles thence a due North course to the
great Tennessee River thence up the middle of the said River to
the Northern boundary line of this State thence a due west course
along the said line to where it intersects the Great Tennessee River
below the Mussell shoals thence up the said river to the place of
Beginning together with all and singular the rights members and
appurtenances whatsoever to the said tract or parcel of land in-

³⁹ The recordation of this document in the Executive Journal indicates the Gov-
ernor's belief that it was of importance to the State, as it was in fact, relating as it
did to Cox's plan to effect settlements on the Tennessee River, near Muscle Shoals.
See later correspondence.

cluding Islands belonging or in anywise appertaining and also all the State right title interest claim and demand of the State aforesaid of in to or out of the same reserving nevertheless out of the said tract of land two hundred and forty two thousand acres to be subscribed by and for the use and behoof of other Citizens of the said State who shall choose to do the same at such time at such rates and to such effect and in such form and manner as are expressed in the before mentioned supplementary, act and also reserving a further quantity of fifty thousand acres to be gratuitously divided share and share a like between the commissioners appointed by this State for the purpose of examining the quality and circumstances of the Great Bend of Tennessee River which shall be held by them as Tenants in Common and not as joint Tenants and be represented in like manner as the lands reserved by the other companies for the use of the Citizens as a compensation to the said commissioners for their services rendered the State in that capacity provided also that the said Zachariah Cox and Matthew Maher and their Associates shall not be entitled to dispose of the said Territory in part or in whole in any way or manner to any foreign King, Prince, Potentate or power whatever To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land and all and singular the premises aforesaid with their and every of their rights members and ppurtenances unto the said Zachariah Cox and Matthews Maher and their Associates call the Tennessee Company their Heirs and Assigns forever as Tennants in Common and not as joint Tennants.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the said State this twenty fourth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninty five and in the nineteenth year of American Independance.

The
Great
Seal
appendant.

Geo Matthews

Knoxville, 7 April 1797.

Sir: The prisoners was near making their escapes by the assistance of files, which I suppose they had been furnished with by some of their own class; had cut the irons off and was only waiting an opportunity to clear themselves. Suffer me sir to entreat of you to give strict orders to the guard to be very watchful over the prison,

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Captain Willia

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Geo Matthews

oxville, 7 April 1797.
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both day and night, and suffer no person to visit or speak to the
 prisoners but in presence of the Sheriff or Jailor. I know sir this
 is imposing on your good disposition to oblige, but beg leave to
 remark that except you lend me your assistance in this particular,
 I see that those scoundrels is to make their escape, which I am sen-
 sible you dont wish should be done.

Captain William Richard⁴⁰

Knoxville 7 April 1797.

Sir: I am doubtful the prisoners are preparing to make their es-
 cape; I am told they were heard at work last night, appearingly
 filing their irons off.

I beg you to come over and examine them, and take the means
 in your power to keep them secure in prison.

Robert Houston, esquire,
 Sheriff of Knox County.

State of Tennessee, Knoxville, 13th April 1797.

Gentlemen: It is with extreme pain I have to inform you that many
 of the citizens of this State are much alarmed on being informed
 that a very large body of indians are about to be assembled on the
 Frontiers.⁴¹

It must be recent in your memories that several murders have
 lately been committed on some of the Citizens of this state by the
 Cherokees, as well as a number of robberies at various times since
 last Autumn; it is also just to observe that two indians were mur-
 dered by some of the people of this State. It must naturally and
 inevitably occur that outrages of such an inhuman nature is not
 easily and soon eradicated out of the minds of those who have been
 injured either by the loss of their friends or property, and that

⁴⁰ Commandant of the garrison (Camp New Boston, near Knoxville) then main-
 tained by the general government. Williams, *Early Travels*, 341. The *Gazette*, of
 March 9th announced the arrival of these troops from Salisbury, N. C. "after a long
 and tedious march."

⁴¹ Apr. 3rd Benjamin Hawkins and Andrew Pickens, as commissioners of the
 United States, arrived at Tellico Block House for the purpose of running the Indian
 boundary line as agreed upon in the treaty of Holston, 1791. James Winchester was
 named as the third commissioner, but he declined to take part in the work. Though,
 as seen above, Sevier had suggested to the national authorities the advisability of
 running and marking the line, the arrival of the commissioners caused the Ten-
 nesseans to fear that even the site of Maryville, Blount County, might fall within
 Indian territory as run by the two non-residents. Richard Sparks, as senior cap-
 tain of regular troops (companies of the 3rd Regiment, U. S. Army), doubtless in-
 fluenced by local citizens, was averse to lending assistance to the commissioners. A
 tart correspondence resulted. The *Letters of Benjamin Hawkins, 1796-1806*, 112,
et seq., gives the correspondence between the commissioners and Capt. Sparks, Col.
 David Henley, and others; also, the reply to this letter of Gov. Sevier.

retaliation is but too often attempted to be taken when oppertunities are afforded by either party.

It is no wonder that the citizens of the State feel themselves in danger at the approach of so large a body of indians who have so lately evinced a disposition for hostilities, being at no time secure from the murders and ravages of savage banditties. It is reported that you are appointed Commissioners to ascertain and mark the line between the United States and the indians; and altho the State of Tennessee is so materially and essentially interested in the event no official information thereof has been communicated to its executive; neither by the executive of the United States, or the Commissioners (if there be such).

The executive of the State of Tennessee has been at much pains to promote and cultivate peace and good understanding with the neighbouring indian tribes, and still intends availing every favourable object and oppertunity to procure and support harmony and permanent tranquility with those savage nations.

I have without reserve communicated to you the fears of the people and the conduct and intention of the executive, with some observations. I now beg leave to take the liberty to inform you unless I am satisfactorily informed which I hope may be the case the cause and intention of so numerous a party of indians being about to assemble and embody on the confines of our state, I shall from the due regard I have for the safety and protection of the citizens, the great desire I have to support and continue an uninterrupted peace, be obliged to order out a sufficient number of the militia for the purpose of observing and watching the movements of the indians and protecting the Citizens from any insults that may unjustifiably be offered.

Benjamin Hawkins

and

Andrew Pickings

Knoxville, 16 April 1797.

Sir: As Major Nathaniel Evans⁴² was traveling from Kentucky to this place last week, the indians stole from him two horses, beasts of the following description: A sorrel horse about fourteen hands and a half high, a small star, eight or nine years old; a bay mare near fourteen hands high, her age not known; neither does Evans

⁴² Evans had been a loyal supporter of Sevier's State of Franklin. Williams, *Lost State of Franklin*, 311.

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remember their brands if any they have. You will please to give the Chiefs notice, in order that the horse and mare may be enquired after, obtained and returned to the owner.

Silas Dinsmore, esquire,
Agent to the Cherokees

Knoxville, 18th April 1797.

Gentlemen: Yours of the 16th I am duly honored with by the hand of Mr. Williams. Our superior court for the district of Hamilton is now in session, and the great variety of business before me, which I am obliged to attend to, prevents me from replying in that full and concise manner I would wish, and the nature of the case requires, but shall do myself the honor of communicating fully in the course of two of three days at farthest.

Benjamin Hawkins
and esquires.
Andrew Pickens,

Knoxville, 19 April 1797.

Gentlemen: Your very polite favour of the 16th Instant is now before me, and to which I reply particularly and at large. You have laid me under obligations for the promptitude with which you acknowledged the receipt of my first communication, and I must beg to be excused for the delay of this my answer.

I am free to declare that it was far, very far from my intention that my letter of the 13th April should have been the ground of uneasiness to the commissioners; the state of that communication flowed from a warm solicitude for the safety of the Citizens, and went in unison with their feelings; for, sirs, I feel a certainty that the assembling of a large body of indians on the frontiers would have created general alarm and disquietude.

The information received from the principal agent for indian affairs south of the Ohio, [Hawkins] that the disposition of the indians was friendly, so far as came within his knowledge I fully confide in for my personal esteem for that character. I have a high opinion of his candour, firmness and integrity as a public officer.

I hold in high estimation, also, the other agent [Dinsmore] in his department with whom I am acquainted; but give me leave to remark, that the late depredations which have been committed on both sides, united with the reflection that perfidy is a leading trait in the charactor of the savages, authorized the people to fear,

and justified the Executive in taking every precaution to secure the persons and property of her Citizens.

The information given me that a few indians only were invited to attend the commissioners, has removed my apprehensions of danger, and no doubt will banish those of the Citizens; a report did prevail that the number invited was three hundred.

I take this opportunity again to assure you that it is among my greatest wishes to preserve inviolate the peace with the neighbouring indian tribes; and while (should the occasion require it) every personal exertion will be called forth to provide for the safety of the people, I shall labour to prevent any wanton depredations being committed on indians. The interest of the State, the feeling of humanity and the impulse of duty dictate the propriety of such conduct. Should the sincerity of this declaration be called in question, I trust my official transactions will evince my candor. The murder which was committed by two citizens of this State, altho in a neighbouring State, was to me a subject of regret; the legal steps have been taken to arrest the fugitives as will appear by the inclosed paper marked A; it is presumable their arrest will shortly be effected, and it would give me pleasure to see the punishment of the law put in execution. I am equally solicitous that the murders which have been committed by the indians should not pass with impunity; proper representations have been made of indian outrages to the Cherokee Chiefs, with a request to punish the offenders agreeable to existing treaties, as will appear by the paper enclosed Marked B.

It would seem by the 14th and 17th sections of the act of Congress to regulate trade and intercourse with the indian tribes, that a power was vested in the executive of each state, to cause to be arrested within its limits any indian who should commit offences against that law; and, if required, that the military force of the United States must co-operate in making such arrest. It would be painful to me to have recourse to this expedient; but whilst the vengeance of the law awaits offending whitemen, an indian murderer ought likewise to meet a just fate, and every legal exertion must be made to receive blood for blood. I have no allusion to the principle of retaliation, a principle I hold in the utmost detestation. I mean not the blood of the innocent, but that of the guilty. This conduct if rigidly adheard to would be productive of the most salutary effects; it would secure what we all wish, a firm and per-

manent peace; innocent and guilty afford some of interest the finer I am well assured, you will promote the in a surprize that people on the Commissioners purchase lands their titles, and hundred and encouraged the personal right private property evolution was that liberty and In the extension as a compensation them. At the avoided, which government, in a rupture with and in which placable enemies fully impressed without reserve pressing for nationalism and it is my ardent with credit to the parties

Accept, General

By the Governor

Wm Maclin
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manent peace; and prevent the indiscriminate slaughter of the innocent and guilty which invariably attend indian wars (and which afford some of the politicians of the day so extensive a field to interest the finer feelings of the heart in favour of the indian tribes.) I am well assured, Gentlemen, that, in the Charactor of Commissioners, you will, as far as is consistant with the trust reposed, promote the interest of the citizens of Tennessee. It need not be a surprize that some little discontent should prevail among the people on the extension of the line. It must be known to the Commissioners that the present State held out to those who would purchase lands flattering hopes that they should be secured in their titles, and that Congress in their act of one thousand seven hundred and ninety accepting the Cession from North Carolina encouraged the belief. Those citizens hold as inestimable all personal rights, among which they esteem, as peculiarly dear, private property; many of them partook of the dangers of the evolution war, and greatly contributed to the establishment of that liberty and independance which is the boast to every American. In the extension of this line some of the lands which they received as a compensation for their meritorious services may be taken from them. At the present crisis of affairs, I wish every step might be avoided, which would tend to disunite any of the friends of the government, in a crisis which calls loudly for union, in as much as a rupture with a strong european power is too likely to happen, and in which event the indians as formerly will become our implacable enemies; and of this opinion, the people of this state are fully impressed. Thus have I communicated to you freely and without reserve my sentiments. I cannot conclude with out expressing for myself and the people our confidence in the wisdom, patriotism and integrity of the commissioners, and adding, that it is my ardent wish that the duty assigned them may be discharged with credit to themselves, honor to the Government and satisfaction to the parties concerned.

Accept, Gentlemen, of my very sincere and respectful attachment

By the Governor

Wm Maclin, Secty.

Benjamin Hawkins & Andrew Pickens, esqrs.

Knoxville, 24th April 1797.

Sir: Messrs. Hawkins and Pickens are in the vicinity, about to commence ascertaining and marking the line, which causes disquietude among those which have apprehensions of falling within the indian limits, as also a number of others who have claims to lands that may fall within the same.

I hope I shall not be understood as having any intention of dictating to the executive of the United States, but with all due deference beg leave to observe and very sincerely request, that if it should so happen (which I pray may be averted) a rupture between the United States and any of the european powers, that the runing of the line could be evaded and procrastenated until a time more suitable would present itself, for such a purpose.

I am fully aware of the necessity of quieting and harmonizing the disposition of the indians, but beg leave to observe that good and satisfactory reasons may be given for a suspension, especially if they have any disposition to be either friendly or neutral.

Information to you through the agency of the southern department I have no doubt is transmitted with great candour and accuracy, and whatever may be the report, rest assured that the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws and Chicasaws are in very friendly alliances with, and much influanced by the neighbouring Spanish governments. Some late disturbances which I did not think of magnitude sufficient to trouble you with, is in my opinion Well reconciled, and the executive of this state will imploy all the means in his power to promote friendly and good understanding with the indian tribes, but beg leave to give it as my opinion that at the present crisis nothing would tend more readily to a disquiet on both sides than the asserntaining and marking the line, having good reasons to suppose neither would be satisfied, and I believe much disappointed.

I have considered it my duty to give the foregoing information, humbly submitting it for your deliberation, in order that you may resort to such measures, as occurances, and events may require.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the
department of war.

Knoxville, 26th April 1797.

Sir: Mrs. Lillean Williams, an inhabitant of the State of Georgia, informed me on yesterday that she was taken a prisoner some

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Knoxville, 26th April 1797.

at of the State of Georgia,
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years ago by the Creeks, that at the time she was liberated, she
left behind her in the town called Oakjoy a small daughter, which
she called Molley, the indians called her Esnahatchee, about eight
years old. Mrs. Williams says that at the time of her release, the
indians refused to let the child come in with her, because it was
born in their nation, she being pregnant at the time of being made
a prisoner. The child is in the upper Creek towns about sixty miles
below Turkey town. I have no doubt you will make the proper
enquiry, and have the girl sent in, either to this place or ninety six.
Benjamin Hawkins, esqr.,
Superintendant of indian affairs

State of Tennessee, Nashville, 12 May 1797.⁴³

Sir: I have the honor to inclose you a commission pro tempore,
appointing you one of the judges of the superior courts of law and
equity held within this State: I have my hopes and wishes, that
the same will be acceptable and agreeable to you; and, if so, have
no doubt the duties of such an important and conspicuous office,
will be discharged with honor and reputation to yourself and satis-
faction to your Country.
Howell Tatum, esquire.

⁴³ The Governor was at Nashville, having started from Knoxville, Apr. 30th, after
having given audience to the Duke of Orleans and his two brothers. *Sevier's Diary*,
Tenn. Hist. Mag., V, 234; Williams, *Early Travels*, 436.