

To William H. Underwood

Dear Sir

Washington City June 22nd 1834

Your letter of the 31st ulto. was handed me by a Gentleman who made himself known to me as a Mr. Foster of Geo. and a day or two thereafter, I determined to call on Judge Clayton & make myself known to him, which I did accordingly a week ago. The manner of my introduction before his honor, was not however, in that style which he once suggested to the Grand Jurors of Gwinnett; that I should be *taken by the horns* & led before him as the Bull of the Cherokee Nation – but I went alone, and entered the parlour of his boarding house, where I found two Gentlemen & ladies in social conversation, one of the Gentlemen rose and asked me to take a chair, I apologized & remarked that I had merely called to see Judge Clayton: he said that was his name, and then advanced towards me, then said I my name is Mr. Ross of the Cherokee Nation, we shook hands and he expressed himself glad to see me & urged me to take a seat. I again endeavored to excuse myself for trespassing upon his engagements by adding that [a friend] of mine of his state had informed me that he was desirous to become acquainted with me and I had only called to make myself known to him in this unceremonious manner.

After being further told that he was not then engaged in any business – I took a seat. We had a short but free conversation in reference to past & present state of Cherokee affairs, in presence of his guests. From his remarks, I found reason for believing him, as you said, an altered man. When I took leave of him, he promised to call & see me which he did a day or two afterwards, on that occasion, he handed me your letter of the 4th inst. Our Conversation was of a more general character at this interview. I asked him whether he thought that the Convention of Judges would sustain the opinion of Judge Hooper in the injunction cases, he said he thought they would. He also remarked in the course of our conversation that he must acknowledge this unfortunate fact, that hither in the agitation of the Cherokee subject, the two great parties in Georgia in their struggle for power had always made it a party question and thereby the Cherokees were placed, as it were, between two great fires.

... As soon as Congress adjourns, I expect [to] return home. I trust that you will write me fully concerning the decision of the Convention of Judges on the injunction Cases. Previous to leaving thts, I may take occasion to write you again. I am Dr Sir, yr. obt St.