

Letter from the Hon. J. H. Eaton, Secretary of War,
to the Rev. Eli Baldwin, Corresponding Secretary of
the Indian Board, New York.

Utica, (N. Y.) June 30, 1830

DEAR SIR:—Since receiving your letter my engagements have been such as until the present moment not to afford leisure to reply to your inquiries. For various reasons which already, on former occasions, have been presented to the consideration of the public, it is desirable that our red brothers should consent to leave their present homes within the states, and retire beyond the Mississippi; it is considered an important matter and mainly conducive to their future happiness as a people. The President, to be sure, is desirous for them to remove, but in seeking to attain this object he has not sought to oppress, nor will he oppress them. Reason, not compulsion, is the means he would employ. If a desire to harass, and ultimately to destroy, was the governing motive, the argument to be adduced to them would be, not to remove, but remain where they are. The President has not been nor will he be influenced by any wrong considerations. His fears are that strife, difficulty and dangers may be consequent upon a disposition on their part to remain where they are; and these he has an anxious desire to avert, if within his power, through the exercise of any legitimate means.

It is the desire of the President to speak to