

West Point, Nov. 19, 1829.

**Messrs. Lamar & Marks**—The enclosed was prepared by Joseph Marshal, who you are acquainted with, at the meeting of the Indians at Wetumpkeo, on the 21st of last month, which was the meeting appointed by the Nation to give an answer to the talk of the President in respect to the removal West of the Mississippi, which was explained before many of the Council.

Yours &c.

Wetumpkeo Council Ground, }  
October 21st, 1829. }

Friends and Brothers in Council assembled—You have lately heard a talk from our Father the President, delivered to us by our Agent Col. Crowell. As this talk is one of so great importance to us, setting forth the propriety of a removal to the west of the Mississippi, in which we are all interested, I hope you have given it your particular attention. As I was disposed to believe the great talk of our Great Father, I persuaded my brother Benjamin Marshal, in company with Mr. Jacob Beavers to visit the promised land. Both of these men many of you are well acquainted with, they have explored the country to which we are advised to remove, and are now present among you and willing to make known their discoveries. You heard it asserted my friends, in this council, and by some of our head chiefs who ought to possess virtue and truth, that the country promised us by our Father, was barren and destitute even of fire-wood, and in which were to be found no small streams or springs wherefrom a good drink of water could be obtained: a land of prairie and lime stone cliffs; and infested with all kinds of miserable insects. These reports were so unfavorable that I had not made up my mind to emigrate until the return of my brother. Now hear his description of the country:—Instead of a barren and unfruitful country where no springs are to be found, and infested with miserable insects—he represents it as a country in every way suited to our habits and pursuits—abounding with game and fish and excellent land in abundance. Our present country does not surpass it in any particular. Our people who have gone before are well pleased, and request our removal without delay; they assure us that we will never regret the day we start. I call your attention again to our Father's talk—many of you have held out an idea that it was not him that talked, that it was our agent, that he made it for his own advantage;—Our Father the President hearing of this, he has sent another amongst us—His talk I have not heard, but presume it to be the same as brought by our agent Col. Crowell: As for myself I have never doubted the talk, or its being made by our Father. I know my friends you have been much troubled; you have heard the White People on your borders living in Georgia and Alabama, talk; you have listened to them; they have advised you against your Agent and against your own interest, which you did not discover.—You have visited the Cherokees; they have counselled you contrary to your best interests, and also against the wish of our Father the President: you have sent a deputation of several of your Head Men to the Chickasaws, Seminoles and Cherokees, with considerable expense, and what has it profited you? Nothing. And I am doubtful my red friends that the intention of this council is to fit out a delegation of our Head Men to Washington City, to change the talk of our Father the President.—Upon that subject, my dear friends, let me advise you; I am acquainted with our Father the President—His tongue is not forked—Therefore if that is your errand to Washington, stop; for he has declared Alabama must have her way; and she will exercise her laws over us and we may expect them rigorously enforced upon us; and for thousands of acts committed and debts made we know nothing of. Such will be the way of the White Man, and in no instance will the red man be permitted to rebut. Look before you and venture not.

I now speak to all, as well to the chiefs as also particularly to my neighbors and friends of the lower Creeks; look around you, examine for yourselves, see the situation you will shortly be placed in, without an Agent, without a friend and the oppressive laws of Alabama to govern you. You have already seen men from Alabama taking your numbers; what for? we can only conclude, for taxation.—Our Women and children will be taxed, for we are not white, our cattle will be taxed, our Negroes and lands, and how long will it be if we continue here to live, before our wives, daughters, sons, little and big, young and old, will be found working in the corn field of the White Man for something to eat and to hide their nakedness, cuffed and lashed like negroes. For God's sake, (I now speak to the poor of this country) catch the opportunity that our

**Father the President has offered you, fly from this country of oppression, to that where you can go without expense, without sacrifice, and with one year's living provided for you after you reach the promised home; a country where there are no bad White Men to rob you of your property; where there are no State laws to invade your rights and privileges—Your own laws to govern you, and besides all an everlasting right to it, to you and to your children hereafter; dont listen to talks which you have heard heretofore, for they are talks that have been given by men who are led astray by designing people, who do not consider your best interest. For further advantages of our promised home, I refer you to my brother and Mr. J. Beavers, who have just returned and brought many letters from our friends in that country. I now close with a determination of emigrating.**

**JOSEPH MARSHALL.**