

Muscle Shoals January 25th 1807

Sir

I have lately been informed that some ill disposed persons in the Cumberland country have tried at the last Federal Court held at Nashville to have presented to the grand jurors of sd Court Certain Citizens supposed to have purchased Lands from Doublehead. I am informed that the attempt failed for the want of authentic testimony — Well might it do so for I do assure you Sir that he Doublehead has not sold one acre of ground — it is true that he has rented or leased some of the ground reserved for him & those that live on it with him to some respectable farmers, who I conceive will be of essential service to the Indians by setting the Pattern of industry & true farming, I have long conceived that it was the wish of our Government to cause the Indians to become farmers & quit the hunting life. If so Sir, there can nothing be devised that will sooner lead to the object than the very thing done by Doublehead. Certainly Sir the United States must intend that such Indians as fall into the plan that Government has so strenuously impressed on their minds attended with large expenses, should become individual possessors of Land — for this purpose I conceive government has given those reserves of land that are recognised by the treaty at Tellico 25th 27th of October 1805 & by the Convention made at the City Washington on the 7th day of January 1806.

Which Treaties have been ratified by the Government agreeable to the Constitution, & as such I have judged that they are part of the Supreme Laws of the land, & therefore I shall rest satisfied & assured that those lands are completely out of the grasp of our Greedy minded & inhuman ^{lucrative} Speculators & ~~that such honest Citizens as may come & settle~~ & that such honest Citizens as may come & settle on those reserves of land will be perfectly safe under the auspices, & protection of the Government of the United States - You Sir I flatter myself am no stranger to my endeavor in this question, to promote Civilization & the Invaluable & virtuous views of the Government, I shall continue that line of conduct until I am desired by Authority to desist - I hope Sir that you will take a view of my neighborhood & make a comparative ^{view} of their neighbors, ^{I am sorry to say that our} ears & business are prestered with ill matured stories propagated & circulated on the upper Towns, as we suppose by some white persons residing there & are no friends to the Government of the United States & wish to prevent the improvement & Civilization on Indians

Since I have heard of the affair of Mr Burr, it brings to my ~~mind~~ recollection a circumstance that happened some time in October - it is as follows - an unknown young Man passing thro the Settlement of this place - he was asked by an Indian who he was & where he was going. He replied he was travelling had been lost & was very hungry -

The Indian brought him to me where there were some other people of my neighbors collected. I asked him some questions he told me he was a millwright by trade, that he had been unfortunate, had got in debt, was put into Nashville Jail, that Col. Burr had paid his Debt gave him a horse & advised him to the Creek Nation, that he had been lost & wanted some provision, that he had no money except a fifty dollar bank bill, he shew me the Bill I looked on the bill to be false.

I asked him if he had ~~got~~ a passport to travel thro' the Indian Nations he answered no - I then told him that he appeared somewhat suspicious & that he must return.

I got a piece of meat from an Indian, gave him & he went off. he appeared to keep his saddle bags very close on his arm - Some of the people observed to me that he ought to be taken up that were of opinion that if his saddle bags were searched he would be found to contain a quantity of counterfeit Bills - as I had no authority to do so I omitted it & he went off - I am of opinion that perhaps he was upon other business & I think by applying to the Jailor at Nashville that a discovery can be found perhaps to a valuable purpose.

I have been out for some time with the commissioners from the State of Tennessee viewing the road that is recognized by the Treaty of Tellico from Franklin to the Tombigbee -

