

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, March 29, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

Department of War, March 29, 1819.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose you a commission, as Commissioner jointly with Colo. John McKee¹ and Daniel Burnett Esq, to treat with the Choctaws. Colo. McKee has been directed to report to you the probability of obtaining a successful treaty. It is the wish of the Government that a treaty should not be held, unless there is a strong probability of success, of which you will judge; and should you determine upon one, you are authorized to appoint the time and place for holding it. You are empowered to make the necessary disbursements, and draw on the Department for the amount thereof. The Government feels confident that no unnecessary expense will be incurred.

¹ Agent to the Choctaws 1814–1820; see p. 30. note 2.

The instructions given to Colo. McKee and Mr Burnett the last year will, as far as they are now applicable, be your guide. You will exercise your discretion whether the provisions that will be required in case of holding a treaty shall be obtained by a special contract for the purpose, or by a requisition on the Commissary General of Subsistence, or his Assistants. Col. Mc.Kee is instructed on the mode of issuing provisions to the Indians, to which you will conform. Your compensation will be at the rate of Eight Dollars per day, for the time actually employed, which will be ascertained and paid on your certificate. Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter to Col McKee in relation to this subject.

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I have the honor to be,