

## Andrew Jackson to Joseph McMinn, August 25, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO GOVERNOR MCMINN.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This letter refers to the treaty with the Chickasaws, Oct. 19, 1818.

Hermitage, August 25, 1819.

*D'r Sir.* Herewith Inclosed you will receive the report I mentioned to you in my last, with the documents accompanyin[g] it.

I can say with truth that no individual ever served his country with more disinterested zeal nor none who have when necessary for its benefit taken more responsibility than I have done—none who by base and unprincipled men have been more falsly assailed. The documents I trust herewith inclosed will convince you and the Legislature of this fact and for that purpose as well as to shew the difficulties the commissioners had to surmount, to obtain the cession we did. I lay them before you. I have only to add one fact, Before the commissioners went on The nation had a meeting in full council, and directed James Colbert Interpreter to the nation to answer the letter I had adressed the nation and say to me that the nation had no land either to sell or exchange, and it was useless to have a meeting of the nation in council on this subject. I answered the nation through its interpreter in a way, which brought them to think and the[y] appointed a time and place to meet us. When we met it is a fact notorious that there was no person that believed we would succeed, nor was their a chief or warrior of the nation that did not come to the treaty with a determination not to give us a foot of land, under all these forbidding circumstances we did succeed, we were determined on this purpose, and in order to effect it, did I take

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upon myself the risque and responsibility of sending to Nashville for the money and gave to the agent a responsible receipt for his Post note and drafts before he would agree to let our messenger have them. It was well known without this and other funds we could not succeed. We created funds out of the property of the Indians, that obtained the cession. Still have I been secretly slandered in the Senate and the same Junto continues it in the papers. That facts may be seen as they are, they have been submitted, you will please to lay them before the Legislature at such time as you may Judge proper. I have annexed the originals, if Mr. Graham could take a copy of the accompanying documents, before they are laid before the Legislature and certify the same, least the originals might be lost he will lay me under obligations. I am respectfully

yr mo. ob. serv.