

Since the establishment of our local government and institutions under the treaty of 1856, the Government of the United States has had no more to do with us, our government or our institutions, than it has had to do with the several States of the Union.

We have managed our own affairs in our own way, without any interference on the part of the United States. We levy and collect revenue, pay our just debts, and endeavor to collect what is justly due our Nation.

The greatest difficulty we have experienced thus far, has been in our dealings with the Government of the United States.

By the treaty of 1866, which was simply a contract by and between the United States and the Creek Nation, the said Creek Nation ceded and sold to the United States the west half of their entire domain, about thirty-four hundred thousand acres of land, at thirty cents per acre, for the special purpose of locating freedmen and other Indians thereon.

The greater part of these lands was left unoccupied for nineteen years, at which time bills were introduced in both houses of Congress, declaring said lands, so ceded as aforesaid, to be public lands of the United States, and proposing to open them to settlement under the homestead laws of the United States, without paying the Creek Nation for the same.

Thoroughly alarmed at this bold proposition and conscious of the danger of being cheated out of said lands, the Creek authorities employed counsel in 1884, to assist the Nation in establishing and securing its rights in the premises.

After a long tedious contest, in which counsel so employed rendered every assistance in their power, our right to additional compensation was finally acknowledged and pay for said lands secured.