

DARE  
Irvine Papers R 219  
PHI (ALS, app)

Charles Pettit to William Irvine, Philadelphia, 29 December 1787<sup>1</sup>

I have not yet learned whether you have made a Congress for the current Year, tho' I presume that at least seven States either are or shortly will be assembled. A Business, to which seven States are competent, will probably present itself early to your Notice by the Resignation of Mr White as Superintendant of Indian Affairs for the southern Department. Who will be appointed to succeed him may be an Enquiry of no small Importance, nor do I think myself either entitled or qualified to interfere in the Matter, being neither cloathed with any Authority, nor sufficiently acquainted with Characters of Gentlemen who I suppose to be likely to accept the Appointment with competent Knowledge of the Indians in that Quarter & other suitable Qualifications for such a Station. But whoever may have the general Superintendency of the

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Department, I presume it will be necessary to employ subordinate Officers to reside among or be frequently with the different Tribes or Nations, and the choice of Men for this Purpose is often of considerable importance. I have been told there is among the Cherokees & Chickemawgas a Mr. Martin who has been confided in; that there is also a Mr. Drumgole who has taken up his Residence among & acquired the Confidence of these Nations; that these two Gentlemen have not only had personal Differences, but carried them to a considerable height and continue so violently opposed to each other as to hazard the Interests & Peace of the United States so far as they depend on those Indians; that Mr. Drumgole is recommended by the Governor & some other respectable Characters in Virginia to be appointed Agent to the Cherokee Nation, which includes the Chickemawgas, as the person most likely to

cultivate & preserve their Friendship, & I may add that I have been requested to make favourable Mention of him to my Friends in Congress for this Purpose. But as I know too little of the Business itself, & of the Circumstances which ought to govern on this Occasion, to offer an Opinion concerning it, I take the Liberty only to mention to you the Information I have received: probably there may be nothing in it that is new to you, or there may be circumstances which outweigh Mr. Drumgole's pretensions. I have no View in the Matter but the general Good, and I am confident the like Motive will guide your Conduct on this & all other Occasions.

The two inclosed Letters for Mr. Livingston & Mrs. Livingston are from the Ladies of Govr. Livingston's Family now at Baltimore--May I ask the favour of you to send them into Wall Street? Your Desire to gratify the Ladies will probably afford you a Reward. The Letter for Mr Burrall is on public Service.

Since the Rising of our State Convention we have had little to excite public attention. In Baltimore, tho' People are much divided about the new Constitution, they generally converse about it with Moderation. The Balance in that Town is supposed to be decidedly in its Favour, but in the Country the Sentiments of the People are yet less decided. The Election of Delegates is to be the first Week in April. Mr. Chace, it is said, means to decline serving for Baltimore lest he should be fettered by Instructions, but intends to offer himself for some County which will leave him free from Embarrassment on that score.

The Treasury usually furnish the Members of Congress with a summary Statement of Accounts once a year--The last I have hardly closes the Year 1785--If any have been formed since, you will oblige me much by furnishing me with a Copy if it be as usual printed.