Copy of letter from
P. M. Butler Agt &c
to Com. Ind. Affs.
July 23, 1842.

Replying to censure for neglecting to report certain facts.

Skin Bayou Cherokee Nation
23.d Feby 1842

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Communication of the first instant, directing me to discontinue the further discharge of the Special duty imposed on me, if not already terminated" "there instructions will be most promptly executed" I will as further directed immediately discontinue the services of Colo. S.C. Stambaugh" as Special Secretary."

The remaining part of your Communication requiring, it I conceive a public statement of the grounds of official duty, I must be permitted to say is uncalled for. I am as unwilling as it is unexpected, I will return a full answer on my arrival at Fort Gibson, where I have files of all my Correspondence with your department, I will not now take occasion to remark that the Murder to which you refer was committed by Moses Alberty a Cherokee, on the 30th Novr, a Citizen of Arkansas on the 31st December last, the Body found by four Indians after the Murder, I repaired to the spot, and thirty six hours after the Murder, I wrote you fully, Explaining all the facts Connected with this unfortunate affair

I need scarcely add that the order to discontinue the investigation of the Cherokee Claim will greatly great surprise in the Cherokee nation, the most unjust expectations had been raised among the people and the fullest Confidence manifested in the friendly intentions of our Government, this feeling had allayed for a time at least the party dissensions, among the Cherokees themselves, But if I do not greatly mistake the "Signs of the times" the sudden and unexpected disappointment of the unjust anticipations will occasion an internal feeling productive of the most painful results in the Cherokee Nation. I have only recently been advised of some particulars, which although they may not be Cause for immediate apprehension, are yet entitled to the greatest Consideration, this information is derived from a source worthy of Credit, and affords intelligence, which will form the Basis of a particular Communication at an early day

I will write you three days hence, after I shall have held an interview with some of the principal men of the

Nations. In the mean time, as an explanation why my Communications may not reach you in as many days intervened between my dates, I have to add that there is only a weekly mail to and from Fort Gibson, whence my Communications, (through Capt. Armstrong's procured to Fort Smith, when they are detained from three to seven days, from thence to Capt. A. as the Choctaw Agency, and are sent Back to Fort Smith, where they are again detained from three to seven days, they then start by a semi-weekly mail thro' Van Buren to Little Rock, this Mail often miscarries from two to three Consecutive weeks. - Situated as I am, it is not surprising that important information, especially of an Executive Character should first reach you, through other Sources." Nevertheless these delays are not attributable to me, and I feel conscious that before this time the imputations of neglect of duty on my part has been removed. I take the liberty of transmitting this Communication directly to your department, and send a copy to Capt. Armstrong's the object is to prevent delays - in future all my Communications will be sent through that Source, as heretofore directed.

Hoping that you may have after this ascertained that Caution is needed, before it shall be so profusely applied,

I remain with great respect

Your Obt Svt

J. W. Butler

Choctaw Agent

The Mail leaves Fort Gibson on Thursday, and proceeds to Fort Smith, arriving there on the next day Friday Evening. It remains at Fort Smith, until the following Tuesday when letters for the "Choctaw Agency" are taken by the mail to Fort Towson from thence in return it starts on the Tuesday following, arriving at Fort Smith the same day - and there remaining until the closing of the mail, thro' Van Buren, for Little Rock, on Friday Night following, making in all a detention of Choctaw days,