

John Pickering an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 29.12.1827

Handschrift: Ehem. Preußische Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, gegenwärtig in der Jagiellonen-Bibliothek Krakau, Coll. ling. fol. 52, Bl. 35–36; Kopie: Boston, Public Library, MS q. 1900, No. 14, Courtesy of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library/Rare Books (Mit dem Datum: 28.12.1827)

Druck: M.O. Pickering, S. 353 (Ausz.)

Nachweis: Mueller-Vollmer 1993, S. 208

Mattson 1980, Nr. 12030

|35r| Sir,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing a long letter to you on the 27.th of November last, accompanied with the long-desired [Grammar of the Lenapé Language](#), by [Zeisberger](#), which is just published from [M.^r DuPonceau](#)'s Translation.

Since that letter was despatched, I have received, by the polite attention of our [Foreign Mission Society](#), a copy of two of the publications which I there mentioned, in the Chahta (or Choctaw) Language, viz:

1. [A Spelling Book written in the Chahta Language, with an English Translation. 1827.](#)
2. [Chahta Holissoo a tukla, or the Second Chahta Book, 1827.](#)

The copies which I send you are not complete; but I will forward the remaining sheets as soon as I obtain them.

I flatter myself these will be an acceptable addition to your [Indian Library](#); & though we have not a Grammar of the Chahta language, yet these little works contain a good stock of materials, which your skilful hand will arrange & systematize in such a manner |35v| as to shed much light upon this curious subject. As the [second work abovementioned](#) consists of Translations from the Scriptures, you will be able, by the help of our English Version of the Bible, to form some opinion of the [idiom](#), as well as the meaning of the words, of this dialect.

You will be immediately struck with one fact – that the Chahta language has no [etymological](#) affinity with the Cherokee; yet its grammatical character resembles that of the latter. The Chahtas reside on the territory between the Mississippi & Tombigbee rivers, not far from the Cherokees, and mostly on that part which has lately been made a new State of our Confederacy, under the name of [The State of Mississippi](#). This tribe of Indians has made considerable advances in civilization,

particularly in agriculture & manufactures of cotton; but they have not made so great progress as the Cherokees.

The **American Missionaries** have adopted, in their Chahta books, the system of Orthography recommended by me in **the little Memoir** which I formerly had the honour to send you; excepting, that they use our English ch instead of tsh.

In my next letter I shall be enabled to |36r| send you a copy of the new Cherokee Syllabic Alphabet, constructed by **a native Cherokee**, and now in universal use among them. **Their intended newspaper** is to be printed in this new character.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

with the highest consideration,

your most obedient

& faithful servant

Jn^oPickering

Boston, Dec.^r 29. 1827

Address –

To John Pickering Esq.^r

Boston

Massachusetts

United States of America.

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