CHEROKEE INDIANS—PAYMENT OF INTEREST.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking an appropriation for interest due the Cherokee Indians.

JANUARY 25, 1855.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.:

I communicate to Congress, herewith, a communication of this date from the Secretary of the Interior, with accompanying papers, and recommend that the appropriation therein asked for be made.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *January* 22, 1855.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 22, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, a copy of a communication addressed to me, on the 16th inst., by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and, in view of the facts therein stated, to recommend that Congress be asked to make the following appropriation, viz: For the payment of the amount due the Cherokee Indians on account of interest between May 1, 1845, and May 1, 1846, on stocks of the State of Michigan, held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior, under the treaty of 1835, and the supplement of March, 1836, twenty dollars and ninety-seven cents.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary.*

To the PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, January 16, 1855.

SIR: In reply to your letter, of the 6th instant, respecting a balance of $20 97 found to be due by Honorable A. H. H. Stuart, late

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Secretary of the Interior, as trustee of stocks held by him in his official capacity, for sundry Indian tribes, I have to state, that the balance of $20 97 appears to have arisen in this way: on the 10th July, 1850, Honorable Thomas Ewing being then Secretary, the State of Michigan was credited on the stock books kept in this office as follows: "By this amount per Honorable Alexander W. Buell, Detroit, being interest in part on $64,000 Michigan six per cent. 'General Fund Stock,' due between May 1, 1845, and May 1, 1846, $20 97." A corresponding charge was made against the Secretary of the Interior.

On the settlement of the stock account of the Secretary for the time being, to the 30th June, 1851, he was charged with this sum, on the faith of the foregoing entry, but the deposite of the money with the Treasurer of the United States could not be ascertained to have been made.

A subsequent correspondence with the auditor of the State of Michigan, leads me to believe that the State has paid all the interest due, and all that was charged to her to the last dates; but I am not now able to state into whose hands the money came on the payment, as indicated above, by Honorable Mr. Buell. It is not at all probable that it ever came into the hands of the then Secretary, personally, although he became responsible and chargeable officially. It is certain, however, that it was never paid into the treasury to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior. Diligent inquiry, made some eighteen months since, failed to afford me certain information as to what became of the money.

I am verbally informed, that at the period referred to, (July, 1850,) the stocks were in the personal charge of Mr. Wm. Devereux, then a clerk in this office, and that the entry above quoted is in his handwriting.

Mr. Devereux, I am informed, was taken sick, and died a few months after; but the deficiency in the treasury, to the amount of this item, not having been discovered until July, 1851, the amount in the Secretary's stock account was charged as a balance due, under the expectation that the money might be traced up and properly deposited thereafter. This not having been done, the balance has been carried forward from time to time since.

Had not the death of Mr. Devereux intervened, it is likely that this sum could be accounted for, as the facts were doubtless within his knowledge; but as I do not see any prospect that the amount will be discovered, and brought into the treasury, and the Secretary's stock account thus be relieved of this balance, I would respectfully suggest that you recommend that an appropriation be made by Congress to supply the deficiency, as follows: "For the payment of this amount, due the Cherokees, on account of interest, between May 1, 1845, and May 1, 1846, on stocks of the State of Michigan, held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior, under the treaty of 1835, and the supplement of March, 1836, twenty dollars and ninety-seven cents."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Hon. R. McClelland,
Secretary of the Interior.