

Death of ^{Mr} D. Ramsey & they have brought him along w^out our order or knowledge, but we return our Brother Corlaer our most hearty thanks for sending us a Smith

The Sachems desire that his Excellency will be pleas'd to meet them at Albany ~~early~~ in the Spring, they have to treat all matters of great moment concerning the welfare of us all, They desire a good Beek Iron for w^h Smith that is w^h them & some tools w^hout w^h he can make no good work

The s^r Interpreter is inform'd that w^h french have finish'd and rig'd one Vessel at Cadarachqui and another is to be launch'd this Spring

That the five Nations have Concluded to send of each Nation two Messengers to the Waganhas or far Ind^s in the beginning of June next with Bells of Wampum to treat with them, & they desire to know whether the Com^{rs} will join in it by sending Bells of Wampum to the s^r Ind^s

That he is inform'd from trusty Ind^s that the Gov^r of Canada has last year obtain'd liberty from the Onondages to build a trading house on the West side of Niagara River w^h vents it self into the Cadarachqui lake on the south side thereof in the passage of the Ind^s to this place Mon^r Longueuil the present Gov^r of Canada has been there last year to view the place, the french are to have a house built this Spring

That there are gone out a fighting this last Winter 21 Mohoggs, 40 Onondages, 20 Tawarocas, 40 Cayonges, 40 Sinnekes and that there were going yet 130 of the last among whom is to go a french Man from Canada who is married w^h a Sinneke Squa

We have been honour'd wth your Excellency's favours of a 2^d Ind^s with submission to your Excellency we are humbly of opinion that it is a matter of the last consequence to this Province that no care be taken to prevent the french to reside among our Ind^s and that no person of ability w^h a Number of Men be sent to dwell continually among them, We hope the Assembly will please to consider how to raise a fund to Defray the Charge without which it appears plain to us that the french gett daily more footing, & our Interest decreases w^hat last may end in our Destruction

We are very glad your Excellency is pleas'd to approve of our sending the Interpreter to quiet the minds of the Ind^s he is Return'd. Inclosed is his Journal, w^h we refer to your Excellency's Consideration, by w^h it appears that the Ind^s persist in their first Resolution, that no Rum shall be sold at the falls or Onondage River, and many of our traders are already gone wth Rum - whether how it can be prevented now we do not know for our people will go, neither do we conceive that they can carry on a Trade with the far Ind^s without it, so that we perceive that the french Interest greatly sways the Ind^s to prevent the selling of Rum

The french we see are not idle in obstructing our Trade, for we hear they will now build a trading house at the place where we imagin'd we had one, & what will be the event of the Vessels in the lake is uncertain yet it may be Conjectur'd it will be to prevent the Ind^s coming to us to trade We must acknowledge if the Ind^s are greatly under a Suspension of w^h french who keep them in awe

It is wth no little Concern & w^out precedent that we see the Ind^s have sent Deputies to the Sinnekes Country to the french who are there, whereas Onondage has always been the place appointed to Consult & treat about publick Affairs

On the whole at this juncture we are humbly of opinion that it will be for his Majesty's Service w^h some person of Experience w^h the Interpreter be sent among a Ind^s at Onondage to stay there (till your Excellency shall meet the Sachems here) to quiet the minds of a Ind^s & keep them from molesting our Traders, for w^h we hope your Excellency will be pleas'd to direct us as soon as may be, By the Bearer we send the Bag Coy taken by the Ind^s from Virgin. his Charge & Coat of Arms - and to L as plac'd here enclosed