

The Indians had previously assembled to deliberate on the subject, and had appointed one of their greatest orators to reply to me.

The individual selected was Sigonah (the Blackbird), celebrated amongst them for having, it is said, on many public occasions, spoken without once stopping from sunrise to sunset.

Nothing could be more satisfactory than the calm, deliberate manner in which the chief gave in the name of the Ottawa tribes, his entire approval of my projects; and as the Chippewas and Ottawas thus consented to give up twenty three thousand islands, and as the Saugins also consented to give up a million and a half acres adjoining the lands of the Canada Company, I thought it advisable that a short plain memorial should be drawn up, explanatory of the foregoing arrangements, to be signed by the Chiefs while in council, and witnessed by the Church of England, Catholic, and Methodist Clergymen who were present, as well as by several officers of his Majesty's Government.

I enclose to your Lordship a copy of this most important document, which with a wamprum attached to it, was executed in duplicate, one copy remaining with me, the other being deposited with a Chief selected by the various tribes for that purpose.

The surrender of the Saugin Territory has long been a desideratum in the Province, and it is now especially important as it will appear to be the first fruits of the political tranquillity which has been attained.

I feel confident that the Indians when settled by us in the manner I have detailed, will be better off than they were—that the position they occupy can bona fide be fortified against the encroachments of the whites—while on the other hand, there can be no doubt, that the acquisition of their vast and fertile territory will be hailed with joy by the whole Province.

*Lord Glenelg to Sir F. B. Head.*

Downing Street, 5 October, 1836.

I have received your despatch of the 20th August last, No. 70, reporting an expedition you had made in person to the shores of the Lake Huron, and the arrangements into which you had there entered with the various tribes of Indians. Assured of the vigilant humanity by which your conduct towards this helpless race of men, the survivors of the ancient possessors and lords of the country, could not but be directed, and conscious of the incomparable superiority of your means of forming a correct judgment how their welfare could be most effectually consulted. I have thought myself not only at liberty but obliged, in deference to your opinions, to recommend for his Majesty's sanction the arrangements and compacts into which you entered; and influenced by the same consideration, the King has been graciously pleased to approve them. His Majesty, however, directs me to commend these tribes in the strongest possible terms to your continued care, and to signify his express injunction that no measure shall be contemplated which may afford a reasonable prospect of rescuing this remnant of the aboriginal race from the calamitous fate which has so often befallen uncivilized man, where brought into immediate contact with the natives of Europe or their descendants. Whatever intelligence or suggestions it may be in your power to convey, respecting the condition of these people, and the prospect of their being reclaimed from the habits of savage life, and being enabled to share in the blessings of christian knowledge and social improvement, will at all times be received by his Majesty with the highest interest.

*Sir Francis B. Head to Lord Glenelg.*

20 November, 1836.

Whenever and wherever the two races come in contact, it is sure to prove fatal to the Red man. However bravely for a short time he may resist our bayonets and fire arms, sooner or later he is called upon