

been published, and their Conditions have imparted their Influence upon our History. The Negotiations which attended these Transactions, have however never before been published, although partial Accounts of the Treaties appear in the Writings, or are preserved in the traditional Statements, of those who attended them. Of the living Witnesses who had attained to Years of Maturity sufficient to understand the Purport of these Conferences, none survive, and even of the Children who witnessed any Part of the Ceremonies, there are perhaps none now living. We will not anticipate the Details of these Events by their Recital in this Place. They are stated with sufficient Clearness in the following Pages, and will be read with Interest. The Volume from which they were printed, was left in the Hands of the Hon. Pierre Van Cortlandt, one of the last Set of Commissioners, and Lieutenant Governor of the State. It was presented by his Grandson, Col. Pierre Van Cortlandt, to the Library of the Albany Institute, where it is now preserved. In April, 1860, the Institute authorized the Publication of the Manuscript under the Direction of the present Editor, and in Pursuance of that Authority it is now printed.