

merhorn, United States Commissioner, having been appointed to remove the New York Indians to the west, in July last he passed through all the settlements of the Six Nations, and took with him some of our men, of his own selection, for the purpose of forming an exploring party to the west. This was his own delegation and not ours. We consider this an unlawful and improper exercise of authority, which strikes at the very fundamental principles of our laws and treaties: we cannot therefore recognise persons so selected as regular appointed delegates.

"Father. We will explain to you our minds on the subject. We have not any desire of again exploring the western country. The repetition can confer on us no benefit, inasmuch as we have still the same determination to remain upon the premises which we now hold in the State of New York. Father—we have concluded a 'Treaty of Peace' more than forty years ago, which we still adhere to for our guide. In that treaty we have mutually stipulated that all our national transactions should be performed in open council. This stipulation was agreed to by the parties mutually. In that treaty all secret meetings to transact national business are forbidden.

"Father. In that treaty we agreed that no compulsion should be used by either of the parties, but now J. F. Schermerhorn has already used, as it were, force, in taking our men to the west clandestinely. Furthermore, we believe that communications have been dispatched to you, purporting to be the voice of the Six Nations; but which in reality have not been acted upon in our councils.

"Father. We sincerely hope that all such (if any there be) may not be considered or treated as the sentiments of the Six Nations.

"We will now acquaint you with our views respecting the removal of our people west of the Mississippi. We have resolved to adhere to our present locations; to remain and lay our bones by the side of our forefathers. We believe we can continue at home and be at peace with our neighbours. We have disposed of our lands again and again, until our seats are reduced, so that they are now but just sufficient for our children to live on. We are now surrounded on every side by the white people. We love them, and suffer no inconvenience from them; but on the contrary, we derive from them great and permanent assistance. They are kind and generous-hearted people. They treat us kindly. We believe that we have fulfilled our obligations to each other, and to the treaty of peace and friendship which we made. We have been born and educated in the same land; we have grown up together in brotherly love; we have acquired knowledge of the arts of civilization and of agriculture in a great measure from them. We have now many amongst us who have built large barns and have good waggons and other useful implements of agriculture; we have also built school and council-houses and convenient churches; we have several saw-mills and a grain-mill amongst us. Our people have made rapid advances already, and are still progressing in wealth and industry; the moral condition of our people has been visibly improving beyond our expectation for the last forty years. True, we have also immoral and unprincipled men amongst us, but this is common with all nations; there is therefore no sufficient reason for the whole nation to be removed on their account.

"Father, once more. We have heard your liberal offers in connection with your instructions to your agent read to us by Judge Stryker. We have understood them well; but with all the light thus thrown upon the subject we cannot see sufficient reasons for accepting them. We believe that our comforts here are better than the western territory. We know