

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 tranquility 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.

The Right Honorable
THE LORD GLENELG.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

A true copy, J. JOSEPH.

(COPY.)

MY CHILDREN:—

Seventy snow seasons have now passed away since we met in Council at the crooked place, (Niagara) at which time and place your great Father, the King and the Indians of North America, tied their hands together by the wampum of friendship.

Since that period various circumstances have occurred to separate from your great Father many of his red children, and as an unavoidable increase of white population, as well as the progress of civilization, have had the natural effect of impoverishing your hunting grounds, it has become necessary that new arrangements should be entered into for the purpose of protecting you from the encroachments of the whites.

In all parts of the world, farmers seek for uncultivated land as eagerly as you, my red children, hunt in your great forests for game. If you would cultivate your land, it would then be considered your own property; in the same way as your dogs are considered among yourselves to belong to those who have reared them; but uncultivated land is like wild animals, and your Great Father who has hitherto protected you, has now great difficulty in securing it for you from the whites who are hunting to cultivate it.

Under these circumstances, I have been obliged to consider what is best to be done for the Red Children of the Forest, and I now tell you my thoughts.

It appears that these Islands in which we are now assembled in Council, are, as well as all those on the north shore of Lake Huron, alike claimed by the English, the Ottawas and the Chippewas.

I consider that from their facilities, and from their being surrounded by innumerable fishing Islands, they might be made a most desirable place of residence for many Indians who wish to be civilized as well as to be totally separated from the Whites, and I now tell you that your Great Father will withdraw his claim to these Islands, and allow them to be applied for that purpose.

Are you, therefore, the Ottawas and Chippewas, willing to relinquish your respective claims to these Islands, and make them the property (under your Great Father's control) of all Indians whom he shall allow to reside on them? If so, affix your marks to this proposal.

MANATOWANING, August 9, 1836.

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

Signed by all the CHIEFS.

TO THE SAUKINS.

MY CHILDREN:—

You have heard the proposal I have just made to the Chippewas and Ottawas, by which it has been agreed between them and your Great Father, that these Islands (Manitoulin) on which we are now assembled in Council, should be made the property, (under your Great Father's control,) of all Indians whom he shall allow to reside on them.

I now propose to you that you should surrender to your Great Father, the Saugin Territory you at present occupy, and that you shall repair either to this Island or to that part of your Territory, which lies in the north of Owen's Sound; upon which proper houses shall be built for you, and proper assistance given, to enable you to become civilized and to cultivate land; which your Great Father engages forever to protect for you from the encroachments of the Whites.

Are you, therefore, the Saugin Indians, willing to accede to this arrangement? If so, affix your marks to this my proposal.

MANATOWANING, August 9, 1836.

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.

Signed by all the CHIEFS.