

My Invitation was to all the Six Nations, and I wished to see them all there to consult on Matters of great Importance to their Interest and to our mutual Happiness. That on being informed that they were invited to a Treaty at Muskingum I postponed kindling the Council Fire for near three Months, in hopes that they might have time to return and attend.

The Oneidas and Onondagas however only appeared at the Council Fire; on inquiry of them I found that all I had heard before was too true; that some of our Brethren of the Six Nations held different Treaties, and particularly last Spring at Buffaloe Creek, with some of our white People, and had sold or leased all their Country to them. In this Situation it was necessary that something should be done to prevent the Evils which might result both to them and to us from this Transaction, and come to some lasting agreement that would prevent their being imposed upon in future. It was difficult to determine what was best to be done; we consulted together many Days and considered of these Matters; at length an Agreement took place between us and the Oneida and Onondaga Nations that they should cede their respective Countries to this State; that a part of each sufficiently large for their Use and Occupation should be reserved for each Nation, which should remain to them and their Posterity forever, without the Power of selling any part of it to any white People. That in Consideration of this Cession we paid them a Sum of Money and agreed that they should have free Fishing and Hunting throughout their Country as heretofore. And because we knew that as the white People settled upon the Lands both to the Westward and Southward the Hunting would be injured and grow less valuable, and that they would not be able to support themselves by it, we agreed to pay them a Sum every Year either in Money, Goods or Provisions to help to support them and their Women and Children. This Brothers is a short Account of the Agreement which took place between us and the Oneidas and Onondagas, and it was the only Measure that could be devised to releive them from the disagreeable Situation they