

again extended to them, attempts have been made to effect their expulsion from the land of their fathers, by means, as your memorialists conceive, alike at variance with justice and humanity, and loudly demanding your interference and reprobation.

"At a council of the Six Nations, recently held at Buffalo, a treaty for the sale of their lands was presented to them, and, as your memorialists are credibly informed, various compulsory and deceptive measures were adopted to procure signatures, which resulted in a small minority affixing their names to it; and also, that the list was subsequently increased by means of bribery and strong drink.

"We learn, on good authority, that the great body of the nation are united in the determination neither to sell their lands nor to remove from them; and have steadfastly resisted every overture for the accomplishment of these objects. Yet, under the cover of this treaty, thus illegally obtained, and invalid in itself, being the act of a minority only, these poor people are now officially informed that they must leave their homes, and the graves of their fathers, to seek a new residence in the western wilds; that their annuity will only be paid to them on condition of their removing far beyond the Mississippi, and that *there only* will the United States hold official intercourse with them.

"Thus the very existence of this feeble remnant of a numerous and powerful nation, once the proprietors of the soil on which we now dwell, and where we have grown rich, is jeopardized; their rights are invaded, and their property in danger of being unjustly wrung from them.

"In the hour of their extremity, we feel constrained by a sense of duty to appeal to you in their behalf, and beseech you to remember the universal obligation of the golden rule laid down by our blessed Saviour, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them.' Their once extensive domain has, by repeated cessions to the white man, been reduced to the narrow limits which they now claim, and they are now circumscribed within a reservation, comparatively small and insignificant.

"Shall a great and powerful nation, like the United States, rich in soil and in all its products, drive from the scanty pittance of land yet left them, these unresisting and helpless people, to gratify the cravings of avarice? Your memorialists trust not. They respectfully, but earnestly entreat you to withhold your sanction from this pretended treaty, and thus save from the stain of so disgraceful an act, the character of our beloved country.

"The sufferings and deprivations they must experience in the event of being forced from their homes and removed to the west, excite our commiseration. Accustomed to the habits and many of the conveniences of civilized life, and to the pursuits of agriculture, they are disqualified for returning to the precarious and exposing life of the hunter. Their proximity to the fierce and uncultivated Indians of the west, must be a fruitful source of difficulties which they are illy prepared to encounter; while the remoteness of their future homes, would necessarily suspend the labours of your memorialists for their further improvement, and in a great measure render abortive our exertions for more than forty years, and the expenditure of upwards of 65,000 dollars, the whole of which has been contributed by members of the Society of Friends.

"When we remember that He 'who made of one blood all nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth,' has declared himself to be 'the refuge of the poor, the refuge of the needy in his distress,' and the avenger of the wrongs of the oppressed: that 'justice and judgment are

W
tha
you
and
goc
chi
"van
one
Yon
mai
wou
thus
wou
by c
"this
dent
"Th
Unit
burea
sentat
matic
the cr
heard
the su
ployed
standi
operat
the po
rested