

time for peaceable Negotiation had not yet arrived, and they effected nothing towards procuring the Cession of Lands, or even towards a Cessation of Hostilities. Many of the Oneidas were induced to remove to Schenectady, where they were supported at the Expense of the State, during the latter Part of the War.

In 1783, the first effectual Step was taken towards this Object, by the Appointment of Agents to settle the Indian Boundaries, and obtain such Cessions of Land as might be deemed proper, granting to the Native Owners such Annuities and Payments as would satisfy their Claims, and leaving them in Possession of certain Reservations for their own Residence and Cultivation.

The Transfer of Title to large Areas of Land, is of itself always an important Era in the Civil History of a Country, because it involves a Change of Policy with regard to Settlements, and may determine the future Character of the Population through long Periods of Time. But when the Change has in express View the Substitution of Civilization for Barbarism—a dense agricultural Population in the Place of a thinly scattered and half starved Race of Savages, earning a precarious Subsistence by the Chase or by Fishing, the Event becomes one of unusual Importance, and claims of the Historian a full and ample Record.

The Deeds of Cession procured from the Native Owners, under the Negotiation of the Commissioners appointed by State Authority, have at various Times