

"Brothers:

We have endeavored to stop all parties we saw going against you, some we were able to prevail with, and others we were not, who, we suppose will prosecute the War against you our reason for not coming two days ago to speak with you was that we received the String of Wampum which I have now in my hand from all the Nations over the Lakes, the following is what they had to say upon it:

'GRANDFATHERS THE DELAWARES:-

By this String we inform you that we intend in a very short time to pass in a very great body thro' your Country on our way to the Forts of Ohio. Grandfathers, you know us to be a foolish people, we are determined to stop at nothing, and as we expect to be very hungry, we will seize and eat up everything that comes in our way. ~~Brother~~

Brothers, here is their wampum, you have heard what they design. If you go quietly Home to your Wise Men the furthest they will go, if not, you see what will be the consequences, so we desire that you remove off.

A String.

"Brothers:

We have now delivered everything we have to say. Consider it, and when you have a mind to answer us, fire a gun and we will come over to hear you. We hope when this is done to be able, each of us to rise up and go to our respective Homes."

Answer of Captain Esuyer: The Commanding Officer to his Brothers, the Delawares, July 27th, 1763.⁵

"Brothers:-

You must be certain of our Sincerity towards you, as we have never broke our treaties with you or any other Indian Nations: Since our first coming into this Country. Therefore observe what I will now inform you. In your Speech yesterday to me, you complain that we have taken your Country, and build Strong Forts. Now Brothers, these Forts was to protect you and your trade which you have often been told. With regard to your lands, we have taken none, only such parts as our Enemies, the French, did possess. You suffered them first to settle in the Heart of your country without Molestation and why should you pretend to turn us out of it now, who have always been friendly and kind to you.

Brothers:-

For these Reasons I now tell you that I will not abandon this Post. I have Warriors, Provisions and Ammunition enough to defend it three years against all the Indians in the Woods, and we shall never abandon it as long as a white man lives in America. I despise the Ottawas ~~for proposing to leave this place and go Home.~~ and I am very surprised at our Brothers, the Delawares for ~~proposing us to leave this place and go Home.~~ This is our Home. You attacked us without reason or precaution; you have murdered and plundered our Warriors and Traders, you have took off our horses and cattle and at the same time you tell us that you are sincere. Therefore now Brothers, I will advise you to go Home to your Towns and take care of your Wymen and children and when we have occasion to speak to you we will send for you. If your Chiefs at any time have anything to say to us, they must go for the present to Bedford, where they will meet our great men and George Croghan, they will be well used and I will give them letters and Copies of the Speeches I receive from you. If anyone should appear near the Fort or fire upon our Warriors I shall not only return the fire but throw shells all about and fire canons at them with hundred and twenty balls in each, therefore keep off, I don't want to hurt you.

S. Esuyer, Capt'n. Comm't.