

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 18

LETTER TO BRANT ENCLOSED IN FOREGOING DESPATCH.¹

Colonel Joseph Brant

Whitehall 6th April 1786

Sir,

The King has had under His Royal Consideration the two Letters which you delivered to me on the 4th of Jan^y last², in the presence of Colonel Johnson, and other Officers of the Indian Department ; the first of them representing the Claims of the Mohawks for Losses sustained by them and other Tribes of Indians from the Depredations committed on their Lands by the Americans during the late War ; and the second expressing the desire of the Indian Confederacy to be informed what Assistance they might expect from this Country in case they should be engaged in Disputes with the Americans relative to their Lands situated within the Territory to which His Majesty has relinquished His Sovereignty.

Were the right of Individuals to Compensation for Losses sustained by the Depredations of an Enemy to be admitted, no Country however opulent it might be, could support itself under such a Burthen, especially when the Contest happens to have taken an unfavorable turn ; His Majesty upon this ground conceives that consistently with every principle of Justice, He might withhold His Royal Concurrence to the Liquidation of those Demands. But His Majesty in consideration of the zealous and hearty exertions of His Indian Allies, in the support of His Cause, and as a Proof of His most friendly Disposition towards them, has been graciously pleased to consent that the Losses already certified by His Superintendant General shall be made good, that a favorable Attention shall also be shewn to the Claims of others who have pursued the same System of Conduct, and that S^r Guy Carleton, His Governor General of His American Dominions, shall take Measures for carrying His Royal Commands into execution immediately after his Arrival at Quebec.

This liberal Conduct on the part of His Majesty, He trusts will not leave a doubt upon the Minds of His Indian Allies that He shall at all times be ready to attend to their future Welfare, and that He shall be anxious upon every occasion, wherein their Interests and Happiness may be concerned, to give them such further Testimonies of His Royal favor and countenance, as can, consistently with a due regard to the National Faith, and the honor and dignity of His Crown, be afforded to them.

His Majesty recommends to His Indian Allies to continue United in their Councils, and that their Measures may be conducted with temper and moderation from which added to a peaceable demeanor on their part, they must experience many essential Benefits and be most likely to secure to themselves the possession of those Rights and Privileges which their Ancestors have heretofore enjoyed.

I am &c^a

SYDNEY

¹ See Q 26—1, p. 80.² See Q 26—1, p. 1.