

Brethren

The Commissioners answered

You have Always been Looked upon
by us as men of sense and we are sure many of you
of your people here are so which makes us the more
astonished and surprized that you should come to us
with such news for which you have not the least
colour or Reason to believe you say that we must
speak free and open to one another which we will
do to you and therefore we tell you that this
news is contrived by some wicked person who
has been set up thereto by the devil himself and we
are sure that there is not a man of sense among you
who believes one word of this story you tell us
that the young Sachims are unexperienced and
that they might Lear something but we are sorry
that they hear such foolish stories from men who are
old Sachims and ought to know better than to give
credit to such falsehood which are contrived by the devil
on purpose to make divisions between us and you, who
you know are so strictly united as you your selves
Told the gov^r in the last meet. that the devil
should not be able to divide us You charge us
that we are Covenant Breakers and that we have delivered
you over and that you come to us to know the truth
of this matter we do now tell you that the story you
Told us is false and that we have not ever had any such
Thoughts but are determined to keep to our Engagements
and to preserve the Covenant Inviolable In spite of the devil
Expect the same from you upon which I give you the
Belt of Wampum

II
304A

You say we Tell you that the french are a false
people we say the same yet you have no reason to
say that we are false, we are a true people and keep
all our Covenants and notwithstanding all the stories
you have often heard you know and see that we are
people who have no falsehood in our mind and have
Deluded you but you have often Experienced the
Contrary of the french and therefore we Expect that you
will not have any thing to do with them
A Belt

II
305

You have Showed us a Belt of wampum which you say
The king of great Britain had sent to you to acquit you
that it was war between him & the french & that you
should not meddle in the war, we must now tell you
that the king does never send any message to the 6
Nations but what comes to our Gov^r and then he sends
it to us which you know that this is the place where
The five burms and where the business between
us and you is always Transacted so that you ought not
to believe that that message was sent you by the king
What the king desired of you he has wrote to our
Gov^r & he has Acquainted you with that desire in
his last proposition which is that he would Lett
you know when he thought proper that you should take
part in this war and desired you not to go far from
home but to take care of your families untill you
receive his message which the 6 Nations they promised
to do & we Expect & doubt not but they will be as
good as their words