

tend a contemplated Grand Council to be held at Philadelphia—then the seat of Government—during the session of Congress to ensue in the winter of 1792. The first approaches were made to Brant (20th Dec., 1791) by letters from Col. Pickering, and the Rev. M. Kirkland, Indian missionary, requesting him to attend the Council, assuring him of his welcome reception by the Government of the United States. These invitations Brant refused.

Feb. 25, 1792, H. Knox, Secretary of War, officially repeated the invitation, in which he says:

“I can assure you that the President of the United States will be highly gratified by receiving and conversing with a chief of such eminence as you are, on a subject so interesting and important to the human race.”

In reply Brant says: “To accomplish such desirable ends as civilization and peace-making, no exertions on my part shall be wanting. It is absolutely necessary that an explanation of grievances should be made, and that to the head of the United States, from whom I entertain not the smallest doubt but justice will be done where due.”

On the 23rd of May, Brant accepted the invitation. The journey to Philadelphia was commenced early in June. His arrival in New York was thus announced in the newspapers:

“On Monday last arrived in this city from his settlement on the Grand River, on a visit to some of his friends in this quarter, Captain Joseph Brant, of the British Army, the famous Mohawk chief who so eminently distinguished himself during the late war, as the military leader of the Six Nations. We are informed that he intends to visit the city of Philadelphia and pay his respect to the President of the United States.”

This visit was an unofficial one, and yet one of great possible results. Several allurements of gain were there offered him by the United States Government. He writes:

“I was offered a thousand guineas down and to have the half-pay and pension I receive from Great Britain doubled merely on condition that I would use my endeavors to bring about a peace. But this I rejected. I considered it might be detrimental to the British interests as also to the advantage and credit of the Indian nations, until the **Americans should make the necessary concessions.**”

The offer was also added of pre-emption right to land, to

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