

The documents published in Note A, furnish a contribution to the settlement of the question as to the extent of the grant to the Six Nations of Indians in 1784, of the lands on the Ouse or Grand River. Shortly after entering upon the lands a question arose as to the effect of the deed given by General Haldimand to the Six Nations. It was held by Brant and other chiefs that on the face of it (see enclosure No. 1, page 3 of Note A), the grant was made of land of six miles wide on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source; on the other hand it was contended that that grant was limited by the purchase made from the Mississaugas, who at the Council held with them on the 22nd May, 1784 (Note A, p. 22), stated explicitly that they did not possess all the lands lying between the three lakes—Ontario, Huron and Erie—but were willing to transfer to the King all that they had there, which they believed would be “sufficient for the King’s people and our brethren the Six Nations.” The latter was the view taken by Lieutenant-Governor Maitland in his letter of 22nd February, 1821, addressed to Earl Bathurst in anticipation of the demand to be made by the delegates sent by the Six Nations to urge their claim to the full extent of the lands on the Grand River from its mouth to its source. Lieutenant-Governor Maitland pointed out in the letter referred to (Note A, No. 1), that the description in the letter by General Haldimand respecting the lands arose from a misconception, the lands never having been surveyed and the course and extent of the river being unknown.

In the documents contained in volume 283 of the series Q. of the Archives, will be found an account of the transactions between Mr. Russell, President of the Council of Upper Canada, then administering the government of the province, described by Sir Peregrine Maitland as being conducted under the operation of terror or delusion. These may be referred to with advantage as bearing directly on the questions at issue between the Six Nation Indians and government.

It is altogether out of the scope of a report of this nature to express an opinion on legal points that may be under discussion, the duty being evidently only to supply such documents as may be useful to those entrusted with the management of such interests to help them to arrive at a fair decision of the questions involved. Both sides have, therefore, been given so far as documents are available. The decision come to by Earl Bathurst in his letter addressed to the delegates after consideration of their statements, which are not among the papers here, was decidedly opposed to the claims of the Grand River Indians. The arguments in support of this decision and those in Sir Peregrine Maitland’s letter of the previous month of February (1821) are of course dependent for their strength on the documents relating to the original grant by Governor Haldimand, on the transfer by the Mississaugas of the lands and their extent before the Six (or Five) Nations obtained the title under which they claim and the subsequent proceedings in regard to the lands.

Joseph Brant, the principal chief and the leading man among the Six Nations died on the 27th of November, 1807, and John Norton, always spoken of as a Mohawk chief, appears to have assumed the position of principal chief held by Brant, who when in London during Governor Haldimand’s residence there had, largely through his intervention, been received with great cordiality by the higher officials and others. In 1804, Norton brought a letter from Brant introducing him to Lord Moira, who sent him to Lord Camden, stating that all he knew of him was his intro-