

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

Province are directly correspondent with the Opinion entertained by His Majesty's Servants here.

The Affairs of the Indians have lately been a Subject of much Consideration—Joseph Brant, who arrived in the Packet with the late Lieu^t Governor, has been charged with the transaction of two points of Business;¹ the first to demand restitution for Losses sustained by the depredations of the Americans during the War ; and the second, and more material Object, to be satisfied how far they might depend upon the support of this Country in case they should be engaged in Disputes with America, respecting their Lands.—

With regard to the first of these points, His Majesty's Ministers have every reason to think, that it has been concluded in a manner that will be entirely satisfactory to the Indians, and they cannot but conclude that the liberal manner with which this application has been treated, must impress them with a very favorable Opinion of Our friendly disposition towards them. The Losses of the Mohawks according to the Schedule certified by Sir John Johnson, and Lieu^t Colonel Claus, amount to about £15,000 Sterl^s. in which are included those sustained by Joseph Brant and his Sister. It has not, however, upon many accounts been thought advisable to admit their right to Compensation for Sufferings, which are really nothing more than the usual effects of War, and which they have shared only in common with His Majesty's Subjects, But it has nevertheless been judged expedient, not only to gratify them for their former Services, but to endeavour to secure their future friendship and confidence. Upon this ground a Sum equal to the amount of the Losses sustained by Joseph and his Sister has already been paid to him, to enable him to dispose of it to advantage in the purchase of Merchandize previous to his Departure, and Assurances have been given that a favorable Attention will be shewn to the Claims of the rest of the Indians still continuing attached to this Country, who have been Sufferers in the same Way.

Notwithstanding the Reports which have been circulated by the American Deputies sent into the Upper Country, His Majesty's Ministers are of Opinion, that they will hardly attempt by force to remove the Indians whilst they continue united, from the possession of the Lands which they at present inhabit within the Territory to which His Majesty, by the late Treaty of Peace, has relinquished the Sovereignty, much less to commence Hostilities for the Possession of Detroit, whilst there can remain even a probability that the Indians will not lend their Assistance in endeavoring to effect it.

His Majesty's Ministers observe, that the Meeting between the Deputies from the several Tribes, and the Deputies from Congress will take place some time this Spring, though probably not till after the arrival of Joseph Brant, and much will depend upon the turn which Matters will

¹ See Brant's communication of his credentials to Sydney in London, Jan. 4, 1786. Q 26—1, p. 1.