

Cold Spring, 2nd month 18th, 1836.

To our old Friends, the Quakers of Philadelphia.

"Brothers: our brother, the Quaker who resides here with us, was here to-day at our council in our council-house. Brothers, we consider it our duty to let you know what passed at the general council at Buffalo. We all met, Senecas, Onondagos, Cayugas, Tuscaroras, Oneidas, and all the rest of the New York Indians. Schermerhorn* called on some of the Indians from Green Bay to attend the council, who were also there. The United States' commissioner proceeded and opened the council with these words; 'I now open the council of the Six Nations. I am commissioner of the United States. I shall do the duty assigned me by the president. I was sent to let you know what the government wishes. It is the policy of the government that all the Indians shall remove beyond the Mississippi. Every chief that will control one hundred souls to remove, shall receive five hundred dollars. He stated that government was very kind to Indians, it would furnish one year's provision, money to defray the expenses of moving them there, build them houses, mills, meeting-houses, school-houses, blacksmith-shops, and furnish them with missionaries. When you receive this offer, all your annuity will be removed to the far country; if any Indians remain here they will get no money, as there will be no agent here, but there will be one sent to the west, who will attend all your councils there. You must accept of this offer—you must go.'

"He occupied the whole time in talking for the first eight days of the council. After we had deliberated on what he had said to us, and determined on remaining where we are, the commissioner said:—

"'We have finished. You have sold all you have claimed: here is the treaty made and written before you; and all you have to do is to sign it.'

"He then laid the treaty on the table: at the same time, our petition being written, we laid that on the table also. The commissioner called on us to sign his paper; the emigration party, to the number of twenty-three, came forward and signed it. The commissioner stating it was lawful to sign in the presence of the council, our petition was signed by sixty-two at the same time. At that time there was a large majority of the chiefs, and nearly all the warriors on our side. The commissioner then said, 'I now close the council, but my books shall be open all night, and until after breakfast to-morrow morning; then I will leave the reservation.'

"At the time he dismissed the council he removed the books to a public-house in the vicinity, and some of our people who had received large sums of money of the Ogden company, used great exertions to get many of the chiefs to go to this place, and prevailed on some with money, and others under the influence of ardent spirits, were prevailed on to sign the pretended treaty. They offered large sums of money to many of the chiefs, who refused it, and remained uncorrupted by the offer of their bribes.

"We told those who had signed the treaty that the council is now closed, and you think you have sold our land, but we are determined to hold our

* Schermerhorn, who has assumed the character of a Christian minister, has likewise acted as Government agent to the Cherokee Indians, with whom he pretended to form a treaty similar in its character to that here described.