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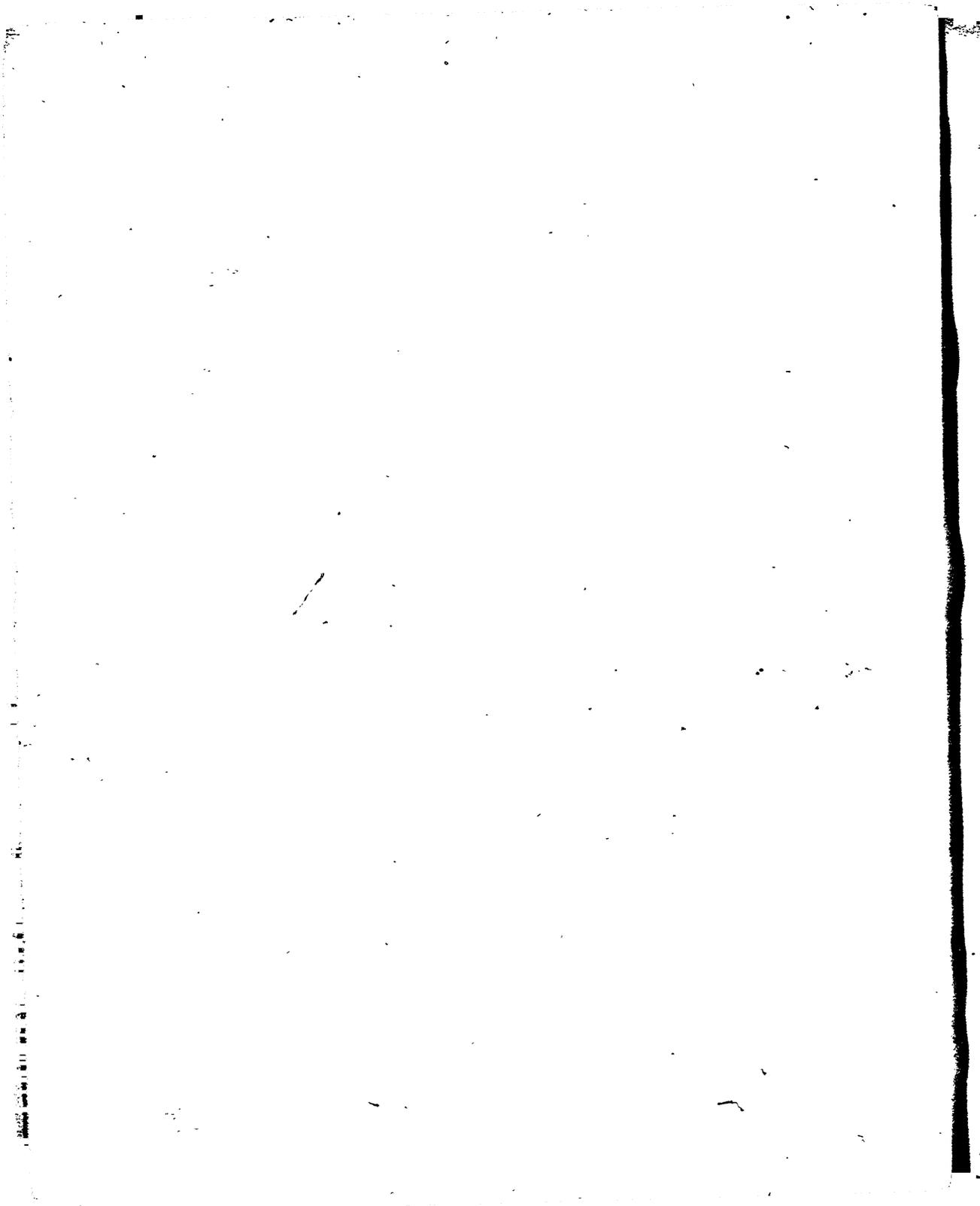
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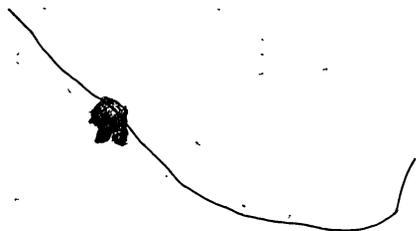
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Munsell's
Historical Series.

No. X.



5

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Commissioners of Indian Affairs,

APPOINTED BY LAW FOR THE

EXTINGUISHMENT OF INDIAN TITLES

IN THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

PUBLISHED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE
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WITH AN

Introduction and Notes,

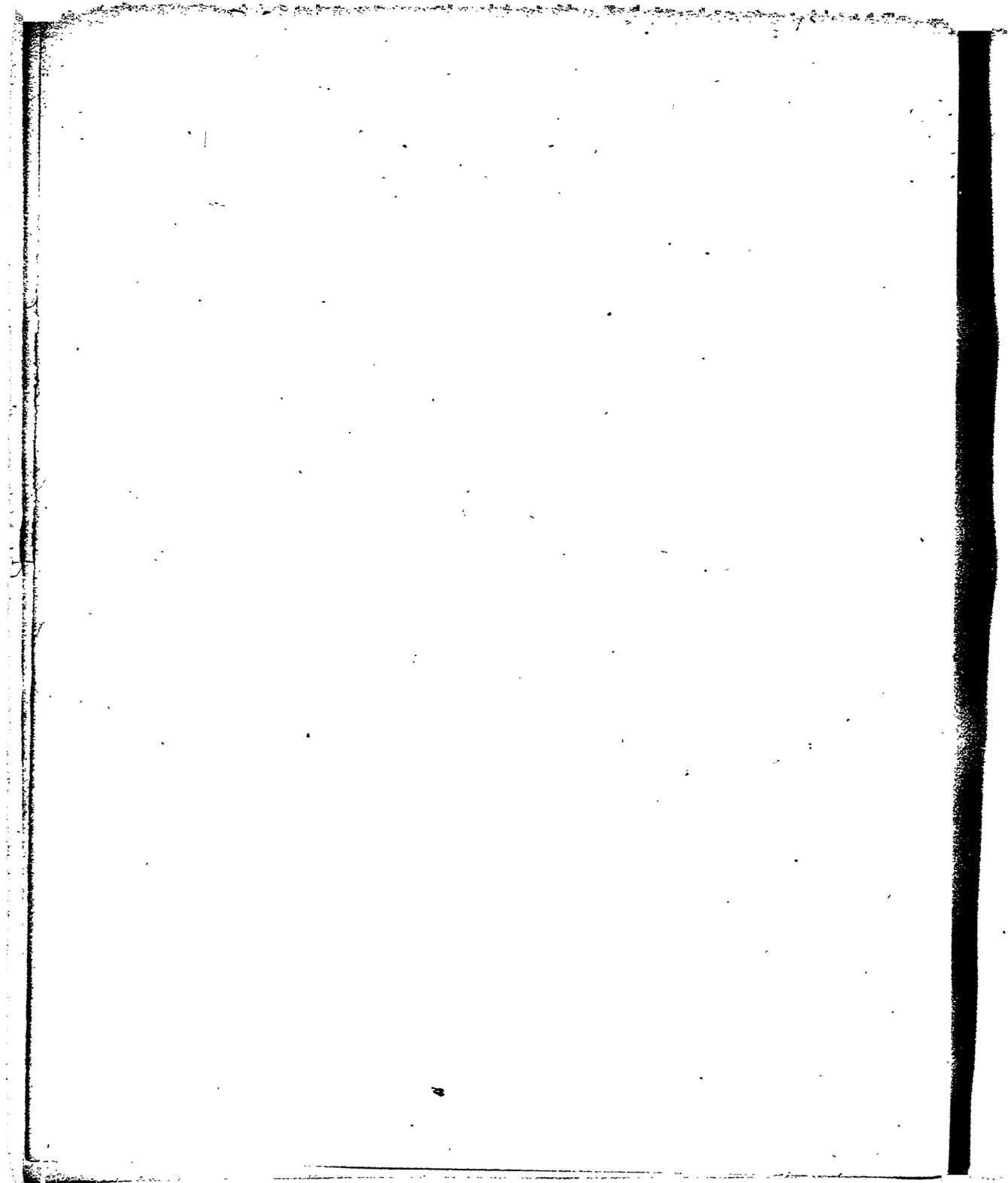
BY FRANKLIN B. HOUGH,

MEMBER OF THE ALBANY INSTITUTE.

VOL. II.



ALBANY:
JOEL MUNSELL.
MDCCCLXI.





A CONTINUATION
OF THE
P R O C E E D I N G S
OF THE
Commissioners for holding Treaties with the
Indians within this State,
CONTAINING
Their Negotiations with the Cayuga Nation, &c., &c.



At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler in the City of Albany, on the 15th Day of December, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
John Lawrence,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., &
Samuel Jones.

The Reverend Samuel Kirkland having returned from the Westward made his Report verbally to the Commissioners, and they desired him to reduce the same to writing. After Mr. Kirckland retired, the Governor communicated to the Board a Letter from Peter Ryckman and Seth Reed, which is in the Words following, to wit:

H h

Canadasaga, 7th October, 1788.

Sir:

This will be handed you by Mr. Lee & Noble, two Gentlemen from Massachusetts who have been at this Place the most of the Summer past, and as they have been particularly knowing to the Transactions of the People on this Ground, we have requested them to wait on your Excellency and know whether the Seneca and Kayuga Nations of Indians are wanted at Albany or any other Place to hold a Treaty with them in the Course of this Winter or not. If that should be the case we are confident that we shall be able to procure any number of those Nations or any particular Persons that should be named among them to meet the Commissioners at any Place that they should propose. Had we been directed by the Commissioners to go to Fort Schuyler with the Indians at the Treaty lately held there we should have been able to have brought them without any great trouble; any Contract that those Gentlemen shall make respecting the Indians we shall do our best to fulfill. The inclosed is a small part of what has been said by Colo. Mackinster and others respecting the Leases, &c.

We are your Excellency's
most obedient and very humble Serts.

PETER RYCKMAN,
SETH REED.¹

To Excellency GEORGE CLINTON, Esquire.

The Substance of the Information given by Mr. Kirckland, taken from his Journal, is as follows, to wit: That he arrived at Canadasaga the 30th of September; that he mett a number of the Seneca and Cayuga Nations, some approving and others being Jealous of the Treaty held at Fort Schuyler. That they had been kept in a continual state of Intoxication

¹ Col. REED resided at the Old Castle Tract bounded on the Lake, and extended back to the old Preëmption Line, at Canadasaga Village, and Ryckman on the Shore of Seneca Lake. A Patent embracing most of the present Site of Geneva was issued to Reed and Ryckman for their Services upon this Occasion. The

& Dissipation for three Weeks to prevent their going on to the Treaty. That Dr. B. & Colo. M. had between twenty and thirty Riflemen in Arms for twenty-four Hours, and gave out severe Threats against P. Rikeman and Colo. Reed for being Enemies to their Party and Friends to the Government, in perswading the Indians to attend the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and they were ordered off the Ground or to abide the Consequences. That he communicated to a Number of the Seneca and Cayuga Nations the Treaties made with the Onondagos and Oneidas at Fort Schuyler which the Governess of Genesee confirmed. That on the 13th he set off for Genesee where he arrived the next day and visited the Big-tree at his Village and fixed the Stake for the southern Line of Mr. Phelps's purchase at the Forks of the Genesee, set up by the Surveyors (being previously requested thereto by the Indians). That on the 18th found that Threats had been given out against the Onondago Chiefs Black Cap and Kagaghtotten, by the Onondagos residing at the Buffaloe Creek, on a supposition of their having no part of the Consideration for the Sale of the Onondagos Lands at the late Treaty, and blamed the Governor in that Negotiation. That in a formal Address he vindicated the Conduct of the Governor and Commissioners, explained to them fully the Principles of the Treaty and that their Jealousies had arisen from Misrepresentation. This Speech, for which they thanked him, produced the desired Effect, the Indians being perfectly convinced and satisfied. That he found it necessary to proceed further Westward, and on the 22nd arrived at Niagara, where he found the Infant with his Company, and waited on Colo. Butler from whom he received every necessary Information respecting the Dispositions of the Indians. That Colo. Butler advised that if the intended Treaty at Albany should not succeed it would be best to have one at Canada-saga or Buffaloe Creek, and that two or three Commissioners might answer the purpose. That on the 25th he left Niagara and travelled on foot to meet a Chief called Shendyoughgwatte, the second Man of Influence among the Senecas of Buffaloe, and had a Conversation with him to good Purposes

as he supposes. The next Morning he reached the Capital Village on the Buffalo, where the chief Sachem, called the Farmers-brother alias Oghnewigewas, assembled the Onondagos and Cayugas, to whom he delivered the Message and held a Council which was again opened the next Morning; when to remove their Difficulties and Reflections respecting the late Treaty as partial, he made an Addition to the Governor's Invitation Belt by informing them that it was the Governor's Intention to have had a general Treaty; that they had timely Notice of it; that he was equally concerned for their good, and in case their Chiefs did not return from Muskingum by January, he would meet them at any Place they should choose from Albany to Buffalo Creek the next Spring or Summer. The Onondagos were soon united in favour of the State and had the ascendancy in Council. The Cayugas there had no Voice in the Council, but expressed their Approbation (by Reason of the late Death of their Chief Tegacager) all Matters being adjusted with great peace and unanimity, the Farmers Brother delivered three Strings for the Governor, approving of his Message. The next Day at the Governesses Village in both Places he informed the Chiefs and Warriors present of all that had passed at Buffalo Creek; he then went to the Big Tree, by whom he was addressed in the Presence of the Warriors in a Speech favorable to the Views of the State, and mentioned that there was a general Expectation of the Indians holding a Treaty the ensuing Spring if the same should not take place in the Winter.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State at the House of John Tayer in the City of Albany, on the 16th Day of December, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
John Laurence,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr.,
Samuel Jones, Esquires.

The Board having taken into consideration the Informa-

tion received yesterday from Mr. Kirkland and the Letter from Ryckman and Reed, Resolved that it is the Opinion of the Board that it is proper to accede to the Propositions of the said Peter Ryckman and Seth Reed, and that a Letter be written to them desiring them to bring a National Representation of the Cayuga Indians to this Place as soon as may be practicable, and that the Board will recommend them to the Bounty of the Legislature for their Services. And a Letter to the said Ryckman and Reed and a Message were accordingly prepared and agreed to, which are in the Words following, to wit:

Gent^l:

I have laid Mr. Read's and your Letter of the 7th October last before the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians residing within this State. They agree to your Proposals and desire you will bring a National Representation of the Cayuga Indians to this Place as soon as may be practicable. It is the wish of the Board that the Representation may be as numerous as can be procured, and they will recommend to the Legislature to make a suitable Compensation for your Services in this Business, besides their Engagement of defraying the Expences you may be put to in bringing the Indians to this Place. Inclosed is a Speech to the Cayuga Nation from the Commissioners, which you will be pleased to communicate to them. You will be pleased to provide a proper Belt to deliver with the Speech. You will perceive by the Speech that it is the wish of the Commissioners that the Indians should be here by the middle of the Month of January, as it is probable that after that Time a sufficient Number of Commissioners to form a Board may not be at this Place. If any Circumstance should intervene to prevent your accomplishing the Business committed to you at the Time before mentioned, you will give me the earliest Information which you will have an Opportunity of doing by the Return of your Son who is the Bearer of this Letter.

I am &c.

GEO: CLINTON.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler in the City of Albany, on the 18th Day of December, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., &
Samuel Jones, Esquires.

The Governor laid before the Board the Account of the Reverend Mr. Kirkland for his Services & Expences on his Journey among the Indians to the Westward, amounting to thirty-five Pounds ten Shillings and nine Pence.

Ordered that Mr. Tayler pay the same.

The Governor also laid before the Board a Memorial of the said Mr. Kirkland, praying the Commissioners agreeably to the Encouragement by them given to him, to recommend to the Legislature to grant to him in Consideration of his Services an Addition to the Lands stipulated to be given to his Sons. Thereupon Resolved that it be recommended to the Legislature to grant to him a Tract of Land of one third of a Mile in Breadth on the South Side of the Land to be granted to his said Sons, and extending from the Line of Property to the Lands reserved for the Oneidas, and also a Gore of Land lying between the same and the said Lands to be granted to his Sons and the Lands reserved for the Oneidas.

Ordered that a Copy of the foregoing Resolution, signed by the Commissioners, be delivered to Mr. Kirkland.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, Albany, January 3d, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Jones, &
Mr. Benson.

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It appeared to the Board that there is a ballance of one hundred and fifty-three Pounds two Shillings and eight pence half penny due to John Tayler, the Agent appointed by the Board; Thereupon resolved that Mr. Varick of the Monies drawn by him from the Treasury on the last Warrant from the Board, pay to Mr. Tayler the Sum of one hundred and fifty-three Pounds two Shillings and eight pence half penny, the Amount of the Ballance aforesaid.

Geo. Clinton

Eg. Benson

Peter Gansevoort Jun^r

Ezra Stoddard

Here Ends the Report of the first Board of Commissioners.

The Authority of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State expired thirty Days after the present Meeting of the Legislature, and both Houses had formed a Quorum, to wit, on the 11th Day of December last.

On the 23d Day of January the Governor received a Letter by James Manning Reed from Peter Ryckman and Seth Reed, in the Words following, to wit:

Canadasega, January 13th, 1789.

Sir:

We rec'd your Letter of the 16 last by the Bearer of this, who arrived at this Place 31st December, and agreeably to your Excellency's Request your Message was laid before the Indians, and after their mature Deliberation thereon they desired us to inform you in writing that they accept of your Invitation and will move on for Albany as fast as possible; but as you requested the earliest Information of their Intentions we have sent my Son James Manning Reed with two Indians to forward this with all possible Speed, which we hope will go safe to your Hand. The Indians will not be at Albany as soon as you proposed, but will be there by the 25th Instant, if not prevented by some designing Men who we are told propose taking and confining any Person who is aiding the Indians to Albany. The Head of the Party is one Smith of the German Flatts on the Mohawks River; but by whose Instigation they do this we can only imagine. The Indian Interpreters Wemp, Smith and Jones,¹ together with what Leesess there are on the Ground, have been exceeding busy to keep the Indians from going to the Treaty, and have kept them so intoxicated with Liquor that it was almost

¹ HORATIO JONES was born December, 1763, enlisted with the Bedford Rangers in 1781, and was soon after captured by the Indians; was adopted by them, with the Name of *Taesdaqua*, and served as Interpreter nearly forty Years. In 1788 he was living in a bark covered

Log Hut, on the Banks of Seneca Lake, at Geneva, and had a small Stock of Goods for the Indian Trade.

He died at his Residence on the Genesee River in 1836, aged 75 Years, much respected by the Community in which he lived.—*Turner's Holland Purchase*, 286,

impossible to do Business with them; but notwithstanding all, we think there will be a full Representation of the Cayuga Nation and a Number of the Sachems of the Senakes.

We are your Excellency's
most obedient humble Servants,

PETER RYCKMAN,
SETH REED.

Excellency GEORGE CLINTON, Esquire.

P. S. I should myself waited on your Excellency and the Board with the Indians, but the Indisposition of Body prevents me. There is inclosed the Sayings and Doings of Mr. Mickinstrey and Mr. Livingston; I shall refer you to Mr. Ryckman who was present in their Council with Wilkenson and myself on the twenty-ninth Day of November, 1787; also he is knowing to all the Circumstances respecting the Conduct of Mickinstrey the Summer past. I have given Mr. Ryckman a Power to act in my Behalf, and I beg your Excellency's Influence for a reasonable Compensation in Lands in this Country for my Services; and at the same Time hope you will not be prejudiced against a Person you never saw for the hearsays which I am told have been propagated by a certain Chapman and others.

I am your Excellency's
most obedient humble Servant,

SETH REED.

In Consequence of the Information contained in the above Letter, the Governor took the necessary Measures to have the Indians supplied with Provisions to facilitate their Journey, and to prevent their being obstructed or retarded on their way, and for these Purposes dispatched a Messenger to meet them. Capt. Thornton proceeded as far as Onondago, where he met them and found they had been much delayed by one of their Chiefs taken sick on the Road, and after giving them such Assistance as was in his Power he returned to Albany on the 20th of Jan'y, and made his Report.

On the 11th Day of February Mr. Peter Ryckman arived in Albany with 30 Indians and Women, and the same Day

waited upon the Governor at the Request of the Indians, to appoligize for their not paying their Respects to him immediately, and to desire that they might be excused a Day or two to refresh themselves after so long a Journey before they entered on Business.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern¹ in the City of Albany, the 12th Day of February, 1789, pursuant to a Law passed the present Session of the Legislature.²

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Lieutenant Governor Van Cortlandt.
Egbert Benson,
John Hathorn,³
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., &
Samuel Jones, Esquires.

The following Chiefs and Warriors of the Cayuga Nation, with a Number of Women attended, to wit:

Hawistawg	alias	Steel Trap,
Teen har yawgo		Logan Two
Kaan nanngga		Two rous of Poles with Indian Corn
To Hongteaga		Black Ear
Hannench a hea		Arms Leans
Had de we neenne		Talks and goes on

¹ ISAAC DENNISTON'S Inn, known in the olden Time as the King's Arms, stood on the Northwest Corner of Green and Beaver Streets, Albany. James Dole kept an Inn on the Corner opposite towards the River.

² This Act, passed February 12th (*Folio Laws, 12th Sess., 22*), revived the former Act, and continued it until thirty Days after a Quorum of both Houses should have met in July following. It added Pierre Van Cortlandt,

John Hathorn, and Abraham Ten Broeck to the Commission, limited the Powers vested to the Counties of Montgomery and Ontario, and forbade the Removal of Persons from the Place of Treaty further than their own Residence; and if confined, to any other Place than Montgomery County Jail.

³ JOHN HATHORN resided in Warwick, Orange County, and was a State Senator from 1787 to 1804, inclusive.

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Hawn yegh taw Fall from the Skey
Aw Hoet ingos Smoke strikes against
Saw googh hay Gives his Goods away
Hawwinawg He talks
Teyawwintawho Day appears
Tan Yoe is Sky Breakes
Kaightotten an Onondaga Chief and
Toneaghas a Seneca Chief also attended.

The Company being seated, Toneaghas the Seneca Chief, addressed the Governor and Commissioners as follows :

Brothers of the State of New York and of the United States :

We are not very strong, but we have always been good Friends to the People of Albany.

Brothers :

At the late Council Fire at Fort Stanwix you sent a Belt to the Senecas and Cayugas to come to a Council Fire; and some of the Senecas and Cayugas immediately concluded to come to Albany for that Purpose.

Antiently when the Six Nations were in a Situation, it was usual with them to consult together; but they are now so scattered as to render such general Consultation impracticable; we have therefore called on Kaightotten, an Oneida, to come with us to be a Witness at this Treaty, and we have also requested some of the Oneidas to come, and it would be most agreable to us that the Treaty was postponed until some of the Oneidas should arrive, as they are expected. The Invitation Belt was then returned as usual.

To which the Governor made the following Answer :

Brothers :

Your Brothers the great Council of this State, have by us their Commissioners, kindled a Council Fire at Fort Schuyler last Year, at which we invited all our Brethren of the Six Nations. Our Brethren the Oneidas and Onondagos attended and we were sorry that it was not convenient for our Brethren the Senecas and Cayugas to come. We are notwithstanding very glad to see you at this Place where our

Council Fires were anciently kindled, and thank the Great Spirit that he has protected you on the way.

Brothers :

We are sensible that it was formerly the Custom for the Six Nations to attend at Council Fires and consult together. We know several of your People have died since we were last together ; however let these Things be no longer remembered. We approve of your asking our Brother Kaigh-totten of Onondaga to come along, and also that you have requested some of the Oneidas to come; and as soon as they arrive we shall enter on the Business of the Present Treaty.

To which the Indians made the following Reply :

Brothers :

You are acquainted with our ancient Customs of the Six Nations ; when they were in Prosperity their ancient Usage was this, viz : at the opening of a Treaty the Party invited returning the invitation String by an introductory Speech to open the Eyes that they may see clearly, and if they have sustained Loss or Misfortune, to wipe the Tears from their Eyes ; also to open their Ears and hear distinctly, and remove all Obstructions from the Breast. Brothers, Chiefs of the People of Albany, by this String we perform the ancient Custom of our Fathers, and we thank the Great Spirit who hath given us this Opportunity to smoke our Pipes together in Peace at Albany. A String of three Rows.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, held at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the 14th Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Lieutenant Governor Van Cortlandt.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Samuel Jones,
Peter Gansevoort Junr.,
Egbert Benson, and
John Hathorn, Esquires.

James Bryan and Benjamin Birdsall, two of the Persons of the Association distinguished by the Appellation of the New York Genesee Company, appeared before the Board and delivered up to the Board a Writing purporting to be a Lease from the Chiefs or Sachems of the Six Nations of Indians, of John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson and Ezekiel Gilbert and their Associates, and a Writing purporting to be a Lease from the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneida Nation of Indians to John Livingston, Caleb Benton and Ezekiel Gilbert and their Associates (Copies of which Writings are entered on the Journals of the Assembly of the last Sessions), also a Writing signed by a Number of Indians & dated the ninth Day of July last, and purporting to be a release from some of the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations of Indians of a part of the consideration Money and a part of the Rent mentioned in the said Writing first above mentioned, and a Confirmation as to certain of the Lands therein mentioned.

Resolved that the said three Writings be received by the Board, and unless the Legislature shall otherwise direct, that they remain with his Excellency the Governor until the further order of the Board.

Resolved that his Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate by Message to the Legislature the Proceedings of the Board relative to the above Transaction.

Ordered that Mr. Tayler, the Agent of this Board, take order for the Subsistence of such Indians as have or shall come to this Place to attend the intended Treaty.

His Excellency the Governor communicated to the Board the Substance of an informal Conference which had taken place between him and the principal Cayuga Indians since the last meeting in the following Words, to wit:

Brothers:

The Reasons which induced me to kindle a Council Fire last Summer at Fort Stanwix were that I was informed that our white People had got among our Brethren of the Six Nations, and were buying their Lands contrary to our Laws and the ancient Usage that had subsisted between us.

My Invitation was to all the Six Nations, and I wished to see them all there to consult on Matters of great Importance to their Interest and to our mutual Happiness. That on being informed that they were invited to a Treaty at Muskingum I postponed kindling the Council Fire for near three Months, in hopes that they might have time to return and attend.

The Oneidas and Onondagas however only appeared at the Council Fire; on inquiry of them I found that all I had heard before was too true; that some of our Brethren of the Six Nations held different Treaties, and particularly last Spring at Buffaloé Creek, with some of our white People, and had sold or leased all their Country to them. In this Situation it was necessary that something should be done to prevent the Evils which might result both to them and to us from this Transaction, and come to some lasting agreement that would prevent their being imposed upon in future. It was difficult to determine what was best to be done; we consulted together many Days and considered of these Matters; at length an Agreement took place between us and the Oneida and Onondaga Nations that they should cede their respective Countries to this State; that a part of each sufficiently large for their Use and Occupation should be reserved for each Nation, which should remain to them and their Posterity forever, without the Power of selling any part of it to any white People. That in Consideration of this Cession we paid them a Sum of Money and agreed that they should have free Fishing and Hunting throughout their Country as heretofore. And because we knew that as the white People settled upon the Lands both to the Westward and Southward the Hunting would be injured and grow less valuable, and that they would not be able to support themselves by it, we agreed to pay them a Sum every Year either in Money, Goods or Provisions to help to support them and their Women and Children. This Brothers is a short Account of the Agreement which took place between us and the Oneidas and Onondagas, and it was the only Measure that could be devised to relieve them from the disagreeable Situation they

had brought themselves into, and prevent future Mischiefs. I thought it necessary to mention these Matters to you before we entered formally upon Business, that you might consider and understand well the Business for which we kindled the Council Fire at this Place, and be able to make up your Mind upon the Subject and determine whether you are disposed to enter into a similar Agreement on the part of your Nation, and if so, whether you are such a Representation as to have sufficient Power to do it.

Brothers :

I do not wish an immediate Answer; I wish you to consider and understand Matters well, for I know no Agreement can be lasting that is not well understood by both Parties; but as I have been a long Time from home and it is in your hunting Time, I should be glad that the Business might meet with as little delay as possible.

To which the Indians made the following Reply :

Brother :

We are very happy to hear what you have said; we do not intend at this Time to say much upon the Subject; it makes our hearts rejoice to hear the things which our Brother the Governor has mentioned; we will go and consult all our People, both Men and Women, and we will give you an Answer tomorrow or next Day. We are sensible that what you have told us is true, for we have seen those white People already taking Possession of our Lands at Canadasega. It made our Hearts sink within us to see our Women and Warriors deprived of their Country, as if our God had forsaken us. Brother Governor, we thank you very heartily for what you have told us.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the 17th Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Abraham Ten Broeck,
John Hathorn,
Ezra L'Hommedieu, and
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., Esquires.

Indians.

Kaistolx alias Steel Trap
Tonaghtoga
Comghawga
Tonoghliidu Black Ear
Kanyoswa
Tomoghas, Seneca Chief
Kaightotten, Onondaga Chief
Colonel Lewis, an Oneida.

The Chiefs desired Mr. Ryckman to inform the Governor and Commissioners, that they had now attended and brought with them Kaightotten of the Onondagas, and Colonel Lewis from Oneida, and they wished to hear something now on the Business of the Treaty in their Presence, before they give a final Answer; this they will consider however as an informal Business and mere confidential Conversation for the Information of both Parties.

Whereupon the Governor again explained to them the Reasons for kindling the Council Fire at Fort Stanwix last Summer, and repeated the Substance of the Agreements entered into with the Oneidas and Onondagas at the late Treaty, nearly in the Words of the last informal Communication between him & the Indians, which was reported to the Board at the last Meeting. He also explained to them the Reasons for reserving to the Oneidas a larger Tract of Land for their use than that reserved for the Onondagas, to wit, because the

former Nation were more numerous, and also more contiguous to the white People, of course their hunting would be sooner injured by the Settlements of the white People. He also produced to the Indians the Leases surrendered to the Board by the New York Genesee Company, and added: Brothers, I expect you will inform us whether you are such a Representation of your Nation, as that you can enter into such a Treaty with us as we have made with the Oneidas and Onondagas.

To which the Indians, by Colonel Lewis, made the following Answer:

Brothers:

When your People mett us at the Buffaloe Creek, they said they were sent by the great People of the State to do Business with us; if we cannot agree so many white People will come that they will drive you all out of your County; we must therefore agree, because if no Agreement is made the State cannot be delayed long; something must be done. The State sent us here, we must make an Agreement for your Lands, you must therefore make an Agreement with us for it before you go to Muskingum. We must have a written Agreement with you to carry back to the State. This induced us to enter into the Agreements you have shewn us, believing it was between us and the State.

Brothers:

When we come back from Fort Pitt we will meet you again and renew the Agreement and make it Strong. When we came at Fort Pitt we found every thing in Disorder. The Council Fire removed and the Country alarmed; but when we returned we found every thing in peace in this Quarter.

Brothers:

We have now heard that what you have said and that you are willing to take us under the Protection of the State, which makes us very happy; we are glad to hear it.

Brothers:

We now understand Matters well; we will now consult

together, not only with our own People but with the Oneidas and Onondagas who are here, and we will give you our Answer. We thank you for what you have said, we know it is all true.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the nineteenth Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Lieutenant Governor Van Cortlandt.
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr.,
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
John Hathorn,
Samuel Jones, Esquires.

The Chiefs and Warriors of the Cayuga Nation, with the female Governesses and other Women attending; and also the Chiefs from the Seneca, Oneida & Onondaga Tribes, who accompanied them to this Place.

Mr. Ryckman, Mr. Kirkland and Col. Lue Cook attended as Interpreters.

The Cayugas opened the Business of the Meeting with the following Speech, having first, with the Approbation of the Board, chosen the Oneida Chief Domine Peter their Mouth to speak for them.

Domine Peter arose and spoke as follows:

Brother Governor of the State of New York and all the other Chiefs of the State of New York, open your Ears; and all you Chiefs of the Five Nations that are now here, open your Ears.

The Business we have now met upon is of the greatest Importance; how happy would it be for us all if we now come to a Settlement for our mutual Advantage.

Brothers :

We have this Day met together and smoked our Pipes in Peace ; that you may know the Reason of my standing here as Speaker, I would inform you that my Brethren the Cayugas and my Children the Senecas wished me to be their Mouth, and as I have heard it is agreeable to the Chief of New York, I now stand here. You will possess your Mind in Peace ; I have no Disposition to oppose your Sentiments in any thing, but shall keep in the strait Path.

Brother Chief :

In the first place I would acquaint you that last Spring we were invited to a Treaty at Muskingum ; you also called upon us by the Agent of the Northern Department to attend the great Treaty. Some of our Tribe went there and have not yet returned. When our Uncles the Chiefs left our Council Fire, their only Business at the Muskingum was to establish a general Peace ; this was agreeable to us even the Warriors ; for though the Clouds gather in the Southward, and the Winds sometimes blow, yet as our Uncles the Sachems labor for a Peace, the Minds of our young Warriors are composed. This, Brother Governor, I observe to open the way for what shall follow. Shortly after the Cloud from the Southward began to rise, we again saw the light of the Sun ; but as soon as we saw it an evil Spirit began to work, threatening the Annihilation of our Territory.

Brother Governor :

I observed to you an Evil Spirit had disturbed our Peace. Do not think from this that we of the Five Nations were disposed to cherish this evil Spirit ; we were deceived, we believed it to be a good Spirit coming from the great Council, and thought we could not injure ourselves by opening our Ears to the Voice of the great Council.

This was new ; never before had we of the Five Nations held such a Meeting with any of our Brethren. Brethren of this Island, we had been accustomed to converse with you according to antient Usage.

Brother :

A few Words may suffice. It would be long to go into

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Particulars and state at large the Means by which we were misled. It seems you then sensibly felt our Situation, and looking back to ancient Times, endeavored to discover Methods to recover our sinking Territory. Let us notwithstanding mutually possess our Minds in Peace; we can see but a small Depth into the Hearts of Man, and we can only discover what comes from his Tongue.

Brother Governor :

Soon after this I heard your Voice, though it was small at first (we now speak of the Oneida Nation), yet it gave us Life to think you would extend your Arms and save our sinking Territory. I heard your Voice and sent it on to my Brothers the Five Nations.

When we first heard and distinguished your Voice it informed us that you would kindle a Council Fire at Fort Stanwix and relate to us all Matters respecting our Situation.

I have one Word more to add to what I last said; when your Voice came it directed me to send to the Five Nations, which I did. At the Council at Fort Stanwix only one Tribe attended. The first Tribe, the Onondagas, did attend; there was a strange Bird that flew about your Voice and related strange Stories.

It is known to you and us that this Bird kept flying while you held your Council Fire at Fort Stanwix. After your Patience had been exhausted in waiting several Days, you then agreed to take us one by one, as we came to the Council Fire. This we approved of.

I need not say much on this; you then completed the Business to mutual Satisfaction, as we both have Papers specifying the Agreement between us. It is firm and unalterable, no evil Spirit shall ever be able to erase the Lines.

Let me be particular, as I am Speaking for all the Nations present; when you had finished the Business with the Onondagas you showed the Agreement to us; the Oneidas pointed out the Path and opened our Eyes. Then you raised us up from sinking into an unfathomable gulph, and placed us on a high Mountain; we then comprehended your Mind as it

was laid before us. It gives me Pleasure to reflect on this, for you I know, but did not the other that misled me.

Let me remark once more on our happy Settlement; you raised a Fortification around us so that no evil Spirits or Birds could fly over and disturb us. Now we are fixed and dwell in Peace.

I need not say many Words more upon the Council at Fort Stanwix, and the Transactions there. You remember you saw a few Senecas there; you welcomed them although they were neither invited to it, nor Sachems, but little Children. They then told you with what Difficulty they leaped over the Mound at Canadasaga.

You remember when these Seneca Lads left your Council Fire you gave them good Advice, as your Patience then held out, and through Love for the Five Nations you invited them to meet you at Albany this Winter, to consult upon Matters interesting to them and for their Good.

You mentioned to them that you expected them from the remoter Parts of the Five Nations. They again heard your Voice, you opened their Eyes, it pierced their Hearts to see their Territory sinking, and that by and by the Warriors would not be at liberty to hunt upon their Lands and provide for their Women and Children.

Soon after this we Warriors deliberated on your Message, and determined that it would be for the Good of our Nation and prevent our utter Destruction to come here, although some of our Sachems had not returned from the Southward, yet we were perswaded when our Deliberations were laid before them that they would approve them.

After frequent Conferences with our Brethren the Senecas, we determined to repair to this ancient Council Fire. We thought it agreeable to the antient Usage to take two Brothers of the Onondagas and Oneidas to this Place, where our Ancestors kindled a Council Fire, the Smoak of which reached the Heavens, and round which they sat and talked of Peace.

I observed at first, that I would only touch upon one Event after another, and need I call your Attention to the Council Fires and Treaties held here by your and our Fore-

fathers; they had one Head and one Heart. The Chain of Friendship was made of Silver, so that it could not rust. I need not mention these Occurrences to you * * * * * Our Ancestors you know frequently met to brighten this Chain with a Design to see whether any evil Spirit that disturbs the Peace of Brethren, shook it or sat upon it.

I must now leave this pleasant Subject, the Talks of our Ancestors. You have now seen some of our Brethren of the Five Nations, the Cayugas; you have opened your Mind and encouraged us to believe that you can retrieve our sinking Territory; and that if any of your People have overleaped the Bounds you set them, you can erase the Lines. This has given us great Encouragement and universal Pleasure.

Brother Governor:

We of the Cayugas and Senecas here present, thank you from the very Bottom of our Hearts, that you have opened your Mind fully to us; when we heard your first and second Voice we were glad, but now we are quite rejoiced. It convinced us that you remembered the Treaties between our Forefathers who loved their Country, for who would not wish to preserve a Place whereon to live. The great Spirit gave us this Island and we know you join in promoting his Design, that we should have a Place to live on.

Our Ancestors had certain Marks, each Tribe had a certain Boundary or Line they called their own, of the Land the Great Spirit gave them.

We said we were very glad to meet you, & hear your Voice, and trust you are yet able to save our sinking Territory. We put it all into your Hands; put your Hand over the whole, reserving to us such a Dish as you shall prescribe for us.

This is perfectly agreeable to the Conduct of our Ancestors, who loved Peace and loved their Land; and why, because they loved their Women & Children—Women, whose province it is to cultivate the Soil; while they loved their Peace and Land, they enjoyed happy Days.

We have said we rejoice in this Meeting & Transaction;

those we have left behind, and those that will return from the Southward, will also rejoice at the Issue of our Business. The little ones can now go with Pleasure to look for Fish in the Streams, and the Warriors to hunt for wild Beasts in the Woods, and be certain that they will not be driven from their Country. A String of Black Wampum with Six Rows.

I have repeatedly said I was glad to hear your Words ; that they have sunk deep into my Heart and raised up my Land & Country, that was about to sink. I entreat you by this String to keep firm to your Word and reach out your Hand over my Country and save it ; our Dish we will reserve. This Transaction will not only rejoice our absent Friends, but our Children's Children to the latest Generation ; they will say with Joy, Olaghwandagen, the Governor of New York preserved their Country from Distruction.

(A String of white Wampum with six Rows.)

You have heard our Voice, we now entreat you to open your Ears and hear a Speech from our Sisters, the Governesses.

Brother :

Our Ancestors considered it a great Transgression to reject the Council of their Women, particularly the female Governesses. Our Ancestors considered them Mistresses of the Soil. Our Ancestors said who bring us forth, who cultivate our Lands, who kindles our Fires and boil our Pots, but the Women. Our Women say, they think their Uncles had of late lost the Power of Thinking, and were about sinking their Territory. They take this Opportunity of thanking you for withholding them from falling down the Precipice to which their Uncles had brought them. The Women say let not the Tradition of the Fathers with respect to Women be disregarded ; let them not be despised, God is their Maker. Their Sisters they left behind are waiting with Anxiety to hear your Voice.

The female Governesses beg leave to speak with that Freedom allowable to Women, and agreable to the Spirit of our Ancestors. They exhort the great Chief to put forth his Strength and preserve their Peace, for they are the Life of

the Nation; they do not doubt your Power. If any body disturbs them they are your Subjects, and you can punish them. They rejoice that while their Counsellors are settling a Peace at Muskingum and you here laboring for their Good, Peace will spread over their whole Country.

Six Strings of Wampum.

Then Good Peter added :

Possess your Mind in Peace, you are sensible that in Things of Importance omissions may be made, and that a Person afterward may be allowed to correct them.

You have given us the greatest Encouragement of continuing your Eyes upon us for our Peace and Good. It is probable when we have finished our Business here, some bad Men may break over the Line you have made round us; there are (excuse us Brother) some bad Folks among the the white People in this Island; they may not hear your Voice as far as our Country, we therefore propose that Peter Ryckman, our Child who lives among us, may in your behalf look at our Affairs and watch over us.

You have now heard our Minds and our Resolutions passed before we left our Country. I only act here as a Servant by the Request of my Brothers, the Cayugas, and am now released from my Bonds.

Whereupon His Excellency the Governor, having conferred with the other Commissioners, by their Advice made the following Answer, to wit :

Brothers :

I am happy to meet you here at this Council Fire. I have listened with Attention to what you have said, and it gives me great Satisfaction. It will be unnecessary to repeat the Causes which prevented our meeting sooner; our Brother Peter has given a true Relation of them, we wish these things to be forgotten. We are sensible that all Men are liable to Deception. We have Reason to believe our Men are conscious of and sorry for their Misconduct, and our Business here is to guard against the Inconveniences resulting there-

from. I cannot but observe that we have never let go the Chain of Friendship that binds us together, and that we have strictly adhered to all our Treaties and faithfully observed the ancient Covenants that subsisted between us. The late War interrupted our Friendship for a while, but let me remind you of what happened after Peace. We then kindled a Council Fire at Fort Stanwix; I see here many on both Sides who attended there. Our Object was then to rub the Rust off the Chain of Friendship, to cover up the Ashes of the Dead, and to remove the Thorns and Briers which had sprung up in the Path, and might have interrupted our friendly Inter-course. Such of our Brethren as attended there will remember that it was our Wish to preserve their Country and to continue our Friendship. I informed you that when we separated from Great Britain and fought out our Independence, we made it a Principle of our Government that no one could in violation of antient Usage purchase your Land without the Consent and Authority of the State. I told you then, we did not desire to deprive you of your Country, but that we would if you inclined to sell any Part of it purchase it agreeably to antient Usage. I appeal to our Brethren then present for the Truth of what I now say; notwithstanding all this, one succeeding Year had only elapsed when Difficulties arose, particularly with the Oneidas. They had not sufficiently attended to my Voice; our great Council was alarmed and sent my Brethren here, and me to Fort Herkimer, to avert the impending Evils. I was in hope after this that no new Difficulty would ensue. I know the Birds continue to fly about, and are apt to deceive. They did so formerly when there were no white People on this Island, and frequently led our Brethren into War and Difficulties; but those Birds that fly between the white People and Indians are still more dangerous and mischievous. In antient times they flew about and carried nothing with them; but the great Misfortune is that they now fly about with a Cag, and by this Means do greater Mischief. They not only deceive our Brothers out of their Lands, but destroy their Lives. Brothers, you must break those Cags whenever they are brought

among you, and the Birds will be able to do you but little Injury; you will then enjoy Health, exercise your Reason, and preserve your Country. I do not mention this in the way of Reproach, but as a Friend anxious for your Happiness and Welfare. I will now proceed to speak upon the Business for which this Council Fire was kindled, and particularly address myself to the Cayugas.

Brother:

Since your Arrival I have taken Opportunities informally to acquaint you with the Nature of the Agreements between us and the Onondagas and Oneidas; but in order to impress it deeply on your Minds and to speak according to antient Usage, with Belts and Strings, I will repeat it.

You had parted with all your Country contrary to immemorial Custom and our Laws; you had not secured Land sufficient upon which to lay down your Heads or kindle up your Fires. We could have taken Advantage of your Imprudence and benefitted ourselves; but this would have been contrary to our ancient Covenants made at Albany, where we used to drink out of one Bowl and eat with one Spoon. We met our Brethren the Onondagas and Oneidas to devise Means by which to save their Country; our Brethren that were there know that we conversed freely and consulted frequently on Measures for promoting our reciprocal Good. After mature consideration both those Nations thought it advisable to cede the whole of their Territory to the State, out of which the State reserved competent Parts to them and their Posterity forever, with the right of free Hunting and Fishing throughout the whole Country as heretofore, in consideration of which Cession, and to relieve their immediate Wants we gave them a Sum of Money. But Brother, we carried our Views farther. We knew the Money we gave them would soon vanish, and as white People would settle around them in different Quarters their Hunting, the grand Spring of their Subsistence, would be dried up, and they be exposed to Hunger and Want, we therefore agreed to pay to them and their Posterity forever, an annual Sum in Provisions, Goods or Money, as they should elect, to be delivered

to them at Fort Stanwix. In making this Agreement we also took other Matters into consideration; and I mention these Things in contradiction to the Opinion that we dealt partially in giving the Oneidas more Money and Land than the Onondagas because they fought for us during the War. I wish to explain this Matter. The Oneidas deserve much Favor from us, but we acted impartially in that Business. We took into View the Number of the Inhabitants in each Tribe, and as the Oneidas lived nearer than the Onondagas to the inhabited Part of the Country, their Hunting would sooner be injured, and altho' we considered you all as our Brethren and as bound together by the most solemn Covenants, yet it was just to make the Distinctions we did. I have thus mentioned fully our Agreement with the Oneidas and Onondagas, and I have now only to inform you that we are ready and willing to enter into a similar Agreement with you, and we are happy to hear that you came here properly impowered for the Purpose and that you are disposed to treat with us upon those Terms. You will easily perceive that it is impossible in so large a Company to particularize and reduce to Writing the different Articles of such an Agreement, we therefore request that you would appoint some of your most capable Men to meet with some of us for this Purpose. We will treat with you upon the same Terms as we did with the Oneidas and Onondagas, and in confirmation thereof I deliver you this Belt.

A Belt.

Brothers:

I now speak a few Words to my Brethren the Oneidas. I am happy that it was in our Power to stretch forth our Hands and save you when you were on the Brink of Ruin.

We met you at Fort Stanwix and made an Agreement with you. Our Report of it was laid before the great Council of our State, who fully approved of it; and have taken Measures for a faithful Observance of our Stipulations, and the securing the annual Payments we engaged to make to you; you have nothing to give us now but a continuance of your Friendship. It affords us great Pleasure to hear you express at this Time so much Satisfaction with what we have done for you.

I have now to address myself to my Sisters the female Governesses and Women here present in answer to their Speech.

Sisters:

We are sensible of your worth. We are sorry therefore to hear that the Importance to which you are entitled by your antient Traditions and Customs has been in the least diminished, and that your Uncles by declining to listen to your Voice had so nearly brought Ruin upon your Country and deprived you of your Land. We are conscious that you are Mistresses of the Soil, that it is your Province to cultivate the Earth, to kindle the Fire and to boil the Pot; these arduous Duties render you deserving of particular Attention, and ought to secure you your due Weight in your National Council. But Sisters we know your Importance to the human Race; without you we could not have Existance; you are the Mothers of mankind, and this of itself entitles you to the greatest Respect, and you may be assured that we shall not fail to use our best Endeavours to restore and continue to our Sisters their antient Privilege without the least Diminution. We are now about making an Agreement with you for your Territory, and for securing to you and your Posterity a Residence in your native Land. The Dish that we will set apart for you shall be sufficiently large, however prolific our Sisters may be, even if they should encrease their Nation to its antient Strength and Number.

Sisters:

I am advancing in Years and little accustomed to address your Sex in public; you will therefore excuse the Imperfections of this Speech. I have some Sachems here with me in the Vigour of Youth, who, if they could be prevailed upon, would be able to express themselves more agreeably to you upon this Occasion.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the 21st Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
John Hathorn, Esquires.

The Chiefs and Governesses of the Cayuga Nation with the Deputies from the Onondagas, Oneidas and Senecas attended.

Tonyowase the Seneca Chief informed the Commissioners that their Pipes were compleate and that they are ready to proceed on Business.

Good Peter of the Oneidas then rose, and after mentioning that he was employed by the Cayugas as their Mouth to deliver their Mind, spoke as follows:

Brother Governor:

Now open your Ears that you may hear important Matters relating to the Conferences which have passed betwixt us and you: and also every Tribe here present attend, for the Business is of great Importance.

Brother:

I have observed that the Subject of which we treated is of great Importance—it relates to the Ground upon which we tread, and from which springs up Sustenance, and therefore respects our Nourishment and Existence.

Brother:

Both of us are acquainted of what has passed betwixt us since our Arrival at this Council Fire.

Brother:

The Evening before last we opened our Minds to each other in several long Speeches, to each of which you answered, to some generally and to others some particularly, much to our Satisfaction.

Brother :

In the Close of your Answer to our Talks you proposed to us to chuse a small Number of our wisest Men to meet some of yours the next Day to confer on the Subject before us.

Brother :

When we came to understand particularly your Representation of our Territory it gave us great Satisfaction ; there was a Hope arising within us that our Country would still continue to exist.

Brother :

We have observed to you that when we understood your Voice and Counsel respecting our Country, we observed to you that our Country would continue in Peace and that our Brother the Governor would continue to exert himself for those Purposes, and we would be a happy People.

Brother Governor :

When we saw the Purport of your Voice it entered deep into our own Mind ; we wished, we thought, that the Great Spirit above, who loves Peace, had put it into your Mind, and we wish that this Great Spirit may enable you to carry your Intentions into execution, and that this Spirit may support you through Life to diffuse Peace and Happiness through our Nation.

Brother Governor :

You understand the whole Mind of the Great Spirit, his Love for Peace ; you understand and know all Righteousness ; I must again repeat that I wish that Great Spirit may enable you to diffuse Peace and Happiness throughout all our Nation.

Brother :

It is indeed true that both are dependent upon this one Great Spirit, the Father of us all ; we wish that we may also feel our Dependence on him for the Prosperity of our Nation. We wish he may put in your Mind as well as in ours to seek the Good of our Nation. We believe all that you have said and do not think that there is any Deception in you.

Brother Governor :

You are now continuing to open your Ears and your Mind and hear our Voice. We repeat that you understand the Voice of the Great Spirit, and we pray that he may enable and strengthen you to exert yourself for the Peace and Happiness of our Country.

Brother Governor of New York :

You are sensible that those who are entrusted with important Matters can see at a great Distance ; although you live at New York you can see into our Country and preserve Peace there ; for our Peace & Prosperity is at your Command.

Brother Governor :

I have said that I understood all that has passed betwixt us from the first of our conferring together upon our important Concerns—but to us and our Brothers the Senecas it appears that there is something yet remaining in your Minds which you have not yet explained. We wish you therefore to explain yourself more fully and suffer us to consider farther upon it.

We would just observe that this is agreeable to ancient Usage, that if there were any thing in your Minds or not fully understood, that it might be fully explained before a final Agreement was entered into.

Brother Governor :

Since you are acquainted with all these things, it cannot give you the least Offence. If we were to invite you to a Council Fire you would expect the same Indulgence in order that when Propositions are made they may be considered deliberately and be all understood.

Brother :

Let us observe once more that you do not hear our Mouth but the Mouth of our brother Tribe the People of the Big Tree,¹ whose Language you better understand and is

¹ Big Tree was a considerable Indian Farm of Eason Slocum. Kendewa (Big Village upon a Bluff opposite Geneseo, Tree) was its principal Chief.—*Turner's Phelps & Gorham's Purchase*, 328.

well qualified for this Business ; but although it is by another Mouth, it is our Mind which is spoken.

Good Peter having finished his Speech in behalf of the Cayugas, His Excellency the Governor confirmed with the Commissioners, and by their Advise made the following Reply :

Brother :

When we invited you to attend the Council Fire now kindled at this Place, we explained to you very fully in our Letter the Business which we intended to transact with you ; we informed you that the Object of it was to avert the Evils which had been brought upon yourselves by listening to some of our white People and selling to them contrary to our Laws and ancient Usages all your Territory.

Brother :

This Information was not a new Matter, the whole was explained to you last Year when we invited you to attend the Council Fire which we were then about kindling at Fort Stanwix ; your Brethren the Oneidas and Onondagas met us at that Council Fire ; we entered into Agreements were reduced to Writing, we have one Copy and they have another, and from your Connection with them we have Reason to believe that you must have been fully informed of the Nature of these Agreements before you left home. But Brothers, lest this should not be the case, after you arrived here I took an Opportunity of explaining to you, as well in public Speeches as in private Conferences, the Nature of the Business we wished to transact with you, the Agreements we had made with the Oneidas & Onondagas, and the Reasons upon which they were founded.

Brothers :

We kept nothing back from you, we opened our whole Minds to you, and it gives us some Pain to hear you express Suspicions that anything should be concealed from you. Brother I fear you still continue to listen too much to the little Birds. I warned you against this before ; I told you that the little Birds are more dangerous than they used to be,

that they carried little Cags about with them, and that if you hearkened to their Voice they would destroy you.

Brothers :

After informing you the Nature of the Agreements between us and the Oneidas and Onondagas, we told you we were willing to enter into a similar one with you, in forming which we would take unto considerations the Extent of your Territory, its Situation and the Number of which your Nation consists.

Brothers :

We shewed you the Deed which you had executed for your whole Country, they are in my Possession; you had sold the burial Places of your Fathers and the Bones and Ashes of your Ancestors; you had not reserved Land sufficient to lay down your Head or kindle a Fire upon; we could have kept your whole Country, you had nothing left, you had nothing to give; we called you here for your good; we called you here to give you something when you had parted with all your Substance, to enable you and your Posterity yet to subsist among us; we called you here to make such an Agreement as we had with our other Brothers. If you think it is for your Interest you will do it, if not I will extinguish this Council Fire and we will part in Friendship. I have nothing further to say only to advise you to reflect seriously upon your Situation, determine soon upon the Measures you mean to pursue. You will recollect that the Middle of last Month was appointed for your Attendance at this Council Fire.

We have been absent from home near three Months, and our great Council will in a few Days break up and return home. We pray the Great Spirit to assist and direct your Deliberations and enable you to make up a wise Determination.

Brother :

Tomorrow is the Day on which we refrain from Business and devote to the Worship of the Great Spirit. We cannot therefore do any public Business with you, but considering how short the Time is we can keep the Council Fire burning at this Place, I will attend & hear you.

M m

Thoneowas, the Seneca Speaker in behalf of the Cayugas, rose when the Governor had finished, and made the following short Speech :

Brother Governor of New York :

Attend to a few Words only, as you have now raked up the Council Fire.

We have now heard your Voice, we begin to understand it plainly ; we again return you Thanks for your Attention to the Concerns of our Lands.

Brother Governor :

You will be patient with us that we have not come to a Determination before this Time ; the Subject is of great Importance, it extends to future Generations. Time was when the Six Nations were in their Glory and had wise Counsellors ; Children only now remain.

Brother Governor :

You are a Man of Importance ; I am afraid of you ; I tremble in your Presence ; I feel as though I stood on another's Ground ; your Compassion must be equal to your Power.

To which his Excellency the Governor answered :

Brother :

We kindled this Council Fire to consult on Matters for our mutual Good and to renew & strengthen the ancient Covenant of Friendship that subsisted between our Fathers. We claim no preëminence over you ; we are Republicans, we hold that all men are equal, you may therefore speak freely to us without any restraint ; we wish you to understand matters well and come to a wise Determination, that shall be for your Interest and future Happiness.

Commissioners of Indian Affairs. 291

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the 23d Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Lieutenant Governor Van Cortlandt.¹
Abraham Ten Broeck,
John Hathorn,
Egbert Benson,
Ezra L'Hommedieu, &
Peter Gansevoort Junr., Esquires.

The Company being seated, His Excellency the Governor opened the Council Fire by the following short Speech.

Brothers :

When you met us here last you appeared not to have made up your Minds ; there were some things you did not understand. They were explained to you, you have had time to consider of them and we hope you have come prepared to give us your Determination on the Business of the Treaty.

On which the Cayugas, by Good Peter their Mouth, spoke as follows :

Brother Governor of New York with your Chiefs present and all our Nation, open your Ears and give Attention.

Brother Governor :

You have just observed to us that you opened the Council Fire on our meeting here two Evenings ago, and that you requested us to make our Minds and let you know on the Determination; we are now ready to speak. Brother

¹PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT took an active Part in the Revolution, was chosen President of the first Provincial Congress, and of the Committee of Safety. Upon the formation of a State Government, he was chosen and continued eighteen Years as Lieutenant Governor,

which Office he held at the Time of these Treaties. In 1795 he retired to private Life. He died at his Seat on Croton River, near the Hudson, in Westchester County, May 1, 1814, in the 95th Year of his Age.

Governor now open your Ears, we now address you in our own Manner and the Names of our Sisters the Governesses. It is our joint Speech, you must compassionate us, we are but Children.

Brother Governor :

We Warriors and also the female Governesses our Sisters, now declare we understand your Voice, and now you understand our Condition, that you mean to extend your Care to our Lands so that we shall have a Territory to us and our Posterity forever.

Brother Governor :

We Warriors with those we represent with our Sisters the Governesses have agreeable Prospects before us from your Proposals respecting the good of our Nation, let us now deliberate wholly on the Subject & understand what Part of the Territory is to be ceded to you and what is to be retained for us & our Posterity, with the Rights of hunting the wild Beasts of the Wood and taking the Fish out of the Waters.

Brother Governor :

It is necessary that the Treaty should be made in such Manner that it be satisfactory to both Parties; you know how disagreeable it is to People and have their Arms bound. If our Limits are too narrow it may give us uneasiness when the rest of our Country is filled up by your People.

Brother Governor :

Now you have opened your Ears to hear our continued Voice, we are desirous of a large Seat to set down on, though you are but few here we are many. The Paanese are annexed to our Tribe as the Tuscaroras are to the Oneida Tribe; you must make a little room for them.

Brother :

We have said we now fully understand your Mind, and every thing you have said is just and right; you have said it was your will to extricate the distressed out of Difficulties, we have experienced and believe it.

Brother Governor :

You still continue to open your Ears to our Voice; we have said that Justice and Righteousness mark all your Paths

and that you bear a Love to us the Six Nations, and that it is not your wish to extinguish the Fire in any of their Tribes but that the Smoake of their Habitations may still continue.

Brother Governor:

In order to compleate your Wishes for your Prosperity and our own, mutual Peace and Good must be equally attended to; should we be seated by and by in a large seat, when we are to set down, as we are the Big Tree we shall collect the small Trees, but if our Seat be too small there will be no room for them.

Brother:

Possess your Mind in Peace, as you shall continue to open your Ears while we are speaking, and if anything falls from us disagreeable to you, you will not suffer it to disturb your Mind. We mean to put aside every thing disagreeable that we may come to the substantial Matters of our Business. If we are disturbed with unimportant Matters it will not be acting like Men but Children.

Brother:

You are Sachem and a Chief; we are also in the same Situation. It is necessary that we understand each other and be agreed, then our Minds will be happy.

Brother:

We take it for granted you will possess your Mind in Peace. You know in making Bargains of small Consequence some difference in Sentiments will arise, much more so in the Sale of Lands, a Matter of great Consequence, which requires much Conversation.

Brother Governor:

Our Sisters the female Governesses came to this Council Fire to hear with their own Ears the Words that came from the Governor's Mouth; we are concerned for them and therefore proceed with great Caution; how happy should we be if the Dish should be so large as fully to gratify their Minds.

Brother Governor:

We have repeatedly expressed our Desire of having an enlarged Seat or Place to sit down upon, so that we might procure our Subsistance and recreate ourselves.

You observed that by our past Conduct we had lost all our Lands ; we now look to you and expect you will enlarge our Seat and provide for our Happiness.

Brother :

You have now in your Possession the Papers which are Evidences of the Loss of our whole Country, and which has sunk us down almost out of sight ; and as these lie before us in their Consequences, we look to your Goodness in making us as happy as you in respect to what you retain as well as in that which may be assigned to us.

Brother :

Now you are continuing to hear, we proposed that you reserve to us and our Nation on this Side our Lake and extending it northerly towards Lake Ontario, as there is bad Land and your Subjects can find no Place to break the Clod ; this you will consider in your Wisdom and we shall by and by mention a Place for our Residence.

Brother :

We would wish to resettle in the Place where our Ancestors lived, and this for various Reasons, particularly of the Salt Springs which are necessary to season the Victuals we eat.

Brother :

This is all we the Sachems and female Governesses would say at this Time ; we expect soon to hear your Voice and know what you judge will most conduce to our Happiness.

Then Good Peter spoke for himself.

Brother :

I would speak one Word for you—both for the Cayuga Nation and your People that you should keep your Mind in Peace and harmonize in your Negotiations. I am but a Servant to you both and act faithfully. I am almost exhausted ; I have spoke long and have had nothing to wet my Lips.

Good Peter having finished his Speech, His Excellency the Governor conferred with the Commissioners, and by their Advice made the following Reply :

Brothers :

We have been several Days conversing on the Subject for which we kindled this Council Fire, and are happy that we now understand each other.

We informed you Brothers when we first meet you that we were willing to enter into a similar Agreement with you as we had done with the Onondagas, and fully explained to you that Agreement.

We have Reason to believe from what you mentioned to night that you understood that Agreement, but from the large Dish you wish to have reserved to you, we are doubtful whether you understood the Reasons which induced the Onondagas to accept of and us to grant the Reservation. It may therefore be expedient to explain to you those Reasons more fully and particularly than we have heretofore done. We found that our Brethren had sold their Lands to the Southward to the People of Pennsylvania, and their Lands to the Westward to the People of Boston; that their People were going on to settle and that in a short Time our Brethren would not be able to procure a Subsistence.

You have all seen with your own Eyes how the white People are settling Schemung and surveying at the Westward. These were not our doings, these Lands were sold without our Advise; they are sold and the white People are settling. Under this Situation of Affairs we consulted with our Brethren last Fall; we found that our Brethren the white People would go among them, carry Cags with them, purchase and settle all their Lands.

After the most mature Deliberation we could find no other way to prevent this Mischief but for our Brethren to grant us their Lands so that we might take them under our particular Care and Protection; but that our Brethren should have Land to work on and procure Subsistence, we laid out Land sufficient for their respective Nations, in case their Numbers should be ten times more than they are at present.

The Oneidas, who are the most numerous Nation, have Land reserved for them in case they live as we do to support twelve thousand Souls.

To the Onondagas, who are less numerous, and whose Hunting will continue longer, was reserved Land sufficient to support four thousand Souls; this is more than the two Nations consisted of in their most flourishing Days.

It may be asked why were they restricted to so narrow Limits; I answer it is not because we want their Lands, we have more than we can settle; you see as you travel through our Country large Tracts from which no Smoke arises. It is because our disorderly Children get in among you, to whom you will sell your Lands, which creates Uneasiness and Confusion among you and with us, it is because if we reserve to you a larger Territory than you are able to improve it will remain in Woods, and our disorderly white People will again get in among you & make Purchases of the same and create the same Evils which you have lately experienced. There is another Reason why your Reservation should not be large; you have all the Lands to hunt in and all the Waters to fish in. If the Lands you wish to reserve are too rough for Cultivation they will remain unsettled & you will have every Advantage of hunting as if they were reserved. If you reserved twenty, thirty or forty Miles, and the white People settle around you, it will be impossible for you to subsist by Hunting.

If then you cannot live by Hunting, what Method can we contrive to keep you amongst us & support you but such an Agreement as we made with the Onondagas.

We reserved to our Brethren the Onondagas & Oneidas a Tract of Country sufficient for ages to come, should they increase in the same Proportion as the white People. But Brothers we have done more than this; we found if their Hunting decreased they would be obliged to turn their Attention more to the Cultivation of the Earth, as you must do; whereupon we gave them Money to purchase Cattle and other Stock. This was not all, Brothers, we know that the Money we paid down would soon be gone, and they would want every Year something to support their Women and Children, we therefore agreed to give every Year to the Oneidas six hundred Dollars, and to the Onondagas five

hundred Dollars; and we appeal to you and to our Sisters whether either of those Sums is not more than your Nation annually got by Hunting. Now Brothers we have explained to you fully and particularly the Reasons which induced our Brethern and us to make the Agreement at Fort Stanwix last Year. We considered of the Subject deliberately, and we wish the Brothers of these Nations here present to speak and say if we have not spoken faithfully now. Brothers we stand ready to enter into the same agreement as we did with the Onondagas in respect to the Reservation of Land, payment of Money down, and annual Payment. If your Nation is larger than theirs it is reasonable you should have more, but if it is not there is no Reason why you should have a larger Dish or more Money. If there was a Salt Spring in the Onondaga Country it was reserved for common use, if there is any in your Country it shall be reserved for the same Use. If there are any fishing Places in your Country particularly useful they shall be reserved with a sufficiency of Lands to haul up your Canoes and kindle Fires. Brothers you now know particularly the Agreement we are willing to enter into with you, it is the same as we entered into with the Onondagas, with this Difference only, if your Nation or Territory is larger than theirs your Dish will be proportionally greater.

Brothers and Sisters :

We know Your Situation, you have lost many of your Warriors the last War; you cannot set and consult as formerly by your Council Fires; you may be afraid when you go home, your Nation may blame you for not making so good an Agreement as they might expect. But Brothers and Sisters we wish you to consider whether any Agreement you can make with us can put you in worse Circumstances than you are at present; you parted with all your Lands at Buffalo Creek, even the Bones and Ashes of your Ancestors, and had nothing left and no Security for the payment of the Monies which were promised to you; we now offer you a sufficient Reservation of Land, a Sum of Money down, and an annual Sum forever; your Nation ought to rejoice in such a Treaty.

Now Brothers we think Matters are very well understood

between us, it grows late, and after we have taken a Drink together you can go home with our Sisters and think of it and meet here again at ten o'Clock tomorrow Morning. I cannot attend myself but my Brothers here will be present and hear what you have to say.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, the 24th Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., &
Egbert Benson, Esquires.

The Company being seated, Good Peter the Oneida Chief in behalf of the Cayugas rose and spoke as follows:

Brother Governor and your Chiefs present, open your Ears, by the Providence of the Great Spirit we are brought together in Peace.

Brother:

You may remember how far we advanced in the Business of this Treaty. We have passed by many Difficulties which were in the way, and we are almost come to the End of the Path. You opened your Mind to us and desired us to consider of what you then said, and desired us to confer with the Governesses of our Nation. If you are prepared to hear we are ready to give our Answer.

Brother:

You will continue to open your Ears. At the Close of your Speech last Evening you summed up what you had said by stating to us our Situation and informing us of what you supposed would be best for us, and we understood you.

Brother Governor:

In the Close of your Speech last Evening, when you told us that the Path was now clear and recommended us to confer together and to make choice of what we should sup-

pose would be best and that you would at this hour hear us again, but that you would not yourself be present, but that your other Chiefs would be your Ear.

Brother Governor :

After much Conversation with our Sisters it will be necessary for us to know your Mind as to what would be best for us. You told us that you knew our Situation and Circumstances and compassionated us; we have heretofore thanked you and we now again with a loud Voice thank you for your good will towards us.

You told us of what was necessary for our Subsistence and informed us that our Warriors should have the right to procure their Means of Subsistence out of the Waters and elsewhere as they pleased. For this we and our Sisters give you Thanks.

Brothers :

It was your Mind as we understood you, and your Determination that we and our Posterity should have the free Right of Fishing and Hunting throughout our whole Territory, and that you would with all your Authority see that this Stipulation should be fulfilled; for this we also thank you.

Brother :

Possess your Mind in Peace, notwithstanding we proceed with so much Caution and Deliberation. It was your Advise to us, and it became necessary in order that such of our Brethern as have stayed behind might be the better satisfied with what should be concluded on at this Treaty.

Brother :

We have repeatedly said, and we again say, that the Warriors and our Sisters are well pleased with the Proposals mentioned in your Speech and with the Articles which you have stated to us to be agreed on in the present Treaty—we receive them.

Brothers :

We Warriors with our Sisters having expressed our Approbation of the Articles of the Treaty as proposed by you, would wish to state some Matters to be stipulated by us on our Part.

Brother Governor :

You still have your Ears open to our Voice and to the Voice of our Sisters. It is their Wish to be heard in relation to some Matters to be stipulated in the Treaty for their Benefit. You advised us to listen to them when they spoke wisely, and they hope you will attend to their Request.

It is an acknowledged Truth that our Sisters are the principal Inhabitants of the Earth. The Earth from whence spring the Articles necessary to sustain Life is theirs, and it is thereupon necessary we should hearken to their Advise.

Brother :

As your Ears are still open, you have heard what Advances we have this Day made towards compleating the Business now before us ; we the Warriors and Sisters have thus opened our Minds to you.

Brother :

We have jointly with our Sisters declared our Approbation of all the important Articles of the Covenant which we are to enter into ; we hope you will lend a kind Ear when the Sisters shall propose some Amendments which would be agreeable to them.

Brother :

The Sisters now speak as the Warriors have declared their Approbation of the Articles you have proposed. The Sisters mention that there is a Salt Spring in their Country which they wish may be reserved. It is therefore our Mind that this Spring should be included in the Reservation. This is all we have to say at present until we have heard your Mind on this proposed Amendment.

Brother Governor :

In the Close of our last Speech we mentioned that we would soon inform you of the whole of our Minds in relation to the Business now before us.

Brother Governor :

While your Eyes were open you might have perceived our Minds to labor on the Business, and you thought you might ease us by your informing us previously of your Mind as to our Good and the Good of our Posterity. You sup-

posed we did not sufficiently look forward ; we informed ourselves fully of your Mind, and be assured we are fully persuaded of your good Intentions to us & our Nation. Have Patience with us a little longer, when you will hear the Minds of our Warriors and then you can speak.

Brother :

We are almost at the End of the Path, and we shall soon come out to the last Thoughts of our Minds.

The Cayugas then exhibited a rough Sketch of their Country and pointed out the Lands to be reserved.

The Governor then addressed them as follows :

Brothers :

We are happy to find from what you have said, that we understood each other perfectly. Nothing therefore remains but to ascertain the Particulars of the Agreement to be entered into between us to fix the Limits of the Lands to be reserved to you—to fix the Amount of the Sum to be paid to you at present, and the Amount of the Sum to be paid to you and your Posterity annually forever.

Brothers :

Before we proceed to state any Proposals to you we would enquire from you whether your Nation is more numerous than the Onondagas and whether that Part of your Territory which lies Westward of the Lands ceded by this State to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is more extensive than the Territory of the Onondagas? Will your Nation probably encrease faster than the Onondagas? If your Nation is not more numerous, if your Territory is not more extensive & if the probability of your increase is not greater than that of the Onondagas, can you reasonably expect that we should deal with you on other Terms than we have with them? Would they not have Reason to complain of Injustice.

Brothers :

In our Agreement with the Onondagas a Tract was reserved for their Use and Cultivation sufficiently extensive both in their and in our Judgment for that Purpose, and we will agree to a similar Reservation to you, to be laid out in

any shape & to extend from the Cayuga Lake to the Was-kong Lake, as you may think proper; and if by the Addition of your Children the Paanese your Nation is more numerous, the Reservation to be proportionably extensive, and there shall not in Consideration of such additional Reservation be any Diminution of the consideration Money to be paid to you. With respect to the Salt Spring there was one also in the Onondaga Country, and it was first proposed to divide this Spring, assigning one side to the Onondagas and the other side to the white People; but after much Deliberation respecting this Matter it was finally agreed, and as satisfactorily to the Onondagas as to us, that the Spring and the Lands for a Mile around it should remain free and in common for the Onondagas and our People. We are willing to make the same Agreement with you.

Brothers :

In the course of our Negotiations you have requested your Child Peter Ryckman should be permitted to reside among you to assist you in taking care of your Concerns & that he might have a Dish; this we will agree to.

Brother :

Within the Lands to be reserved the Fish Carrier has a Claim to a Mile square, and it will be expected that this should be reserved for his particular use. The Daughter of our Brother Thaniowas, one of your Nation, is married to a white Man, who has settled and improved a Farm among you, and as we understand it is your Wish he shall also have a small Dish.

Good Peter then rose and made the following Reply in behalf of Cayugas to the Governor's Answer :

Brother Governor :

You will attend while we speak a few Words; you sometimes take your Turn and we now take ours to speak on the Business now before us. We have heard your Voice and with great Satisfaction, as we perfectly understand you on the various Subjects on which you have spoken. You connected your Advise with this, that we should enter into the like

Covenant as the Onondagas. Have Patience while we speak about the Salt Spring again.

Brother :

Possess your Mind in Peace, where we are agreed we will unite our Minds. It was usual with our Ancestors in all Negotiations to weigh well the Consequences and then endeavor to come to a Conclusion.

Brother :

We trust you will possess your Mind as we now understand the extent of the Dish to be reserved.

Brother :

We entreat that nothing which we may say will disturb the Tranquility of your Mind.

The Governor then made the following Reply :

Brother :

We understand your Proposition relative to the Limits of the Land to be reserved ; it was that you wished to have your Reservation beginning at the Salt Spring, and from thence extending southerly so as that the extreme Distance of that Line should be in the Center of the Lands betwixt the two Lakes ; that from the Salt Spring you are to extend up the Seneca River to the Cayuga, thence around the northern End of that Lake to where the Seneca River empties into the Lake, thence up the south Side of the River to Skayes, thence extending southerly approaching the Cayuga Lake so as to comprehend the ancient Cayuga Settlements bordering on the Lake, so that the Line extending southerly from the Salt Spring shall include one hundred square Miles ; but we would be understood at the same time that a Mile square at the Cayuga ferrying Place is not to be deemed part of the Lands so to be reserved for your use, but is to be at the disposal of the State.

To which Good Peter then rose and made the following Reply in behalf of the Cayugas :

Brother Governor with your Chiefs :

You will open your Ears ; there is one Matter that lies with weight on our Minds, although we have gone through

with all the principal Articles of our present Covenant. This Matter respects our Son Peter Ryckman ; we have felt concerned about the Dish to be given to him. We had long ago all agreed that he should have a Dish in our Country as we all expected to put our Spoons in it when we were hungry, and you must allow us to speak on this Subject before we come to a final Close. In the first place we will tell you where we wish that this Dish should be placed for our Convenience ; it is on the east Side of the Outlet of Canadasaga Lake,¹ from thence he can cast his Eyes down to Shawayes, the extreme of the Lands reserved to us. We have not given the Dimensions of this Dish ; we thought we would leave this to you ; you can extend your Armes far. It was always our wish that his Dish should be large, and we hope you will gratify us in this and not disappoint that Confidence which we have in your Generosity.

Brother :

One Request more with respect to our Friend Peter Ryckman, that he may be authorised by you to attend to our Good ; he is your Subject and under your control ; our dependence is much upon him for our future Prosperity. Should he be taken from us, we would think some evil Spirit had deprived us of our Hopes.

Brother :

Attend while we speak a few Words at the Close of the Business. We thank you for your Condesension in attending to the Request of our Sisters as to the proposed Amendment respecting the Reservation of Lands.

Our Nation is at present much dispersed, but it is not improbable but they will return to us with their Wives and Children, and this is the Reason for our wishing to have the Reservation of Lands for our use extensive.

To which the Governor made the following Reply :

It being agreed between us as to the Lands to be reserved, and in such a Manner as that we perfectly understand each other, we will now state to you the Payments to be made to

¹ Seneca Lake.

you. We will pay you five hundred Dollars before you leave this City, one thousand six hundred and twenty-five Dollars on the first Day of June next, and five hundred Dollars on the first Day of June forever thereafter.

Brother and Sisters :

When you reflect that you had parted with the whole of your Country without reserving a Spot to lay down or to kindle a Fire on, and that you had disposed of the Lands to People whom you had no Means to compel to pay what they had promised, you will be perswaded that our Sisters and Brothers whom you have left at home and your and their Children will have Reason to rejoice at the Covenant which you have now made, which not only saves you from impending Ruin but restores you to Peace and Security.

Brothers :

We shall now cause the Covenant between us to be reduced to Writing, so that it may be ready to be executed when we meet tomorrow.

The Governor then agreeable to the usual Form covered up the Council Fire in order to have time to prepare the Deeds of Cession.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler, Esquire, in the City of Albany, the 25th Day of February, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
His Honorable Lieut. Governor Van Cortlandt.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr.,
John Hathorn,
Egbert Benson, Esquires.

Resolved, That Mr. Tayler procure six hundred Dollars in Specie for the use of the Board, and also that he purchase Goods to the Amount of two hundred Dollars, proper to be

distributed in Presents to such of the Onydas and Onondagoes, who have attended and assisted at the present Treaty.

Mr. Benson produced to the Board a Draft of the Deed of Cession with two engrossed Copies thereof which were read and approved, and the Board being informed by Mr. Peter Ryckman that the Indians were agreeable to Appointment attending at Denniston's Tavern to execute the Deeds, the Board adjourned to that Place.

The Company being seated, His Excellency the Governor desired Mr. Kirkland, the Interpreter, to inform the Cayuga Indians that the Agreement which they entered into yesterday was reduced to Writing and ready to be executed; that it should now be interpreted to them in their own Language; that they should pay Attention to it so that they might understand it well and see that it was right. It was accordingly interpreted to them by Mr. Kirkland and they expressed their perfect Approbation of it, but at the same time expressed a Desire to have a Mile square reserved on each side of the Cayuga River at Skayes, their Eelling place, which was readily assented to by the Commissioners, and was noted as well as the Reservation of the Lands about the Salt Spring at the Bottom of the Instruments before the Execution thereof. Duplicates of the said Deed of Cession were then executed by the said Commissioners and Indians in the usual Form, and farther authenticated by the Delivery of Belts with them according to the Indian Custom.

The Deed is in the Words following, to wit :

At a Treaty held in the City of Albany in the State of New York, by his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the said State, the Honorable Pierre Van Cortlandt, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor of the said State, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Abraham Ten Broeck, John Hathorn, Samuel Jones, Peter Gansevoort, Junr. & Egbert Benson, Esquires, Commissioners authorized for that Purpose by and on Behalf of the People of the State of New York, with several of the

Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Tribe or Nation of Indians called the Cayugas, for and on behalf of the said Nation, it is on the twenty-fifth Day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, Covenanted and concluded as follows :

First. The Cayugas do cede and grant all their Lands to the People of the State of New York forever.

Secondly, the Cayugas shall of the said ceded Lands hold to themselves and to their Posterity forever, for their own Use and Cultivation, but not to be sold, leased or in any other Manner aliened or disposed of to others, All that Tract of Land, beginning at the Cayuga Salt Spring on the Seneca River,¹ and running thence southerly to intersect the Middle of a Line to be drawn from the Outlet of Cayuga to the Outlet of Waskongh Lake,² and from the said Place of Intersection southerly the general Course of the eastern Bank of the Cayuga Lake, thence westerly to intersect a Line running on the west Side of the Cayuga Lake at the mean Distance of three Miles from the western Branch thereof, and from the said Point of Intersection along the said Line so running on the west Side of the Cayuga Lake to the Seneca River, thence down the said River to the Cayuga Lake, thence through the said Lake to the Outlet thereof, thence farther down the said Seneca River to the Place of Beginning, so as to comprehend within the Limits aforesaid and exclusive of the Water of Cayuga Lake the Quantity one hundred square Miles ; also the Place in the Seneca River at or near a Place called Skayes, where the Cayugas have heretofore taken Eel, and a competent Piece of Land on the southern Side of the River at the said Place sufficient for the Cayugas to land and encamp on and to cure their Eel, excepted nevertheless out the said Lands or reserved one Mile square at the Cayuga Ferry.

Thirdly. The Cayugas and their Posterity forever shall

¹ Now Montezuma, in the County of Cayuga.

² Waskongh Lake is now known as Owasco Lake, in Cayuga County.

enjoy the free Right of Hunting in every Part of the said ceded Lands and of Fishing in all the Waters within the same.

Fourthly. In Consideration of the said Cession and Grant, the People of the State of New York do at this present Treaty pay to the Cayugas five hundred Dollars in Silver (the Receipt whereof the Cayugas do hereby acknowledge), and the People of the State of New York shall pay to the Cayugas on the first Day of June next at Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix, the farther Sum of one thousand six hundred and twenty-five Dollars; and also the People of the State of New York shall annually pay to the Cayugas and their Posterity forever on the first Day of June in every Year thereafter at Fort Schuyler aforesaid, five hundred Dollars in Silver. But if the Cayugas or their Posterity shall at any time hereafter elect that the whole or any part of the said annual Payment of five hundred Dollars shall be paid in Clothing or Provisions and give six Weeks previous Notice thereof to the Governor of the said State for the Time being, then so much of the annual Payment shall for that Time be in Clothing or Provisions as the Cayugas or their Posterity shall elect & at the Price which the same shall cost the People of the State of New York at Fort Schuyler aforesaid; and as a farther Consideration to the Cayugas, the People of the State of New York shall grant to their adopted Child Peter Ryckman, whom they have expressed a Desire should reside near them to assist them, and as a Benevolence from them the Cayugas to him, and in Return for Services rendered by him to their Nation, the said Tract of one Mile square at the Cayuga Ferry, excepted out of the said Lands reserved to the Cayugas for their own Use and Cultivation. That of a Tract beginning on the west Bank of the Senneca Lake, thence running due West (passing one Chain North of an House lately erected and now in the Occupation of the said Peter Ryckman) to the Line of Partition between this State of New York and the Common Wealth of Massachuseth of the Lands ceded to each other, thence due South along the said Line of Partition, thence due East to the Senneca Lake,

thence northerly along the Bank of the said Lake to the Place of Beginning, so as to contain sixteen thousand Acres. The People of the State of New York shall grant three hundred and twenty Acres to a white Person married to a Daughter of a Cayuga named Thaneowas, including the present Settlement of the said Person on the South of Casionk Creek, and that the People of the State of New York shall grant the Residue of the said Tract of sixteen thousand Acres to the said Peter Ryckman.

Fifthly. The People of the State of New York may at all times hereafter in such Manner and by such Means as they shall deem proper, prevent any Persons except the Cayugas and their adopted Brethren the Pawnesse from residing or settling on the Lands to be held by the Cayugas and their Posterity for their own Use and Cultivation, and if any Persons shall without the Consent of the People of the State of New York come to reside or settle on the said Lands or any other of the Lands so ceded as aforesaid, the Cayugas and their Posterity shall forthwith give Notice of such Intrusions to the Governor of the said State for the Time being. And further the Cayugas and their Posterity forever, shall at the Request of the Governor of the said State be aiding to the People of the State of New York in removing all such Intruders and apprehending not only such Intruders, but also all Felons and other Offenders who may happen to be on the said ceded Lands, to the End that such Intruders, Felons and other Offenders may be brought to Justice. Notwithstanding the said Reservation herein above specified, to the Cayugas, it is declared to be the Intent of the Parties that the Cayuga called the Fish Carrier, shall have a Mile square of the said reserved Lands for the separate use of himself and for the separate use of his Family forever.

In Testimony whereof as well the Sachems, Chiefs, Warriors, Governesses and other of the Cayugas in behalf of their Tribe or Nation as the said Governor and other Commissioners in behalf of the People of the State of New York have here-

Proceedings of the

unto interchangeably set their Hands and affixed their Seals the Day and Year first above written.

PIERE VAN CORTLANDT,
EZRA L'HOMMEDIËU,
ABM. TEN BROECK,
JOHN HATHORN,
SAMUEL JONES,
PETER GANSEVOORT, JUNR.,
EGBT. BENSON,

JOGHHIGHNEY
AGOTTYONGOS
HAONGHYENTHA
TOWAKAMETHA
YOWEANSE
KANIGHSAYENDE
KAWEUNESSON
SWATTEAA
KAGHNAWIYO
KAJO, ONKUKEAGH
KANOGHTSIYATHA
TEYOWEANDAGKONGH.

N. B. The above foresigned by their Chief Steel Trap.

TEWATHUHASE
AHAGUENPYAK
TYOTYEANENTHA
TEYGAWAKHONGH.

N. B. The above four Persons signed by Steel Trap as their Deputy.

THANKAGHTYAGON
TEKENEAGHAGE
HANANJAC
GOGHGO
KOWAYADOWAYADOWEAGHSLA
THAHONGHLYE
ATTWOANEAMNI
JADENON
NEGGONDE

KANISTAGIA (his mark, a steel trap).

GEO: CLINTON.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

The Words (Quantity of) (in the Seneca River at or near a Place) (thereafter) (the) and (a) being first interlined, and the Words (of a) and (Fifthly, the People of the State of New York may at all times hereafter in such Manner and by such Means as they may deem prevent any Persons) being first wrote on Razures—Before sealing and delivery hereof, it was for the greater certainty declared to be the intent of the Parties that this Grant and Cession is only of the Lands Eastward of the Partition Line above mentioned between this State of New York & the Common Wealth of Massachusetts, and that with respect to such Part of their Country as is to the Westward of the said Partition Line the Right and Property of the Cayugas to be y^e the same as if this Grant and Cession had not been made, and the Cayuga Salt Spring and the Land to the Extent of one Mile around the same to remain for the Common Use and Benefit of the People of the State of New York and of the Cayugas and their Posterity forever. And the Land to be reserved at the Fishing Place near Skayes, shall be of the Extent of one Mile on each Side of the River, the above Reservation of Land on the southern Side of the River only notwithstanding.

SAML. KIRKLAND, Miss'ry.

JOHN I. BLEECKER,

GERARD BANCKER,

ONEYANHA,

KAKIKTOTEN,

QUEDEL AG WITONTONG WAS,

SKENONDONGH,

HAGHYCANDE,

WY A DE AGH KALONGWEA alias LEWIS COOK,

TOWANIAGHHALEFE alias DANIEL,

GILBERT LIVINGSTON,

JOHN TAYLER,
PH: V. CORTLANDT.

After the Execution of the Deed of Cession, Good Peter rose and spoke as follows :

Brother Governor :

Possess your Mind—I would now speak a few Words to my Brothers the Cayugas, and entreat the Attention of our Brother and his Chiefs. I entreat of our Brothers the Cayugas to observe the Covenant which they have this Evening made with our Brother the Governor and Chiefs of this State. I have as much Satisfaction in the Conclusion of the present Treaty as the Parties themselves. Our Brother the Governor and his Chiefs have fastned down a Settlement for you my Brothers Cayugas which cannot be removed. Our Fathers have unwisely sold their Lands by Parcels & drank it up. You have now secured a Settlement for your Posterity who have Reason to rejoice and to commend you for the Transactions of this Evening.

Brother Governor :

Remember the former Days when you were weak and we were strong, and have Compassion on us who are now weak ; you have the Book which teaches the right way.

To which the Governor replied :

Brothers :

The Covenant between us is now compleated and I deliver to you this Writing to be preserved by you. It contains the Articles of the Covenant and is authenticated both agreeable to your Custom and ours.

Our Brother Peter has given good Advice both to us and to our Brothers the Cayugas, and we assure our Brother of our Determination to observe it and faithfully to observe this Covenant which we sincerely wish may be for the Happiness of our Brothers and their Posterity.

Brothers :

To convince you of our regard for you and to compensate such of you as have attended the Treaty for your Trouble

in this Business, we shall in addition to the Sum stipulated to be paid furnish you with Goods to the amount of one hundred and twenty-five Dollars. We shall also consider our friends the Oneidas and Onondagoes whom you have requested to accompany you and assist you in the Business of this Treaty, and especially our Brother Peter, the Minister, to whom both you and we are much indebted for his Labour and Services on this Occasion.

The 26th of February, 1789, the Commissioners were employed in collecting and adjusting Accounts of Expences attending the Treaty and making Arrangements for the Departures of the Indians.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at Denniston's Tavern in the City of Albany, on the 27th Feby, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Ten Broeck,
Mr. Gansevoort,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Monies in his Hands subject to the Order from the Board in favor of Richard Varick, pay to John Tayler, Agent to this Board, the Sum of two thousand Pounds.

Kaightoten, an Onondaga Chief, having represented to the Board that his Nation were in great want of Provisions, and that they had elected that one hundred Bushels of Indian Corn should be paid to them, and desired that it might be delivered to them at Fort Schuyler, as soon as conveniently may be, in part of the five hundred Dollars payable to them on the first day of June next. Thereupon

Resolved, That John Tayler, Agent of this Board, do contract with such Persons as he may deem competent to perform the Contract, for one hundred Bushels of Indian Corn, to be delivered at Fort Schuyler as soon as conveniently may be, and that Mr. Tayler cause the same to be de-

livered to the Onondagoes, and that he cause Notice to be given to the Onondagoes of the Time when the Corn will be there, to the End that they may attend to receive the same.

Resolved, That eight Pounds be allowed and paid to a Cayuga Indian for his Horse, which was killed and eat as Provisions by the Indians on their Journey, and that Mr. Tayler pay the same.

Resolved, That Mr. Tayler pay to Steel Trap and his Brother and a certain Governess of the Cayugas, twelve Pounds for Services rendered by them.

All which is respectfully reported to the Legislature at Albany, this 28th Day of February, 1789.

Geo. Clinton

Pierre Van Cortlandt

John Hathorn

Eg. Benson

Ezra L'Hommedieu

Amos Jencks

Peter Gansevoort Jun^r

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties
with the Indians within this State, held at the City of
Albany on the 3rd Day of March, 1789.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Benson.

Resolved, That the Revd. Samuel Kirkland be authorized
by this Board, in behalf of the State, to obtain a Cession to
the People of this State from the Senecas of all their Lands
to the Eastward of the Line of Partition between the State of
New York and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of the
Lands ceded to each other, and that the Attorney General
prepare and deliver to Mr. Kirkland the Deed to be executed
by the Senecas.

Resolved further, that Mr. Tayler be allowed as Agent to
the Board, at the Rate of five per Cent on all Monies paid
out by him (except such Monies as may be for the Payment
of Goods furnished out of his Store), and twenty Shillings
per Day during the Term of the Treaty with the Cayugas.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler at Albany, on Wednesday the 8th July, 1789.

Present: His Excellency the Governor,
The Lieutenant Governor,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Samuel Jones,
Ezra L'Hommedieu.

Mr. Tayler, Agent to the Commissioners, laid before the Board Receipts from the Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga Nations, subscribed by a Number of their Chiefs, Warriors and principal Women, for the different Sums Stipulated by the late Treaties and Deeds of Cession from those Nations, to be paid to them respectively on the first Day of June last. Whereupon it was

Resolved, that the said Receipts be delivered to the Governor to be deposited in the Secretary's Office.

Mr. Tayler also laid before the Board a Report of the Proceedings while employed in the above Service, containing several Speeches made to him by the different Tribes, with his Answers thereto, which Report is as follows:

I arrived at Fort Schuyler 1st June, and finding no Indians were collected for the Purpose of receiving their Rents, dispatched a Messenger to them with the following Letter:

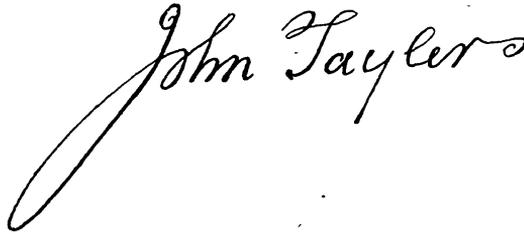
Brothers, Sachems & Warriors of the Oneida Nation:

You may remember that by the Agreement you made with the Commissioners the twenty-second of September last, you were to receive every Year from the State, six hundred Dollars in Specie, payable on the first Day of June, at this Place. I arrived yesterday in order to pay you, agreeable to the above mentioned Contract, and finding that your Nation have neglected coming, I have sent the Bearer for the Purpose of requesting you to send such a Number of your Chiefs and Warriors as you may think competent to receive your Money and sign the Receipts for the same. I will expect

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you tomorrow and hope you will attend. If the Onondagas and Cayugas are in your Castle, I wish you would mention the same to them, and if they are not on their way I request that a Runner may be sent from your Castle to them, to hurry them on, as it will be very inconvenient for me to remain long at this Place.

I am, Brothers, your sincere Friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John T aylor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "John T aylor".

Fort Schuyler,
2nd June, 1789.

On the third Day of June the Oneidas arrived and opened the Business with a Speech, delivered by Peter, as follows :

Brother :

The first Information we had of your coming up was from Capt. Colbreath, which he informed us would be about the 2nd or 3rd of the Month ; since that your Letter of the 1st of the Month mentioned your Arrival at this Place ; we sent the News to the Onondagoes and Cayugas as you desired and come on ourselves. We are glad to see you ; but Brother we hear bad News. We are informed that we can have no Provisions, and now we are so faint that we cannot speak to you, and our Women and Children are come likewise to see you and are very hungry, and have no Provisions at home ; if you did not intend to give us some Provisions, you might have sent the Money to Oneida ; this is very strange, and we are not accustomed to such Treatment.

To which I made the following Reply :

Brothers :

You may remember that the Governor, when he took his leave of you, recommended to you the Cultivation of your Lands & assured you of his Friendship. He mentioned

that a Person would attend every Year at this Place, on the first Day of June to pay you, & that he would not, in all probability, meet you at a Treaty in some Time; and as the Business I am come upon will not take but a few Moments, he could not have thought that you expected to be furnished with Provisions. If you attend to my Letter you will observe I requested that so many of your Nation might be sent as you thought competent to receive your Rent. I am sorry you have put your Women & Children to the Trouble of coming; I am however glad to see them and have Directions from the Governor to furnish you with some Provisions to refresh you on your Arrival, which I will now deliver you. I have likewise brought up a Quantity of Provisions, at the Request of the Onondaga Nation, a Part of which I will spare you, for which you will pay the first Cost & Expence of Transportation. We will now take a Drink together, and after you have refreshed yourselves, I will pay you as soon as you are ready to receive it.

After paying the Oneidas they proposed a Meeting, and opened the Business as follows:

Brother:

We have a few things to lay before you, which we wish you to communicate to our Governor.

First. We would enquire of you when our Reservation will be run out, and hope it will be according to ancient Usage, as we are desirous that one or two of our People may accompany the Surveyors when it is done.

In answer to which the Surveyor General acquainted them that the Survey would be made this Summer, and that he would direct the Surveyor to inform them when he proceeded to lay out their Reservation, so that one or two of their People might attend and see it done.

Second. Brother we mentioned to the Governor last Fall at the Treaty, that the State of Pennsylvania had taken a Piece of our Land near Onoghquago,¹ called the great Bend

¹Oghquago or Oqrago, now Wind-hannah, was a favorite Seat of the Oneidas, and when visited by Gen. Broome County, upon the Susque-

of the Susquehannah, for which we never received any Payment. He promised to make Enquiry about it. We want to know if he has received an Answer.

To which I replied, that I had not heard from the Governor on that Subject, and that perhaps the Multiplicity of Business in which he had been engaged this Spring, prevented his attending to this Affair, and that I would make him acquainted with their Request.

Third. Brother here is another Matter which is propagated by the Birds, and the Voice came so direct that it is distinctly heard and distinguished from mere Report. Two of our young Men were lately at Niagara and heard Colonel Butler say in full Council, that the Oneidas had sold all their Country to the Governor of the State of New York; that they were a poor despicable set of Indians, and had dealt treacherously in not remembering their old Friends, and that they would soon be all drove off from their Country by the Governor, and that they had no Reservation but a little Pine Ridge on which they now resided. Coll: Butler then said that he had this Information by a Letter from Major Fonda, and as it came so direct by our young Men and the Birds residing among you, we thought proper to have it communicated to our Governor, altho' we cannot believe it, as we cannot think that such were his Intentions.

To which I replied :

Brother :

You know that Major Fonda was one of the Lessee Company who bought your Lands and has been disappointed by the State's not permitting them to hold it; it is therefore not to be thought strange if he is a little angry. You know Brothers if you strike a Bird he will flutter, and his Voice may be heard a great way.

Clinton in the Expedition into the Genesee Country, Apple Trees of great Age were found growing here. Upon each Side of the River is a high Hill descending by a very gentle Slope, forming a Vale three or four Miles in length and

from a Mile to a Mile and a half in width. White Settlement was begun in March, 1785. A Mission had been established here in 1753, which for a Time was very successful.—*Hotckin's Western New York*, 54.

To which they replied :

Brother :

We thought this to be the Case; it is exactly our Opinion, but we still determined to mention it to our Governor.

We will now proceed to the Fourth, which is of a different Nature.

Brother :

We were happy to hear in the Time of the late Troubles, that an Alliance had been formed between your Nation and the great King of France, and from time to time we heard there would be a lasting Union between the two Nations, and this Alliance would spread its Influence over us all in every Quarter of America, and in his Love for us he sent over a great Man (meaning Peter Penet) to take Care of our Affairs.

We have heard several times since the opening of the Spring that he would soon make his Appearance, and the Days were named when he would see us in our Country, and the great Man (meaning the Ambassador) and our Mother the French Lady (meaning the Marchioness) was to accompany him up, and we expected them previous to your meeting us on this Ground. Now Brother, we want seriously to enquire of you if you know anything of those Matters, and what is become of our Father Penet.

To which I replied :

Brothers :

I shall endeavour to give you all the Information I can on this Subject, and you may give full Credit to what I say, as I never intend to deceive or mislead you. The Alliance you speak of is good and has given mutual Satisfaction to both Nations. The King of France has an Ambassador in our Country: the great Man who paid you a Visit last Year with our Governor; but I cannot think that he will attempt to interfere in your Concerns.

Brothers :

We have an Ambassador in France. You would think

it strange should he meddle with the Subjects of the King of France. The same Rule certainly holds good as to us.

Brothers :

You must see the Propriety of this Remark ; I shall therefore say no more on that Head. As to your Father Penet (as you call him) I can inform you he has no public Commission from the King of France ; that his first acquaintance with the Ambassador was last Summer at Albany ; he came into this Country as a Merchant, and has entered into Indian Affairs without any Authority, and you may be assured that no Transaction of a public Nature has yet passed through his Hands.

It is reported at Schenectady that his House is sold, and it is not publicly known where he is gone.

Brothers :

The Governor, at the last Treaty, exhorted you to attend to your own Affairs, and hoped that you would not be misled by idle & foolish Tales, such as might answer to deceive Children, but ought not to be credited by Men. I wish you may attend to his Advice & keep in the Path he placed you.

The Substance of several Matters which the Onondaga Nation requested me to communicate to his Excellency the Governor :

Brother :

We expected when we sold our Lands that the Fishing in the Rivers were reserved to us ; but this Spring a Man has settled at the Onondaga Eel wares, near the Cross Lake, and has built himself a House on the very Ground we used to build our Huts for Fishing. We enquired who sent him there and he told us he came from Canadasago. We agreed not to turn him off, but to acquaint our Governor. We hope you will mention it to him and that he will not let any Body settle on our ancient fishing Place.

Brother :

We understood last Fall by the Agreement, that no Wood should be cut on the Lands reserved round the Salt

Springs; but that the white People might boil Salt for their own Use; but a Man is settled and built a House and planted a Garden and set up some Kettles, and we understand he intends to bring on 80 Kettles more;¹ he says it is by Permission of the Governor. We wish you to mention this thing to him. We have lately received a Letter which we think you ought to see.

Brother :

We have now closed the Business of this Meeting, and you have fulfilled the Agreement to our Satisfaction, and we hope another revolving Year will bring us together again on the like happy Occasion, and that in some future Year we shall meet with our Governor in Person.

I then addressed the Sachems & Warriors of the Cayuga Nation as follows ?

Brothers :

You no doubt remember that by the Agreement and Sale of your Lands, made at Albany last Winter, the Governor was to pay you 1625 Dollars the 1st of June. As the Promise was made, it became his Duty to fulfil it, and I have attended accordingly on that Day with the Money and Provisions you requested might be brought up for you; but not finding you here I sent a Messenger to you, and as he did not return a favourable Answer, I dispatched your Friend

¹ This Pioneer of the Salt Works was Asa Danforth of Onondaga Hollow. The first Salt was made near the Marsh, and the Spring was located just in the Rear of the present Salina Pump House. The Indians had excavated a Hole, which was filled with Brine. Danforth was associated with Comfort Tyler. For many Years it was customary for the Settlers to bring their Kettles from Home, make their own Salt, and return with their Implements. Settlement was begun at the Springs in 1790. The Jealousy of the Onondagas concerning the Encroachments at the Salt Springs, was settled in November, 1793, by a

Treaty held at Onondaga, at which a Portion of the original Reservation was released for \$410 paid at that Time, \$218 in June following and a Stipulation for an Annuity of \$410. They released upon this Occasion their common Right to the Springs, and the Land around Onondaga Lake, and a Strip of Land on each Side of the Creek North of their Reservation, receiving \$700 and an annual Payment of one hundred Bushels of Salt. In 1817 this Salt Annuity was increased fifty Bushels, and is still paid to the Tribe on the Onondaga Reservation.

Mr. Ryckman to you ; he was taken sick and obliged to return, but sent on my Letter, to which you listened, and I am happy to see you and your Friend Mr. Reed, who accompanied you and assisted you on your Journey ; but Brothers before we proceed to Business, I must observe to you the Reason why I did not give you any Liquor yesterday when you came here, was that you had drunk, if not too much, at least enough. I have a great deal of Money for you, and if you drink freely you cannot take care of it. We have bad People among us, and perhaps there may be some now on the Ground ; they may take the Advantage of you if you get Drunk and take your Money away, and if that should be the Case, it would be worse for you than if you had not attended at this Place.

Brothers :

We will now take a Drink together, & I will pay you your Money so soon as you are ready to receive it, and will give you a Keg to assist you on your Journey, and I hope I shall have it in my Power to inform the Governor that you have taken a great Part of your Money home.

To which the Steel Trap replied :

Brother :

You have now spoke to us upon the Business for which we have met at this Place. You congratulate us on our safe Arrival and remarked the Necessity of keeping Order. After mentioning your Charge from the Governor, you gave us your Reasons for refusing our People strong drink. We thank you for this wise Conduct of yours in resisting their Importunities.

Brothers :

Possess your Minds in Peace, as we are slow in our Deliberation. We are sensible of the Agreement made between us and the Governor of New York last Winter ; the Council was called at our ancient Place of the meeting of our Forefathers. This deeply impressed on our Minds every Article of the Agreement there entred into.

Brother:

Let not your Mind be disturbed at our not appearing here at the Time appointed. There were but a few of us collected at Cayuga, our ancient and beloved Place of Residence. We were desirous of having all together before we set out to meet you; and another Reason of our Delay was this; we were anxious to have an Answer from the Great Council at Buffaloe Creek, as we were informed after we communicated our Transactions with the Governor of New York to them, that there was a Division among them, and just before we received this Intelligence (your Message came to us) the Import of which was as follows: That in general they disapproved of our Negotiation; that all Contracts respecting Lands should have the Voice of Captain Abeel, as Chief of the Five Nations now to the Westward. Upon this I called together the Warriors and female Governesses and all the Women, and laid before them the Message from Buffaloe Creek, and requested their Opinion. After much Deliberation they unanimously agreed to abide by the Agreement entered into by the Governor of New York and People of Albany, which was made last Winter; it was the Voice of one and all, that they ought to support it at all hazards, and that we ought to be thankful for recovering such a Part of their lost Territory & particularly the Place that was so dear to their Ancestors (I mean Cayuga), that they must consider this as effected by the Interposition of the Governor of New York. This being our unanimous Agreement we received your last Message with pleasure, altho' we had many things which obstructed our meeting with you previous to that.

Brother:

At our Return from the Treaty at Albany, we gave a full and faithful Account of the whole Transaction as I promised to the Governor; it appeared to us that the Reserve of so much Land made for us at the Treaty was the Cause of their Disapprobation at Buffaloe Creek, which was the very thing that rejoiced our Hearts, and we cannot but be thankful to the Great Spirit for keeping us in the Possession of our

Lands, for which we are likewise indebted to the Governor of New York.

Brother :

In the Agreement made between us and the great Chiefs of New York, the Governor, as the Voice of the whole, assured us that he was able to protect us in the enjoyment of our Reserve. The Assurance that our Mothers the female Governesses had in his Protection gave them great Joy ; as the Proprietors of the Soil whose Happiness we Sachems and Warriors ought always to consult, and you also exhorted us to the same, therefore when any thing threatens their Peace we share in the Danger. And now Brother we are sorry to tell you the Scene begins too soon to change ; many of your Subjects are now intruding on the Reserve made to our Mothers (and must I tell you) that the Voice there sometimes speaks that the Governor has deceived us and told us Lies ; this, Brother, is the Conduct of your own Subjects. Now Brother this we expect will be communicated to you (meaning the Governor) as if you were present ; and now you shall know what our Desire is, that you will exert yourself as our great Chief to fulfil your Promises for our Protection.

Brother Chief :

Our female Governesses have exhorted us Warriors to abide by the Agreement entered into by the Treaty last Winter, for in maintaining them only they can enjoy Peace, and we Warriors have engaged to support them, in Confidence that the great Chief of New York will fulfil his Engagements, in Testimony of which we present you with this String.

A String of Wampum.

Brother :

Open a kind Ear. By the Agreement you entred into with my Nation, you restored to us our Ancient Fire Place. You gave us (here he described the Reservation) when this Declaration of yours came to us it sunk down with Pleasure into the Bottom of our Hearts. We anticipated the Enjoyment of Peace in the Possession of our native Places.

Brother : Only fulfil your Part of the Engagements.

Brother :

When you made this Agreement, we told you that many of our Nation were away to the Westward ; that if we could permanently enjoy our Territory they would soon come again ; if we could put Confidence in your Promises, and we hope we will not be disappointed.

Brother :

We hope you will remember your Promise to us of enlarging our Reserve, so as to be sufficient for our Brethren from the Westward, and not suffer your Subjects to encroach upon us, or our People will be discouraged and lose their Confidence in your Protection ; and when you run this out let it be marked so that our Children may not be mistaken in it.

Brother :

Open a kind Ear ; we delivered some small Strings, which we delivered in a wrong Place ; it should have been to open your Ears. The Belt we now give you is in Confirmation of our present Transactions, for the Governor of New York, on which you will see represented a female Governess and a Warrior standing near each other, expecting to see a fulfillment of the Promise of the Great Chief of New York to their Nation.

A Belt.

To which I replied :

Brothers :

I have carefully attended to what you have now delivered and shall faithfully relate it to the Governor. The Surveyor General has now his People running the Line, and some of them will soon be at Cayuga for the Purpose of running out your Reservation ; they have a Copy of your Deed, and he requests that one of your Nation may attend the Surveyors (who will notify you of their Arrival) to see it done, and that you may assist his People, if they stand in need of it. He has likewise requested his Surveyors to show the Line to the white People in your Neighbourhood and if any have settled on your Lands they will request them to move off.

Brothers:

A Person will attend every Year on the first Day of June, for the Purpose of paying you the Money due to you by the State. I hope you will have it in your Power to be more punctual in future, and any Complaints you may have will be laid before the Governor.

His Excellency the Governor, laid before the Board a Letter signed by Hezekiah Olcott, dated at Onondaga the 28th June, and said to be wrote by the Directions of that Tribe, and also a Speech from the Oneida Nation, accompanied by a Belt, dated at Kanonwalohale, 30th June, 1789, and attested by Samuel Kirkland, Missionary; which Letter and Speech are respectively as follows, vizt:

Onondaga, June 28th, 1789.

Dr. Sr:

The Chiefs of this Tribe are now with me, who have received four Strings of Wampum from the Buffelow, forbidding them to receive any Money or go to Fort Stanwix, that the Governor of Quebec wanted the Oneidas Lands; and the Onondaga Sr. John wanted; Coll. Butler wants the Cayuga and the Commanding Officer at Niagara wants the Senecas Reserve. That this gives them great Trouble, and they wanted Advice what to do and wish for the Governor's Answer by me.

I have given them as my Opinion, that the Lessees are the Cause of their Trouble, and that if they would not mind it the Governor would do them good. It seemed to give them Ease, and they will patiently wait His Excellency's Answer. It seems they were at a great loss and wish the Governor would write, which I will see that true Meaning is given that they may send their Answer.

I am yours at Command,

HEZH. OLCOTT.

JOHN TAYLER, Esqr.

Kanonwalohale, 30th June, 1789.

To his Excellency Governor Clinton, from the Sachems & Warriors of the Oneida Nation.

Brother! our Governor attend!

Agreeable to ancient Customs and confirmed by recent Transactions betwixt our Nation and the People of New York, whenever any evil threatens our Peace we are to acquaint you and apply for that Relief and Protection which we may stand in need of. Therefore Brother Governor open a listening Ear. We are threatened with Destruction, even with total Extermination. The Voice comes from the West; its sound is terrible—it bespeaks our Death. Our Brothers the Onondagas and Cayugas are to share the same Fate. The News comes direct and confirmed. If you inquire for the Cause, it is this: That we have disposed of our respective Countries to the People of New York with certain Reserves for ourselves and Posterity, without consulting the western Tribes. This has wakened up their Resentment to such a Degree that they determined, in full Council at Buffalo Creek, that we shall be deprived of our respective Reserves with our Lives in the Bargain. This News our Governor may depend upon. This Determination of the Western Tribes has been communicated to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Province of Quebec, who, as we are told, makes no Objections to their wicked Intention, but rather Countenances them.

Brother Governor:

Now call to mind your former and repeated Promises to us for our Protection and Peace. When you planted us under the Emblem of the Tree of Peace in our Territory; if its Fruit should be plucked or its Boughs broke by an evil Spirit or any Enemies whatsoever, your Arm should be extended for its Protection, while it fell with all its weight upon the Enemy. To you therefore we repair in our distressed Situation, in full Confidence of that Relief which we may need. You will consider the destitute Condition of our Warriors, unable to equip themselves for Defence; also the

extreme scarcity of Provisions in our Country. If Hunger should help kill us while so near our American Brothers, it would be a lamentable Story indeed.

The above delivered in full Council, and at the Request of the Chiefs translated and written by

SAM^L KIRKLAND, Miss'y.

Resolved, That the Report of Mr. Tayler and the Letter from Hezekiah Olcott and the Speech from the Oneidas be committed to Ezra L'Hommedieu and Abraham Ten Broeck, Esqrs., to prepare Answers to the said Letter and such Part of the Speeches made to Mr. Tayler as they shall deem necessary.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler in Albany, on Monday the 13th July, 1789.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.
The Lieut. Governor,
Samuel Jones,
Abraham Ten Broeck, &
Ezra L'Hommedieu, Esqrs.

The Governor laid before the Board a Letter from Joseph Brandt, in behalf of the Mohawk Nation, relative to their Claims¹ to Lands at Canajoharie, and a Letter signed by several Indians at Buffaloe Creek in behalf of the Onondagas, Cayugas, Seneca and Mohawk Nations of Indians, relative to the late Treaties and Purchases; which Letters are respectively as follows, vitz:

¹The Claims of the Mohawks were finally settled by a Treaty at Albany, March 29, 1797, before Isaac Smith, U. S. Commissioner, the State of New York being represented by Abraham Ten Broeck, Egbert Benson and Ezra L'Hommedieu, and the Mohawks by Captains Joseph Brant and John Des-

tontyon. The Agents were paid \$500 for Expenses, and \$100 cost of returning and conveying the \$1,000 awarded to the Mohawks. The Seneca Chief Corn Planter was present and witnessed the Contract.—*Treaties, Sec'y's Office*, II, 186; *Bioren, Duane & Wightman's Ed. U. S. Laws*, I, 384.

Niagara, 18th June, 1789.

Sir: Having before wrote to some of your principal People, on the Subject of our Lands at Canajoharie, which we have never as yet had any Answers to, probably owing to their not having received them; having a safe Opportunity beg leave to mention to your Excellency that we are informed a Mr. Clock,¹ who we found troublesome before the Commencement of the late unhappy War, is again striving to take Advantage of us, in order to deprive us of our Right in that Part of the Country, which when at the last Treaty at Fort Stanwix in 1784, you was with a Number more of your principal People kind enough to assure us, as our Lands were not confiscated at the Close of the War, we should not be deprived of our just Right; we therefore look up to your Excellency for Justice, and which from your Character we have no doubt but we will obtain. The Reason of our not exerting ourselves relative to this Matter before now, was owing to our being employed in Business in the different Parts of this Country, being obliged to attend at the different Treaties, which has made us neglect paying that Attention to our private Concerns which we otherwise should have done.

From the great Scarcity of Cattle at present amongst us, owing to our having lost Numbers this last Winter, we would wish to dispose of our Canajoharie Lands and would take part Cattle in payment and give a just Deed of the same. Your Excellency being at the Head of the State, we have thought proper to first mention it to you and shall wait your Answer, which we hope will be soon, that an End may be put to the Business.

I flatter myself we will give you every Satisfaction in any Purchase which may be made from us, as what we ourselves do we shall wish to abide by. I have the Honor to be

Your most obedt. humb. Sert., JOSEPH BRANT,
in behalf of the Mohawk Nation.

GEORGE CLINTON, Esq.,
Governor of the State of New York.

¹ Mr. Klock resided at Canajoharie, concerned in large Land Patents in Oneida and with Henry Remsen and others was County.

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To his Excellency the Governor of the State of New York, &c.

Brothers :

We have been informed of the Purchases you made of some of our young Men, both of the Onondaga and Kayuga Country, and we have considered long and seriously on the Consequences that may arise from suffering Individuals (without Authority) to dispose of Property that was given by the Great Spirit to our Forefathers and handed down by them to their Children the Five Nations in general. We have not been hard with the white People who has made an open and fair Application for Lands at our Council Fire; but we have accommodated them, and we hold the Sales sacred, because it was done in full Council and at a proper Place; but what is partially purchased from Individuals, at improper Places, we are bound by the ancient Customs of our Forefathers to disapprove of.

Brothers :

We did not expect that you, after advising us to shun private Treaties with Individuals and avoid selling our Lands to your disobediant Children, that you would yourself purchase Lands from a few of our wrong headed young Men, without the Consent or even the Knowledge of the Chiefs; therefore we have at present only to communicate our Disapprobation of those Sales, and request that you will not make any further Settlements or Surveys on the Lands till the Money is paid us agreeable to the Sales we made at Buffaloe Creek last Summer. It is not that we have any Objections to you having the Lands; it is equal to us who has it, as we have sold it in public Council at our Council Fire like Men and do not mean to deviate from it like Children; but we expect to be paid the Money we then agreed for with Dr. Benton, and to have the Distribution of it ourselves, and not that a few Individuals shall run away with the whole, to the Prejudice of all the Five Nations & to the Disgrace of your Brothers.

Buffaloe Creek, 2nd June, 1789.

SHARONGYOWANON,

KAKONDENAYEN, in Behalf of the
Onondaga Nation.

Proceedings of the

OJAGEHTEN,	} in Behalf of the
OGHNIOKWENTON,	
OGHNENRAYEWAGHS,	} Cayuga Nation.
SKENTYOGHKEVADOGH,	
} in Behalf of the	
} Seneca Nation.	
JOS: BRANT OF TEKANAWETER, in Behalf	
of the Mohawks, &c., &c.	

Resolved, That Samuel Jones and Ezra L'Hommedieu, Esqrs., prepare Answers to the said Letters and lay them before this Board with all convenient Speed.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of John Tayler at Albany, on Tuesday the 14th Day of July, 1789.

Present: His Excellency the Governor,
His Honor the Lieut. Governor,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Samuel Jones, Esqrs.

Mr. Jones and Mr. L'Hommedieu, to whom were referred the several Letters from Joseph Brant, and from the said Joseph Brant and six other Indians at Buffaloe Creek, and from the Sachems, Chiefs & Warriors of the Oneida, Onondaga and Kayuga Nations, reported Answers thereto respectively, which being read and amended were approved, and are as follows :

Brothers :

Your Speech delivered at Fort Stanwix in June was communicated to me by Mr. Tayler, Agent to the Commissioners. It informs me that a Man has settled at the Onondaga Eel wares, near the Cross Lake and built a House there. This Person has no Right to settle on those Lands, and you will be justified in turning him off, if he will not depart peaceably. I will give Orders to our Surveyors to direct him to depart from that Place, and also direct the Surveyor General, in running out the Land, to reserve one Mile Square to

comprehend the Eel wares on both Sides of the River, for the use of your Nation and such white People as may stand in need of Fish. I have given no Permission to any Person to settle on the Lands reserved for common use at the Salt Springs, and no Person shall remain there contrary to the Agreement made between us. Shew this Letter to Major Hardenbergh, our Surveyor, and he will direct that Man to move off when you desire it.

Brother :

We hear Provision is very scarce among you ; we have therefore sent you some Corn, which will be delivered to you at Fort Stanwix, to relieve your present Wants and as a Testimony of our Friendship for you.

Your Friend & Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

To the Onondagas.

Albany, 14th July, 1789.

Brothers:

Mr. Tayler, our Agent, after his Return from Fort Stanwix, delivered to me the Speech of your Nation with a Belt, and I was happy to find that your Nation are so well satisfied with the Treaty made with us at Albany last Winter. You may be assured that Agreement will be kept inviolate on our Part, and we make no Doubt but the same will be faithfully observed by you.

I am sorry to hear from you, that some of our disobedient Children intrude on your reserved Lands; listen not to the Birds that tell Lies and say you have been deceived. The Mothers, the female Governesses, the Sachems and Warriors, may fully rely upon the Governor and Chiefs of New York to fulfil all their Promises. They will take effectual Measures to prevent any Intrusion on your reserved Land, and I recommend to you not to suffer any white Man to settle on your Land.

Brothers :

I have sent the Surveyor to mark out your reserved Lands, so that they may be always known by you and your

Children after you. With respect to the Justice of the Claims of those of your Nation residing at Buffaloe Creek to a proportion of the purchase Money and the annual Payments you are to receive from the State, this is a Matter you must determine yourselves ; but I would advise you to make a fair and equal Distribution of it according to the Usage of your Nation and agreeable to Justice, for it is Righteousness that will ensure you the Blessing of the Great Spirit and cause you to prosper.

Brothers:

Having understood that Provision is scarce among you, we have sent you a small Supply of Corn to Fort Stanwix to relieve your present Wants, and as a Testimony of our Friendship for you.

Your Friend & Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

To the Cayugas.

Albany, 14th July, 1789.

Brothers :

I have received your Speech of the 30th June, transmitted by Mr. Kirkland. I am sorry to hear you are alarmed by the Threats of the Indians to the Westward. I am persuaded however they will not operate to your Injury. The Indians at Buffaloe Creek have also written to me, but they do not even mention any Uneasiness respecting the Agreement entred into between your Nation and the State. Possess your Minds in Peace therefore, and be assured that every Article promised by the State will be faithfully performed, and that we will never deceive or forsake our Brethren the Oneidas as long as they continue to walk in the Path of Justice.

Brothers :

We exhort you to Sobriety and Industry, and to love one another as you expect the Blessing and Protection of the Great Spirit.

We hear Provision is very scarce among you, we have therefore directed a small Supply of Corn to be delivered to

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you at Schenectady to relieve your present Wants, and as a Testimony of our Affection and Friendship for you.

Your Friend & Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

To the Oneidas.

Albany, 14th July, 1789.

Sir :

I have received your Letter of the 18th of June last, and have to inform you in Answer to it, that the Lands at Canajaxharie are claimed by private Individuals ; many others as well as Clock produced Deeds from the Mohawk Nation for different Parts of the Lands there. Whether these Deeds were fairly obtained or whether the Lands there remain unsold, I am not able to determine. But if the Lands supposed to be unsold are particularly pointed out to me, I will cause an Inquiry to be made into the Matter and see that the Indians have all the Justice done them that they can have any Right to expect. It is unfortunate and what I could have not expected after the Explanation which took place between us at Fort Stanwix, that the Indians continue to Treat and make Contracts for Lands with Individuals, without the Consent of our Government and against our Laws; and more especially as this Conduct never fails to end to their Disadvantage and Injury.

I have only to add, that I shall always be ready, with the greatest Chearfulness to hear and redress any Grievances the Indians within this State may have Cause to complain of, and that I am with great Regard

Your Friend & most obedt. Sert.

GEO. CLINTON.

To Capt. JOSEPH BRANT.

Albany, 14th July, 1789.

Brothers :

I have received a Letter signed by Captn Joseph Brant and six other Indians, dated 2nd of June last at Buffalo Creek, and said to be in behalf of the Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Mohawk Nations.

I am sorry to learn that the Agreement entered into by the Cayuga and Onondaga Nations with this State, respecting the Lands, should create any Uneasiness in your Minds, as I am persuaded that the Treaties which have been entered into by the State with those Indians are much to their Advantage and gave them great Satisfaction. It was not our Intention to have solicited the Indians to sell any Part of their Lands, as it was not our Wish to have extended our Settlements into those Countries; but we were informed that some of our disobedient Children, contrary to our Knowledge or Consent, had gone among those Nations, had held Treaties with them and purchased all their Lands from them and were making Settlements there in Defiance of our Authority. This gave us much Dissatisfaction and we clearly perceived that unless effectual Measures could be taken to prevent it, this Conduct might disturb the Peace and end in our mutual Injury.

Brothers :

This induced me early last Spring to propose kindling a Council Fire at Fort Stanwix and to invite our Brethren of the Five Nations to attend there to consult on the Measures necessary to be taken to prevent the Evils which threatened us and to promote our mutual Happiness. Invitations were accordingly sent agreeable to ancient Usage, to the different Nations to meet us there in July; but finding that some of the Nations could not conveniently attend at that time, we postponed the Meeting until September, and gave Notice thereof to our Brethern. We attended at the time appointed and found the Onondaga and Oneida Nations waiting for us there. We did not immediately proceed on Business, we waited many Days in Expectation that our Brethern the Senecas and Cayugas would attend. But finding they were not like to come we proceeded upon Business, and in full Council according the Usage of our Ancestors, after the most serious and solemn Deliberation, which lasted several Days, we came to an Agreement with our Brethern the Oneidas and Onondagas respecting their Territories, which we are persuaded is for the Interest of both Parties, and therefore doubt

not it will be lasting. We paid them the Money agreed to be given for the Lands we purchased and shall faithfully, in all Respects, perform the Agreement made between us. Before we left that Place we again sent Invitations to our Brethren the Senecas and Cayugas to attend at a Council Fire which we purposed to kindle at this Place in the Winter. The Cayugas accordingly came, and the same Reasons which influenced our Treaties with the Oneidas & Onondagas, produced a similar Agreement with us and the Cayugas for their Lands. We honestly paid them a Part of the purchase Money before they left this Place, and the Residue we paid them at Fort Stanwix the beginning of June last, according to our Agreement, and we cannot but think that they will make such a Distribution of the Money among those of their Nation who are intitled to it, as is consistent with Justice and the Usage among the Indian Nations. This was our Advice to them, and as far as we can with Propriety interfere we shall always be ready to give our Assistance to see it done.

Brothers :

We are glad to find that you remember what was mentioned to you at our Meeting at Fort Stanwix in the Year 1784. We wish that you had acted conformably thereto ; we took particular Pains at that Time to impress upon your Minds the Necessity of conducting according to ancient Usage. We informed you that to guard against your being deceived or imposed upon, our Constitution and Laws had provided that no Treaties should be held or Purchases of Land made from the Indians without the Approbation and Consent of our Legislature ; if therefore, after this, any of your People have, contrary to our Laws and the Advice we gave you, sold Lands or made Agreements respecting them to Benton or any other of our People, you certainly cannot reasonably call upon us to see the Agreement with them fulfilled ; this would be countenancing a Measure on our Part against our Laws and contrary to the ancient Usage that has subsisted between us.

Brothers :

The Agreement with the Onondagas, Cayugas and Oneidas, were conducted in an open and fair Manner, agree-

able to ancient Usage. We have honestly paid for the Lands we have purchased from them. We are disposed to lend our Aid to accommodate any Difference that may subsist with respect to the Distribution of the Money, and we therefore expect that you will not molest any Persons who may settle upon those Lands under the Authority of the State, or give any Interruption to the Surveyors employed in running them out, as this would be acting contrary to Justice and must be considered as hostile against us. And finally, Brothers, we again advise and conjure you not to give any Countenance or listen any longer to Benton, McKenstray, and others of our disobedient Children that have intruded themselves among you, lest their Artifices should still lead to greater Evils.

We were induced to hope last Winter that Benton and his Company would have given neither you or us any further Trouble on this Subject, as they appeared sensible of their Error, and accordingly delivered up to us, the Deeds they had obtained from you and professed Penitence for what they had done; had this not been the Case they would have been before this time seriously punished for their Conduct, which has been little short of Treason against the State.

I am, Brothers, in behalf of the Commissioners to Treat with the Indians residing within this State,

Your Friend & Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

To Captain JOSEPH BRANT and other
Indians of the Onondaga, Cayuga &
Seneca Nation at Buffaloe Creek.

Resolved, that the Governor be requested to sign and transmit the same.

Several Accounts having accrued since the Completion of the Treaty with the Cayugas last Winter, particularly in making the Payments to the different Nations stipulated to be made on the first Day of June last,

Ordered that the Agent collect and discharge the same, first submitting them to the Inspection of Mr. Ten Broeck, who is requested to examine the said Accounts and Vouchers and see that the Charges are just and proper.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, held at the House of John Tayler in the City of Albany, the 15th Day of July, 1789.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.
His Honor the Lieut. Governor.
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Samuel Jones, Esqrs.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Board certain concurrent Resolutions of the Senate and Assembly of the 14th & 15th of July instant, appropriating six hundred Pounds to purchase Indian Corn for the Relief of the Poor and Distressed Inhabitants, and requesting this Board to pay or cause to be paid to the Treasurers of the several Counties hereinafter named, respectively, the several Sum following, to wit: to the Treasurer of the County of Albany one hundred and seventy Pounds: to the Treasurer of the County of Montgomery, the Sum of one hundred and seventy Pounds; to the Treasurer of the County of Washington the Sum of one hundred and twenty Pounds; and to the Treasurer of the County of Clinton the Sum of fifty Pounds for the Purpose aforesaid; and with the Residue of the said Sum of six hundred Pounds to purchase or cause to be purchased Corn to be distributed in such Proportions as they shall direct amongst the Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Mohegan and Brotherton Indians. Whereupon,

Resolved, that John Tayler, Esqr., Agent to this Board, out of the Monies for which he has a Warrant from this Board, signed by His Excellency the Governor on the Treasurer, pay to the County Treasurers of the said Counties respectively the several Sums directed to be paid to them by the said Resolutions, on their applying for the same; and that with the Residue of the said Sum of six hundred Pounds he purchase Corn to be distributed to the said Indians in the following Proportions and at the following Places, to wit:

To the Oneidas & Tascaroras, 150 Bushels.

To the Mohegan & Brotherton, 100 Do.

To the Onondaga & Cayuga Nation each fifty Bushels, to be delivered at Fort Schuyler.

Resolved, that the Governor Certify a Copy of the foregoing Resolution and deliver it to Mr. Taylor.

The Law appointed his Excellency the Governor in Conjunction with other Persons Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians expired the 30th Day after a Quorum of both Houses of the Legislature was assembled at this Meeting in July, 1790.

Copy of a Letter from Joseph Brant and other Indians, to his Excellency the Governor.

Canadaque, 30th July, 1789.

Brother:

We have this Day received your Letter dated 14th Inst. in Answer to ours of 2nd June; we are very sorry you have paid so little Attention to it. We endeavoured to explain to you that you had not treated with the Chiefs, nor with Persons authorised by them to dispose of our Country, but we are now sorry to find you do not wish to be convinced of an Error, which you took no previous Steps to avoid. You say the Treaties you entred into gave great Satisfaction to the Indians and would be much to their Advantage. Undoubtedly a large Sum of Money to a few Indians, *void of Principal*, would be pleasing, and their Ideas of Advantage are but momentary and never descend to Posterity, and they are too blind to see the Traps laid to disunite the Nations to which they belong. What you mean by offering your Assistance to see the Money fairly divided among those of their Nations who are entitled to receive it, we do not understand, unless you think none entitled to it but those who remain in the reserved *Trap* and who are intirely in your Power. Our Ancestors made no Distinction in a Nation; they held their Lands in common, and we do not wish to deviate from their Customs.

Brother:

When you proposed a Treaty in July, 1788, at Fort Stanwix, we informed you that we should be on Business to the Southward with the Commissioners of Congress; upon which you postponed it till September, and then we had not returned; nevertheless you proceeded to Business (you say) in full Council according to the Custom of *your* Ancestors, after the most serious and solemn Deliberations; true, it was the Custom of *your* Ancestors to do Business with ours in full Council, but it was not the Custom of our Ancestors to call a Council and treat on Business of Importance to their Nations and Posterity, without the Presence or Knowledge of the Chiefs, nor was it the Custom of yours to require it; therefore we now see clearly what we before had only a glimmering View of, and that your solemn Deliberations were the dictates of Policy and your Determination was to effect a Disunion, which would terminate in our Ruin.

Brother:

You say you are disposed to lend your Aid to accommodate any Difference in the Distribution of the Money, and you expect we will not molest your Surveyors, or it will be considered as hostile. You also advise and warn us not to listen any more to your disobedient Children, lest greater Evils follow. We are not frightened at your Threats, nor are we directed by your disobedient Children, but by the feelings of an injured People who seek for Justice; nor are we thirsty for Blood or War, but our sincere wishes are to live in Peace and Friendship with our Neighbours, and to obtain that desired Object upon just Principles. It is equal to us who possess the Country, as we have sold it according to our Customs fairly and now only wish to have the Money paid that we may divide it amongst the People who are entitled to receive it; and as for the Reservation we seek no more than we made at Buffalo Creek. We wrote Congress the same time wrote you and requested that Commissioners might be sent either here or at our Council Fire at Buffalo Creek to enquire into those Differences, that the Causes might be removed, and we are anxiously waiting their Answer.

We hope that Congress will view our Situation impartially, and we presume the World can easily discern that it is not the Good of the State, but self Interest, that influences the Proceedings which most affect us. We wish to avoid all kind of Disturbance and Controversy between our People and yours and to settle all Matters with you to our mutual Interest and to the Good of Posterity. We do not start Difficulties for trifles, tho' never so glaring. We received with Silence your Proceedings in the Shemung Purchase, which was similar to the present; there we saw your disobedient Children treat with a few of our People for a Tract of Country and we saw your State afterwards confirm it. Sooner than disturb that Chain of Friendship, which we rather wish to brighten than violate, we overlooked it; but when they (Livingston & Co.) made the second Attempt to deceive a few of our Chiefs out of our whole Country it became alarming and roused the Attention of all our Nations, and in order to extricate ourselves and releive some part of our Country, we were obliged to confirm the Sale of the rest, tho' contrary to our wish, which will be fully explained when Congress think proper to send Persons to inquire into it; but it is too long for the Subject of a Letter. It is hard for us to judge what are the Motives which influence your Proceedings; therefore we wish our Difference to be determined by Congress. Perhaps self Interest throughout your State is too prevalent to admit of impartial Decision in a Matter where they are so deeply interested.

Brother:

We are of the same Opinion now as we were when we wrote before, and see more clearly the Attempt on our Disunion, and again request that neither your Surveyors nor Settlers proceed further till an Accommodation takes Place. We are, Brother, with due Respect in Behalf of the Five Nations, your obedient and very humble Servants.

SHARONYOWANEW
TEHODAGERADON
KAGONDENAYEN
TEKANAGHWAGHSHEA

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ATHORWINE
• OGHNIOKWENDON
Onondagas Chiefs at Buffalo Creek.

OJAGEGHE or Fish Carrier
KARONGHYAGEATEA
KAYENDADIRRHOR.
OTSINONWANTE
KAYENDAGONRA
KARENHTOR
TEWATASERiyAGE
TEYORENHAGWENTE
TEYOYAGHYAGOUGH
KONENYODEE
Cayugas Chiefs at Buffalo Creek.

TEHARAGHKS
OTSTENRAGONGH
Tebodereghnenons Chiefs at Buffalo Creek.

OGHENRAYEWAGHSE or Farmers Brother.
SHAGOYEGHWATHA
Seneca Chiefs at Buffalo Creek.

TAYOKARAGHSERE
Chief at Cadaragoras.

KARONTOWANEN, or Big Tree
SHIGWARENTONGHKWI or Little Beard
OAGHWADAHIEA or Hot Bread
Seneca Chiefs at Genesee.

TEWAGHDAGHGOTE
Tuscarora Chief at Niagara Landing.

OGHSHIGARISERE
Ditto at Genesee.

JOS: BRANDT.

His Excellency's Answer.

New York, 19th Sept, 1789.

Sir:

A Letter signed by you and several other Indians, and dated at Canadaque¹ on the 30th July last, has been delivered to me. Your Signature determines it to be your Act, but I am disposed to consider it wholly as the Suggestion of others than those who have subscribed it.

My Answer is addressed you solely, to be however communicated to the other Indians. You must be sensible that a Letter to me so highly exceptionable in every Part would not permit me to observe the usual Form of Answer to those whom we have always called and still would wish to call Brothers.

The Law appointing me and others Commissioners for Indian Affairs has expired; and I have therefore at present neither the Means or Authority to hold a Treaty with the Indians; it is notwithstanding my Duty to prevent the Peace and Rights of the State from being violated.

The Legislature of the State will meet in January next, when your Letter to me and every other Matter relating to the Subject will be laid before them, and I have an Expectation that they will at least authorize me to meet such of the Chiefs of the Six Nations as may choose to come to Fort Schuyler in June, when the next annual Payments are to be made to the Oneidas, Onondagas and Cayugas, in order that a full Explanation of all the Transaction between those Tribes and the Commissioners in the Purchases of Lands may take place. This may be proper to remove what might otherwise be a Cause of secret Dissatisfaction in the Minds of some of the Indians. The Lands will not be formally granted and therefore will not be settled very speedily; but the Laws of the State require that in the mean time they should be surveyed, and I must insist that the Surveyors be not interrupted. Should Violences be committed the Aggressor must be an-

¹ Canandaigua.

swerable for the Consequences, and every Expectation of a Meeting, either to accommodate or explain, will thereby be disappointed; and be assured it will not be considered as possible that the Constitution and Laws of the State should not be maintained and consequently that there never will be an Acknowledgment of the Right to Lands purchased from the Indians without the Consent of the Legislature; but on the contrary, every Intruder claiming under such a Right must be brought to Justice.

I am your most obedt. Servant,

A large, ornate handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Clinton". The signature is written in black ink and features elaborate flourishes and loops, particularly at the bottom.

Captain JOSEPH BRANDT.

Copy of a Letter from the Oneidas to his Excellency the Governor.

Lettre¹ de la Nation Oneida à leur frere George Clinton, Gouverneur en Chef dans L'état de New York, Notre Frere; Toute la Nation pénétré de Reconnoissance profit de l'occasion de quelques uns des no Chefs qui descendent pour quelques Affaires a New York pour vous avésir la Reception du

¹ Translation.

Letter of the Oneida Nation to their Brother George Clinton, Governor in Chief of the State of New York.

Brocher. The whole Nation, full of Gratitude, improves the Occasion of some of our Chiefs going down to New York upon Business, to advise you of

the receipt of the Grain, which you wished their Brothers to distribute, and to return their very humble Thanks also to those who have contributed to so generous an Act. All of our Chiefs in Council, our Chief Warriors, old Men, young Men, Women and Children will not cease blessing your memory.

T t

Grain que vous avez bien voulu leurs freres distribuer et vous en faire leurs tres humbles Remeriemens ainsi qua'ceux qui ont contribue a une Action ainsi genereuse ; tous nos Chefs de Conseil, chefs de guerre veillands, jeunes gens, femmes et enfans ne cesseront de benis votre Memoire. A Oneida 26 Augst, 1789.

THONIGOIN SOHARA
 PAUL OSETHOGON
 JOHN KOCUTHAGERA
 PETRE ONEYANHAGH
 HENDRICK THANIGHDOLENS
 PETRE KANADAROK
 CHRISTIAN WASATEN
 PETRE HAGOIRONTONGIVAS, Minister.
 KASAWETHA.

*Copy of a Letter from the Oneidas to his Excellency the
 Governor.*

To his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the State of New York and Admiral of the Navy thereof, &c., &c.

Brother :

This is to inform you our Situation, that we the three Tribes of Oneidas are divided into two Parties, that is to say, the Sachems follow Mr. Peter Penet the Frenchman's Advice ; and we the Chief Warriors and the Majority of our Nation, even Women, follow the State of New York. We therefore make a Petition and enquire you, as we look upon you as a true loving Brother, and as you are the Father of the State, &c., &c., &c.

Brother :

At the first Arrival of Mr. Peter Penet into our Castle, he delivered his Speech to us (about two Years ago) as follows :
 " My Children, attend : I am appointed by the Great King and the Marquis de la Fayette as a Deputy Superintendant over some of the Tribes of Indians here in America, & I am

safely arrived here in your Castle. The great King of France and the Marquis de la Fayette are long to see you happy. You are now the first Nation I entred into and I see you are happy and glad to see me here, and I must therefore choose your Nation to be his Subjects and you must obey what I say to you, because it is from the great King, and you must behave yourselves as a People, and for that Reason the westward and all the other Nations of Indians may come and confederate with you and with us. I come not to defraud you about your Lands (as your Brothers the Americans has done already to you these many times) but I am come here to do you good and make you sensible of what you have already done to yourselves. But if you don't mind what I say to you, your Brothers the Americans will take all your Lands away in a few Days; but if you will obey me you'll flourish & be the happiest People in America.

Brother :

But now Mr. Penet informed us this Spring that he was sent by the Ambassador who now resides in New York, on that Business. Mr. Penet at the same time begs of us a Piece of Land by Dream, which was granted, ten Miles square North of the Oneida Lake, tho' some of us remember his several Speeches and try to stop our Lands, but could not prevail.

Brother :

We therefore beg your Excellency to enquire that whether this Penet is authorised by the King of France or no, to do public Business to the Indians or to the Oneidas only. But if these important Affairs are unknown to you, you will be pleased to make enquiry of the Ambassador whether these things are so or not, and if he is appointed by the King and by the Marquis, and then what made him delay coming to us and is unknown to us, and this is what made us to distrust him; & as for the Agreement made between us and you, we the chief Warriors are firmly united to all our Transactions, and we are sensible & very well known that there is one authorized from the King of France to act and transact with the United States—that is the Ambassador, and that

there is no other Ambassador besides him that we know of. And another thing we would let you know that there is a French Priest arrived in this Place and told us he was sent by the Ambassador, according to the Desire of some of our Sachems; which we afraid that our Divisions will grow worse & worse both in temporal and spiritual, for we wish to have but one sort of Religion & Minister, that is Mr. Samuel Kirkland. Further we would let you know that our Sachems have sent a Letter to the Ambassador in a private Manner, refuse to let us know what they say in their Letter, but what we write to you we do it at our Council Fire, therefore we wish that the Ambassador should know that what our Sachems write to him is not from the whole Nation.

Done in Council at our Council House of Oneida, this twenty-third Day of August, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

JOHN JURY
 AGHWISTONNISK
 HENDRICK KAYEADAGO
 AUGUSTUS KANYEAGOTON
 WM. THAGHTAGHWISRE
 THOMAS AREAGHHOKTHA
 DANIEL SKENNODOA
 PETER OTSITETUTA
 JACOB ARIGHWAGENHAS
 JACOB DAKSTATER
 WM. KAREGHTOTASHON
 HENDRICK SHAGHHONEVATI
 CORNELIUS DAWINE
 POWLES AKENTYAKHEN
 ADEMORIS ROTSHIORHEN
 PETER KANENTO
 CORNELIUS SHAGOROTHEASI
 THOMAS KAMONGHJASE
 HANES OGHNEGHTAGO
 CORNELIUS OTATSHEGHTE.

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According to the Desire of our Brethren we will testify that in our Presence this Day they have given a true Account of this Situation.

HENDRICK AREPAUMENT
JOHN POTIPMIN
THARONDAWAGON
ONONGHSAWENGTE
TYOREAGHHAYWENTE
DEGHANAGREGHGON

Sacbems of the Mukbeacornick¹ Tribe and of the Teskarories.²

Attest, JACOB REED alias ATSEAKTATYE.

Copy of a Letter from James Livingston, Esquire, to his Excellency the Governor.

Johns Town, County of Montgomery,
30th August, 1789.

His Excellency George Clinton.

Sir:

Colo. Louis and three others of the Oneida Nation, having been sent to me by the Chiefs of said Nation with a Complaint against the State Surveyor for exceeding the Bounds of the Territory purchased from them by the Commissioners in behalf of the State, I have advised them to wait on your Excellency and inform you of the particular Circumstances relative thereto, and have no doubt but a Line from you to the Surveyor (without the Interference of the Legislature) will be sufficient to set Matters right. As I am unacquainted with the Boundary of your Purchase, must refer you to Colo. Louis for further Particulars; and I am

Your Excellency's

Most obedt. Servant,

JAS. LIVINGSTON.

¹Stockbridge Tribe.

²Senecas residing on the Buffalo Creek.

His Excellency's Answer to the Oneidas.

New York, 12 Septr, 1789.

Brothers :

I have received your Letter and I shall now give you an Answer. Mr. Penet is only to be considered among you as an adventuring Merchant, pursuing his own private Interest. He holds no Office, nor does he sustain any public Character in this Country ; he attempts to deceive you, therefore, when he says he is sent by the King of France and the Marquis Dela Fayette to transact Business with you. You ought not to listen to his Speeches or pay any regard to his Dreams. The King of France is our good Friend & Ally ; he has an Ambassador here (whom you saw with me at Fort Stanwix last Fall) to transact Business and maintain Friendship with the United States, but he has nothing to do with any particular State or the Indians residing within it. You must not therefore believe Mr. Penet when he says he is sent among you by the Ambassador. I presume the Priest now with you came at the Request of Mr. Penet and his Friends. They have a right to worship God in the Manner most agreeable to them, but I approve of your Determination to adhere to your old Minister, for I fear the Preaching of different Doctrines among you will not only serve to perplex and puzzle your understandings, and Divisions either with respect to your temporal or spiritual Concerns may prove dangerous to your Welfare and Prosperity.

Brothers :

I am happy to hear that you are firmly united as to our late Agreement, and you may rest assured that it will be faithfully observed on the part of the State. Let me exhort you to Sobriety and Industry, for it this alone, by the Blessing of the Great Spirit, that can secure to you Comfort and Happiness.

I am your Friend & Brother,

GEO. CLINTON.

New York, 12th Sepr., 1789.

Brothers :

A Letter which I have received from Colonel James Livingston, dated the 30th of last Month, mentions that Colo. Louis and three others of the Oneida Nation had been sent to him with a Complaint from your Chiefs against the Surveyor employed by the State for exceeding the Bounds of the Lands lately ceded by your Nation to the State. I am much surprized at this Information. We certainly understood each other well at the late Treaty. We had a Map of the Lands there, on which the Line of the Territory ceded and the Lands reserved for your use were marked and the Boundaries mentioned in the Deeds, which we then respectively executed, exactly correspond with the Lines agreed upon. You will recollect that at first there was some Disagreement between us on this Subject. but that it was finally settled to the mutual Satisfaction of both Parties.

Our Surveyor has a Copy of the Deed of Cession and of the Map used at the Treaty with him, and he is directed to run out the Lands reserved for your Nation exactly agreeable thereto. I cannot conceive therefore how any Uneasiness or Difficulty can arise on this Subject, if he pursues his Directions, which I presume he will. If however any Mistake should take place, I shall be able to discover it when he makes a Return of his Work to me, and it shall be corrected, as I am determined that the Agreement between us shall be faithfully carried into Execution, and the strictest Justice done to you.

I am happy to hear that you have received the Corn which I directed to be delivered to you, and I hope that by the Blessing of the Great Spirit and your Industry that you will not again experiance so great Hunger and Want.

I am your

Friend & Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

To the Oneidas.

Copy of a Letter from three of the Oneidas to His Excellency the Governor.

To his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the State of New York, Chief Commander of the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same, &c., &c., &c.

Brother :

We your Brothers, the chief Warriors, did send a Letter a few Days ago to your Excellency, wherein we informed you that we the Oneidas are divided into two Parties, the Sachems and some of the Warriors are for the French, that is to say, *Peter Penet*, and we, some of the chief Warriors, are for the State of New York, &c., &c., and this is now to inform you again, that we the Warriors are sorry for our Situation. We conversed with our Sachems, yesterday, in order to unite again, but our Sachems spoke to us contrary to our Opinion ; they say they will make us sensible of our Error at Mr. Penet's Return from Jamaica, and cannot make up with us at present.

Brother :

We will remember all our Agreements and Transactions with you and will hold it as long as we can, tho' our Sachems blame us a good deal about our Errors ; but we the Warriors are sensible that our Sachems do err in trusting so much to Mr. Penet. Our Sachems have granted another Piece of Land to one of Mr. Penet's Men near *Canasorage*, about one Mile square, besides the five Miles square granted to Mr. Penet, without our Knowledge, which did hurt to our Nation good deal ; we therefore beg you not to establish if this French People should come to you in order to have you to confirm their Deeds because it is not from the whole Nation. And we will not dispose of any of our reserved Lands.

Oneida, September 20, 1789.

RAGHWISTONNISK
TSHADEKARONGHHIS
THANYEATAKAYON.

Attest, JACOB REED, Clk.

*Copy of a Letter from the Oneidas to his Excellency the
Governor.*

To his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the
State of New York, and Commander of all the Militia
and Admiral of the Navy of the same, &c., &c., &c.

Brother :

We received your Answer the 16th of this Month, dated
the 12th of September last, to which we are happy to hear
the Truth that Mr. Penet is nothing else but a Merchant,
pursuing his own Interest.

We and our Sachems were all together and Colonel Louis
was present when your Letter was delivered, but could not
persuade our Sachems and Louis to make them believe your
Letter; and tho' they believed your hand writing, yet they
still hold Mr. Penet that he is sent from the King of France,
and Louis is trying to scare us and said that he would make us
sensible in a few Days, and would make us sorry because we
don't believe Mr. Penet. We are much surprised of his
Interruption; and further he says in the Council, that he
will make us sleep very fast, so that we cannot wake up
again; and we look upon our Sachems, they are still the same as
they were in the first of our Division or worse, quite contrary
to our Opinion; and the said Louis blames us much, and
said we did send for him from Canada the Beginning of the
late War, therefore he thought then that we would mind what
he would say to us; but we say he is mistaken about that.
The Continental Commissioners of Indian Affairs did send
for him. This said Louis has despised the Governor and can't
deny it; but when we told him he should not despise the
Governor, he said he would do so before your Excellency,
and he added and said to us: " You had despised Mr. Penet
because you will not believe him, therefore you shall not ex-
pect any presents of him at his Return, and let Governor
Clinton give you Presents more then you ever had; you
think you are free People, but I say you are Slaves to the
State of New York; but if you are free from the State, I

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myself will make you Slaves. Let your Minister, Mr. Kirkland, prove that you are free."

Brother :

We remember all our Transaction of the late Treaties ; you always tell us that we are free People, and we look on our Nation are free People. Can Colo. Louis make us Slaves, when he is a Stranger to us ? Can a single Stranger make a Nation Slaves ? We think its too impossible. We never and cannot recollect whether we ever gave him Commission to reign over us as a King.

Brother :

We are little sensible that we have a little kind of Slavery. Our neighbouring Brothers the white People do not use us very well, our young Warriors were among them ; when the white People saw our Indians they kill their Neighbours Hogs and told their Neighbours that the Indians did it, and so our People were put to Trouble for it. So Brothers we wish you would stop your People of serving us so.

Oneida, Octr. 28, 1789.

JOHN JURY
BLACKSMITH
ISHADEKARENGHES
AKENTYAKHON
ITANYEATAKAYON
OGHTATSHEGHTTE
ARIGHWAGENHA
SHAGOYAGHTORGHHERE
DEKANAGHTSIASNE
PETER OTSIQUETTE
AREARGHHOKTHA
OWYAGHSE
THASWENNKARORAS

Attest, JAC: REED, Clk.

The Law appointing his Excellency the Governor in conjunction with others Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians, was revived on the 28th January, 1790.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, held at the City of New York on the 29th of January, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Lawrance,
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Varick.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Board several Papers, from which it appeared probable that several individual Indians of the Cayugas and Oneidas, who had resided at Buffaloe Creek were on their way to this City, in order to make an Application either to the Legislature or to the Board. The consideration of these Papers was referred until Tuesday next.

Tuesday, Feb'y 2nd, 1790. The Board met.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

It appearing probable that some Indians will soon arrive in this City, and the Rev. Mr. Kirkland appearing before the Board,

Resolved, that he be requested to remain in this City until the further Order of the Board. That he be paid £50 on Account, and that his Excellency the Governor issue his Warrant on the Treasurer in his favour for the said Sum. Mr. Kirkland delivered to the Board the following Letter from two Seneca Chiefs.

Kanadasegea, 10 Decemr, 1789.

Brother Governor of New York attend!

I have received your Message by the Mouth of our Friend the Minister. In your Speech you wish to know of us *Senecas* if we have any farther Demands upon you for the Lands about Newtown¹ on the Teyasgea,² or if our Nation have any ancient Claim to any Lands East of the Line of Cession made by New York to Massachusetts, to which Line Mr. Phelps lately purchased of our Nation, and on Condition it should be made to appear that our Nation have any just Claim to any Lands East of the aforesaid Line, the Governor is disposed, in behalf of the People of New York to make them a just Compensation, for he would not have the *Senecas* nor any Indians wronged out of one Foot of their Lands.

Brother Governor:

This you desire to know. I thank you Brother for the just and good Mind you manifest towards Indians. Brother possess your Mind in Peace; our Indians are all on the Hunt, only one Chief left at home with me, but I can give you full Satisfaction on the Subject of your Speech. We formerly claimed a small Tract of Land about Newtown on the Teyaogea, and the Cayugas, by ancient Tradition, claimed a Tract towards Lake Ontario West of the Line of Mr. Phelps's Purchase. We *Senecas* with the Cayugas taking this Matter into Consideration, at our Council held on Buffalo Creek last Spring, mutually and unanimously agreed that Mr. Phelps's East Line should be the boundary Line betwixt us. We *Senecas* relinquished all Claims to any Lands East of said Line, and the Cayugas relinquished all their former Pretensions to any Lands West of said Line: Therefore we have no Demands upon the People of New York for any Lands East of the Line rup by Mr. Phelps. We nevertheless expect you will make the Cayugas a reasonable Compensation, which in your Wisdom & Righteousness you will determine. We wish Prosperity to your Government.

¹ Now Elmira, Chemung Co., N. Y.

² Tioga.

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Brother Governor : This is all I have to say ; farewell.
KALONDOWDNEA alias BIG TREE
SAGOYADYASTHA.

Translated and wrote by Samuel Kirkland, Missionary,
and to the Justness of the Translation he can make Oath if
required.

In Presence of
SETH REED,
JOEL PRESCOTT.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties
with the Indians within this State, held in the City of
New York Feb'y 9th, 1790.

Present : His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Benson.

Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor be requested
to sign the following Representation in Behalf of the Board,
and lay the same before the Legislature, vizt :

The Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians
conceive it their Duty respectfully to represent to the Legis-
lature, that the only Consideration with them in assenting to
the Stipulation in the late Treaty with the Cayuga Indians,
for a Grant of the Lands therein for that Purpose specified
to Peter Ryckman, was to compensate the said Peter
Ryckman and also Seth Reed for their joint Services to the
State in effecting a Meeting between the Commissioners and
the Cayugas ; that during the Negotiations with the Cayugas
the said Peter Ryckman informed the Commissioners, and
the Commissioners are persuaded that the Matter was like-
wise so understood by the Cayugas themselves, that the said
Seth Reed was, in Consequence of an Agreement between
him and the said Peter Ryckman, to have a Share of what-

ever Lands might be granted as a Compensation as aforesaid. That the said Seth Reed not being present, it was upon the whole supposed most advisable that the Stipulation should in the Treaty appear to be made in favour of the said Peter Ryckman solely, in full Confidence however and on a solemn Assurance from the said Peter Ryckman, that the said Seth Reed should have a Share of the said Lands pursuant to the said Agreement between them. That the Commissioners have Reason to believe that the said Peter Ryckman, should a Grant pass to him alone for the said Lands, will appropriate the whole thereof to his sole Benefit, whereby the real Intent of the said Stipulation will be defeated and the said Seth Reed greatly injured. To prevent such Injustice therefore, the Commissioners suggest the Propriety of a Provision in the Act to be passed for granting the said Lands, authorizing the Commissioners of the Land Office to enquire touching the said Agreement, and thereupon to grant the said Lands to either of them the said Peter Ryckman or Seth Reed solely, or such Part thereof in severalty or such undivided proportion thereof to them respectively, as the Commissioners shall deem Justice between the said Parties to require.

Friday, 12th February, 1790, A. M. The Board met.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Lawrance,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. L'Hommedieu, &
Mr. Jones.

Mr. Kirkland appeared before the Board and informed them that Colo. Han Jeury, Paulus, Anthony, Big Bear, Capt. Jacob Reed, Cornelius, Nicholas and Jacob, Colo. Louis Cook, and French Nicholas were arrived in this City from the Oneidas and were at the Inn kept by Mr. Myers.

Resolved, that Mr. Kirkland be authorized to agree with Mr. Myers to subsist the said Indians during their stay in this City, on the most reasonable Terms.

Friday, 12th February, 1790, P. M. The Board met.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Lawrance,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Varick, and
Mr. Hathorn.

The Indians, whom Mr. Kirkland this Morning informed the Board had arrived in this City, appeared before the Board and after the usual Congratulations, the Indians from Oriskany Village made a Speech, of which the following is a Translation, vizt:

With great Pleasure and equal Sincerity we congratulate the Governor of New York, whom we all of the Village of Oriske wish to address.

Brother Governor:

We request your Attention to a Matter concerning which we wish to enquire of you.

The Chiefs cannot find nor recollect any thing of the Writing which points out the Sale of the Lands in the Oriskene Village. Moreover at the Treaty held by Sr. Wm. Johnson in 1768, at Fort Stanwix, this Land was made a Subject of Conversation at that time, when Sr. William replied that we Oriskes should remain the Proprietors of said Land, viz: A Tract of four Mile Square, two Miles wide on each side of the Oriskene Creek, and four Miles South. This is the Dimension of the Tract which Sr. Wm. Johnson said should remain the Property of the Oriskes.

Brother Governor:

We have accordingly considered ourselves as the Owners of the aforesaid Tract; for we never deserted or flung away our Country during the late War. We would now a little divert the Subject and pray you to take care of your Subjects who have already surveyed along the side of the Flats, and

say they have done it by your Authority, and are even making Settlements upon the aforementioned Lands. But we apprehend, Brother, that you never gave any such Orders. We love our Land, considering it as our Property. In the same Style were we addressed by our Superintendant Genl. Schuyler, during the late War, that we should be happy and retain our Property if we conquered the common Enemy.

Brother Governor :

We entreat you to give us a Writing securing to us our Claim at Oriske, and then we may point out to your Surveyors the particular Bounds whenever they shall want to survey near us, and such as have already settled on our Lands will undoubtedly remove so soon as we shall be thus secured in our Property. This, Brother, is all we have to say of the Village of Oriske. •

Oriske, Jan'y 26th, 1790.

His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

The Oneidas then delivered to the Board the following Message :

His Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the State of New York and Admiral of the Navy of the same, &c.

Brother :

We the Sachems and chief Warriors of the Oneida Nation take this Oppertunity to address you in Writing. We hope you will attend to our Words. When you kindled the late Council Fire at Fort Schuyler and called us to sit around it with you, we were told that our Interest as well as yours was to be consulted, and that our mutual Happiness and Prosperity was to be the Object of the Treaty. It is unnecessary to repeat all what was said on the Occasion ; you have it all in Writing. We returned home possessed with an Idea that we had leased our Country to the People of the State, reserving a Rent which was to increase with the increase of the Settlements on our Lands until the whole Country was settled, and then to remain a standing Rent forever. This,

Brother, was our Idea of the Matter. We supposed that we had at the same time reserved a sufficient Tract of Country for our own Cultivation ; but since we had time to consult the Writings and have them properly explained, and have seen the Proceedings of your Surveyors, we find our Hopes and Expectations blasted and disappointed in every particular. Instead of leasing our Country to you for a respectable Rent, we find that we have ceded and granted it forever for the Consideration of the inconsiderable Sum of Six hundred Dollars per Year. We find our Reserve much smaller than we expected, as your Surveyors by beginning at a wrong Place, different from what was agreed on, have run the East and West Line almost by our Doors.

Brothers :

Tho' the Agreement is so very different from what we supposed at the time, yet as we have no Hopes that the State will ever relinquish so advantageous a Bargain, we do not ask it ; we only ask such an Addition to the Consideration Money as may amount somewhere near to a Compensation for the Cession of so large and fine a Country. As to our Reserve we request that the Lines may be run according to Agreement. We mean particularly the East and a certain Place on the *Unadilla Creek* called *Oistengbregowa* or the Great Rock.

Brother :

We look to you to see that Justice is done in that respect. We ask for nothing more ; we wish to live in Peace and Quietness. We are free People ; you have ever acknowledged it. We choose to regulate our Affairs and to conduct our Concerns by the Rules and Maxims of our Ancestors, without being governed by the Laws of our Brothers, the white People, which are not calculated for a People so little civilized as we are.

Done in Council this twenty-seventh Day of January,
one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

JOHN SKENODOA
AGHWISTONNISK
KAGHNENDA

AGWIRONDONGAS
 OGHNEYANHA
 KAGHSAWEDA
 KAGHNEDOREAS
 ROGHNKETYEA
 KAGHNATSTIO.

Witnesses :

THARONDAWAGON
 JAMES ROOT.

The Oneidas also delivered to the Board the following Message :

Brother :

You must very well know that there is a certain Vacant of the Lands you bought of us at the Treaty of Fort Harke-mar some Years ago. You promised then that you would send a Letter to the Governor of Pensylvania in order him to buy the said vacant Land, and since that we have made several Enquiries to you and then informed us that you did not send the Letter, and since that Peter Penet informed us (who was in Philadelphia the Winter before last) the Governor of that State told him that the Governor has paid his Part, three thousand Spanish Dollars, and has delivered the said Money to you for us.

Brother :

We therefore wish you to send the said Money to us by the Chief Warriors who are now going to you ; you will likewise pay us and send them to the said Men.

Brother :

The Lands which we leased to Mr. Armstrong he refuses to pay us the Rent, except you Order him.

Brother :

We must tell you all our Difficulties ; your Surveyors surveyed wrong from the Deep Spring, contrary to our Agreement. Our Warriors will inform you where this Line ought to run.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Board the following Letter from some of the Onondagoes to him :

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To His Excellency Governor Clinton :

Brother :

We the Onondaga Chiefs desire you that you would be so good as to remove Major Danford,¹ who resides in our Castle. We have found fault with him ; and we further desire that in June next, when we shall draw our Pay, we wish you order one Horse to deliver to us, and the rest all in Cash. This is all we have to say.

KAHIKTOTON
THONWASGWENTON
ONASATEKEN
ANYEATE.

Onondaga Jan'y 1st, 1790.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Board the following Letter :

White's Town, Jan'y 29, 1790.

Sir :

A Number of the Oneidas are now here on their way to New York, they say on Business of Importance. They request me to inform your Excellency that they propose to arrive the Day after this is presented, & beg that Quarters may be prepared ready for their Reception.

I am Sir,

With Sentiments of Respect,
Your Excellency's most obedt Servant,
JAMES DEAN.

GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Sir :

Hanyost an Indian of the Kayuga Tribe, who resided at Oneida, was on his way to New York to obtain from your Excellency a Patent for a Tract of Land reserved for his use by the Kayuga Nation, in the Sales made by them to the State. I have prevailed on him to return, and have assured him that the Indians who go to New York can negotiate his

¹ ASA DANFORTH, first White Settler born at Worcester, July 6, 1746, and at Onondaga, where he erected the first Mills and made the first Salt. He was died at Onondaga Hollow, Sept. 2, 1818.

Business as well as if he was present; at the same time informed him I had my Doubts whether there was any Hopes of his procuring a Grant for Lands, as no Reservation is made for him in the Deed from the Kayuga Nation. Your Excellency will no doubt explain the Matter in such Manner as will satisfy Hansyost; and if a Tract is to be granted to him, I shall take care to forward the Patent should it be transmitted to me.

I am your Excellency's
most obedt. Servant,

Albany, 6th Feb'y, 1790.

John Taylor

Governor CLINTON.

Saturday, 13th Feb'y, 1790. The Board met.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

The several Indians who met the Board yesterday also met the Board this Day, when a Conference was held between them and the Commissioners touching the Matters mentioned in the Messages delivered in to the Board yesterday, and a full Explanation took place between the Board and these Indians of the Deed of Cession executed by the Oneidas at the last Treaty held at Fort Schuyler, and also of all the Transactions between the Commissioners and the Oneidas, not only at that Treaty, but also at every other Treaty held with the Oneidas since the War, with which the Indians who

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were now present before the Board appeared fully satisfied, and that the several Matters of Complaint and Request contained in the Messages from the Oneidas were without Foundation.

Monday, Feb'y 15, 1790. The Board met.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Mr. Jones,
Mr. Varick,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Benson, and
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

His Excellency the Governor informed the Board that he had been to the Secretary's Office and taken Han Juery with him and shewn to him the Indian Deed for the Lands at Oriskany, and that the Deed being inspected by Han Juery and interpreted to him by Mr. Kirkland, he appeared to be satisfied that the Indian Right to the said Lands was extinguished, and only requested that he and his Tribe might be permitted to remain on the Land until they could conveniently remove, and that the Proprietors would make them some Compensation for their Improvements.

Resolved, That the following Message be sent to the Oneidas :

Brothers, Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneidas :

Attend to what the Governor and other Commissioners in behalf of the People of the State of New York shall say to you, in answer to your Message delivered to us by our Brothers the Big Bear, Paulus, Cornelius, Anthony and Jacob Reed.

Brothers :

We have met our five Brethren above named, and also our Brother Lewis Cook, Han Juery, Jacob and Nicholas Jordan in this City, and kindled up a Council Fire and joined in Thanks to the Great Spirit who had brought us together in Peace, and who had preserved you who remained at home in Health.

Brothers :

After smoking our Pipes together, we had a Talk with our Brethren above named, and we have told them all that has passed between you and us since the War, and they say they know it all to be true as we have told them, and they will tell it to you truly.

Brothers :

You say there was some Mistake or Misunderstanding in the Covenant which we entered into at Fort Schuyler, in the Fall of the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, about the annual Sum which we were to pay to you and about the Boundries of the Land which was to be reserved for your own use, and also that our Governor has received Money for you from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Brothers :

Hear what we have to say in Answer to this. We have shewn to our Brethren above named the same Map which we had at the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, on which was laid down the Limits of the Land which was to be reserved for your own use, and which Map we shewed to you and you told us you understood it; before you executed the Deed of Cession it was interpreted to you and you said you understood it; and we told you the annual Payment would always be six hundred Dollars and no more. Our Brethren above named, now here present, say all this is true, and so they will tell you. By the Deed of Cession you have a Right to make Leases of Part of the Lands reserved to yourselves; these Leases may produce to you an encreasing Rent.

Brothers :

The People of Pennsylvania say that they do not owe you any Money for Land, and our Governor has never received any Money from them for you.

Brothers :

The Covenant between you and us at Fort Schuyler in the Fall of the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, was according to ancient Custom put in writing, that it might not be forgotten or misunderstood. We gave you one Copy and we kept the other, and we have now again

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compared them together, they perfectly agree; and this Covenant, as it was so written, we told you and you said it was as much for your good as our own, and so it will be, and must therefore remain between us forever and unaltered.

Brothers :

Listen to our Advice; all the Words in your Messages are not good, nor such as one Brother would speak to another. We do not believe they are your own Words, but the Words of some wicked People who come among you to make you uneasy, and who want to get from you the Land which you have reserved for your own use. We advise you to be on your Guard against these People; do not listen to them; do not suffer them to come amongst you. By the Covenant between you and us, you are not to sell any of the Lands which are reserved for your own use, and if any of your People should sell any part of that Land, we will take care that the Person to whom they sell shall not have Patents or be suffered to settle on the Land.

Brothers :

We again exhort you to Peace and Unanimity among yourselves. Suffer not the Stories of the little Birds or any Difference in religious Matters to interrupt your Harmony. Remain united, bring your Pipes together and consult for your common good, as your Ancestors did, and like them you will prosper. Do not believe any Person who shall tell you that your Brothers the great Council of the State mean to injure you. They have your Interest and Happiness at Heart, and there is nothing in the Covenant between you and us to take away from you any of your ancient Priviledges. We are your Brothers.

Signed in behalf of the Commissioners.

GEO: CLINTON.

Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor issue his Warrant on the Treasurer, in favour of Mr. Varick, for the Sum of eighty Pounds, to be expended by him as the Board shall direct.

The Commissioners then presented to the Indians now

present a Piece of Strouds and to each of them a Blanket, and divided among them the Sum of £20:8:0.

Ordered, that Mr. Varick pay to Elting & Varick the Sum of thirteen Pounds fourteen Shillings and six pence for the Strouds and Blankets.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners in the city of New York, Feb'y 27, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Varick,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Jones, and
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

The Account of James Myers for subsisting the Indians while in this City, amounting to £27:18:8, and an Account of John Simmons, amounting to £13:0:6, for Expences attending the meeting of the Commissioners, were respectively produced to the Board.

Ordered that the same be paid by Mr. Varick.

Resolved, that Egbert Benson, Samuel Jones & Richard Varick be a Committee to collect the Amounts of the Board & to effect a final Settlement of the Accounts of the Board with the State.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners held in the City of New York, 2nd April, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Varick,
Mr. L'Hommedieu,
Mr. Lawrance,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Jones, &
Mr. Benson.

Resolved, that a Message be sent to such of the Chiefs and Sachems of the Onondagas and Cayugas as were not pre-

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sent at the Treaties heretofore held with the Commissioners, requesting them to meet the Commissioners at a Treaty proposed to be held at Fort Schuyler on the first Day of June, and that a Letter as from the Governor be sent to Capt. Brandt, requesting him and such other of the Mohawks as he may be able conveniently to assemble, to attend at the said Treaty, and that Mr. Tayler be employed to convey the said Message and Letter, and be also instructed to endeavour to accomplish the Object proposed to be accomplished by the Commissioners at the ensuing Treaty, and that Mr. Varick, Mr. Lawrance and Mr. Benson be a Committee to prepare and report the Draft of the said Message, Letter and Instructions.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners held in the City of New York, 8th of April, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Varick,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Benson, and
Mr. L'Hommedieu.

The Committee appointed on the 2nd Instant to prepare Drafts of the Message to the Chiefs of the Onondagas and Cayugas and the Letter from his Excellency the Governor to Capt. Brandt, reported the Drafts, which being agreed to by the Board, are respectively as follows :

To such of the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Onondagas and Cayugas who were not present at the Treaties held with those Nations at Fort Schuyler, in the Year 1788, and at Albany in the Year 1789.

Brothers :

There was a Council Fire held at Fort Schuyler in the Year 1788, between us and our Brothers the Onondagoes, and another Council Fire was kindled at Albany in the Year

W. w.

1789, between us and our Brothers the Cayugas, and Covenants were made between us and them. They gave us their Lands, except what they choose to keep for their own use, and we gave them Money, Clothing and Provisions, and we agreed to pay to them annually a Sum of Money forever. You doubtless have heard of these Covenants.

Brothers :

These Covenants were intended as much for the Advantage of the Onondagoes and Cayugas, as for the Advantage of the State of New York, and our Brothers the Onondagoes and Cayugas, who were present at these Council Fires, declared that they fully understood these Covenants.

Brothers :

From some Messages which we have received from some of you it would seem that you are not perfectly satisfied that your People have made these Covenants with their Brothers the People of the State of New York.

Brothers :

It has always been the Custom between your Ancestors and ours, whenever there was any Uneasiness between them, to meet together at a Council Fire, and smoke their Pipes together, and to open their Minds to each other, and so they always were in Peace and Friendship.

Brothers :

This was a good Custom and we hope it will be forever observed, and therefore we wish to meet a convenient Number of you, and who may be authorised to represent and transact Business for the whole of you, at the Council Fire which we propose to kindle at Fort Schuyler on the first Day of June next. We will then fully relate to you all that passed between us and our Brothers of the Onondagoes at Fort Schuyler in the Year 1788, and our Brothers the Cayugas at Albany in the Year 1789, & we will show to you the Covenants we made with them, as they were put down in Writing, and we will do what you can reasonably expect from us, so that you may afterwards possess your Minds in Peace.

Brothers :

We shall come to Fort Schuyler prepared to stay there

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only about a Week, as the other public Business of the State will not permit us to be absent longer, and we must therefore request you to be there at the time appointed.

Brothers :

We pray the Great Spirit to preserve both you and us in Health and Peace until we meet.

Sir :

I wrote to you on the 19th September last, and to that Letter I now particularly refer you.

The Legislature of the State have since continued the Commissioners in Office and they will be at Fort Stanwix on the 1st of June next, at which time and place it will be agreeable to them to meet you & such other of the Mohawk Nation as you may think proper should accompany you.

By the same Conveyance by which you will receive this Letter, the Commissioners have sent an Invitation to such of the Onondagoes and Cayugas as were not present at the late Treaties held with these Nations, to meet them at Fort Stanwix at the same time ; but have mentioned to them that the Commissioners will come prepared to stay about one Week only, as the other public Business of the State will not permit a longer Absence, and I have thought proper to give you this Intimation in order that you may be there as punctual as possible.

GEO: CLINTON.

New York, April 8th, 1790.

The following Letter from His Excellency the Governor was agreed to.

Sir :

With this you will receive a Message from the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians to such of the Chiefs, Sachems and Warriors of the Onondagoes and Cayugas who were not present at the late Treaties held with those Nations, and you will as speedily as possible repair to the western Part of the State and communicate this Message to the Persons for whom it is intended. The mode of Com-

munication must in some measure be submitted to your own Discretion ; it is however the Wish of the Commissioners to meet and treat with a Committee, provided the Appointment of a Committee can be effected in a Manner that they will be authorized to represent and transact Business in behalf of all the Persons to whom the Message is addressed. If you should find this not practicable, you will then bring with you as many of the Persons to whom the Message is intended, whom you will have it in your Power to assemble, so as to have them at Fort Stanwix by the time appointed for holding the Treaty. From the Message you will discover it to be the Determination of the Commissioners to remain at Fort Stanwix a few Days only, so that Punctuality in the Attendance of the Indians is indispensable.

The Letter to Capt. Brandt, which you will also receive with this, you will forward to him by a safe and speedy Conveyance. From your acquaintance with the Indians you will be able to determine who are the Individuals of the most Influence and Importance and consequently whose Attendance should be obtained.

GEO: CLINTON.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs held in the City of New York, on the 14th Day of April, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Varick,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. Lawrance.

Mr. Benson from the Committee appointed to collect the Accounts of the Board and to effect a final Settlement thereof with the State, reported that the Committee had liquidated the Account of John Tayler, the Agent of the Board, and that after making him every reasonable Allowance & Compensa-

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tion there remained in the Hands of Mr. Tayler the Sum of one hundred and nine Pounds due to the State. Whereupon

Resolved, That Mr. Tayler retain the same in his Hands and place the same to the Credit of this Board.

Resolved also, That it is necessary that the further Sum of five hundred Pounds be advanced to Mr. Tayler for the Purpose of procuring Supplies and Necessaries for holding the proposed Treaty with certain of the Six Nations, and that his Excellency the Governor draw a Warrant on the Treasurer of the State for that Sum.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Nathan Strong in the City of New York, on Thursday the 6th of May, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Benson, and
Mr. Varick.

Steel Trap and two other Indians of the Cayuga Nation having arrived in New York in Mr. Gerret Ryckman's Sloop from Albany on Business with the State, they attended the Board, and Steel Trap informed them that a Number of white People had contrary to the Treaty and Agreement concluded with their Nation at Albany, taken Possession of their reserved Lands and were making Improvements thereon, which had occasioned great Uneasiness among them, and he requested that Measures might be taken for removing the present Settlers and to prevent others from settling on those Lands in future. He expressed at the same time their entire Satisfaction with the Agreement entered into with them and that they were resolved on their Part faithfully to adhere to it.

The Board in a Speech delivered by the Governor expressed their Disapprobation of the Conduct of the white People in settling on the Lands reserved by the Cayugas,

contrary to the Agreement entered into with them, and assured them that effectual Measures should be taken to remove the Intruders from the Lands and to prevent the like Abuses in future.

They also informed the Cayugas that the Governor would immediately issue his Proclamation commanding the white People to depart from their Lands on Pain of having their Buildings prostrated and their Improvements laid waste, and that Copies of that Proclamation should be given to them to be set up at Cayuga and distributed among the Intruders; and that in case the Proclamation was disobeyed Measures would be taken to carry the Law of the State on that Subject into effectual Execution.

Resolved, That Blankets and other Necessaries to the Amount of about ten Pounds be presented to Steel Trap and the other two Indians accompanying him, and that Mr. Varick be requested to procure them and pay the Expense of the present Meeting and charge it to Mr. Tayler, the Agent to the Commissioners.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of John Simmons in the City of New York, on Monday the 10th Day of May, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Hathorn,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Lawrence, and
Mr. Benson.

Mr. Garret Ryckman presented to the Board an Account of the Expences attending the bringing of Steel Trap and the two other Cayuga Indians to New York and for Necessaries furnished them on their Passage from Albany, during their Stay at New York and for their Return to Albany; and Peter Ryckman's Bill for his Attendance as an Interpreter to those Indians; and also a Bill of Dr. John Gamage for Medicines and Attendance on Steel Trap while sick at New

York, amounting to two Pounds fourteen Shillings; and also a Bill of Dr. Samuel Borrowe for Medicines and Attendance on Steel Trap, amounting to two Pounds nine Shillings and six Pence.

Mr. Varick also produced to the Board an Account of Elting & Varick, amounting to nine Pounds five Shillings and seven pence half penny, for Necessaries procured by him from them for Steel Trap and the other two Cayuga Indians, agreeable to the Order of the Board at their last Meeting. Thereupon

Resolved, That Mr. Varick be requested to pay to Messrs. Elting and Varick, and to Drs. Gamage and Borrowe the Amount of their respective Accounts; and that he also advance to Mr. Garret Ryckman, for himself and Brother, the Sum of thirty Pounds on Account and charge the same to the Agent.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at the House of his Excellency the Governor in the City of New York, on Thursday the twentieth Day of May, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Mr. Floyd,
Mr. Jones,
Mr. Benson,
Mr. L'Hommedieu, and
Mr. Varick.

Resolved, That the Governor issue a Warrant to the Treasurer, directing him to pay to Richard Varick the Sum of two thousand three hundred and seventy Pounds, being the Ballance of Monies appropriated by Law at the last Session for the Purpose of defraying the Expence of the Treaty proposed to be held with the Indians. The Commissioners having resolved to set out on their Journey to Fort Stanwix on the 20th of May, Mr. L'Hommedieu accordingly attended in New York on the 18th Instant, and on Saturday the 22nd

of May, the Governor, Mr. L'Hommedieu & Mr. Varick embarked on Board of Captain Samuel Lewis's Sloop for Albany.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within this State, at the House of Seth Ranney at Fort Stanwix, on Tuesday the first Day of June, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
His Honor Lieut. Governor Van Cortlandt.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Peter Gansevoort, Junr., &
Richard Varick.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. L'Hommedieu and Mr. Varick having embarked at New York on Saturday, the 22nd Day of May, & being joined by his Honor the Lieutenant Governor on Monday the 24th at Peek's Kill, arrived at Albany on the Thursday the 27th in the Morning, where they were joined by Abraham Ten Broeck and Peter Gansevoort, Junr., Esquires, and in the Afternoon commenced their Journey for this Place and arrived here on this Day in the Morning, being the Day appointed for opening the proposed Treaty.

No Indians appeared on the Ground; but Samuel Street, of Niagara, Esquire, attended and produced to the Board a Letter of Attorney under the Hands and Seals of nine Indians, said to be Sachems and Chief Warriors of the Five Nations, and to be executed at their great Council Fire, at Buffaloe Creek, the seventh Day of April last, authorizing the said Samuel Street to treat with the Governor and Commissioners of Indian Affairs and the People of the State of New York, touching and concerning their Lands, and to dispose of the same and the Rents thereof, only reserving the Execution of the Deeds for the same to be done by themselves.

The Board having taken the same into Consideration :

Resolved, that it would be improper to enter into any Negotiation with Mr. Street, especially before the Return of Peter Otsiquette, who was charged with their Message & Invitation to the Indians at Buffaloe Creek, as it appears that the said Letter of Attorney was executed and that Mr. Street had left Buffaloe Creek before Peter Otsiquette arrived there.

Resolved further, that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. Street on the Subject of his Letter of Attorney, in order to this Board being informed of his Views and Expectations, and that Messrs. L'Hommedieu, Ten Broeck and Varick be the Committee for that Purpose.

On Wednesday the 2nd Day of June, Mr. Samuel Kirkland arrived and made the following Report, to wit:

“Albany, May 4th, 1790, Received the Dispatches from his Excellency the Governor and Commissioners, by the Hands of John Tayler, Esquire, their Agent, for calling the Cayugas and Onondagoes residing on Buffaloe Creek, to a Treaty with the Commissioners of this State to be held at Fort Stanwix the first of June next. I set out from Albany at 4 o'Clock P. M. Before I had reached Oneida, I had direct Information from both the Onondagoes and Oneidas, that the Indians were generally on the Hunt, and particularly those whom I might safely trust in Company with a white Man to take Charge of the Messages to the Westward. After much Difficulty from the Badness of the Way and Failure of two Horses, I arrived at Upper Oneida on Saturday, hired a Runner to go near 30 Miles into the Woods for Peter Otsiquette, the only one suitable to accompany a white Person with the above mentioned Messages to the Buffaloe Indians.

Wednesday Morning a little after Sun Rise, Roger Levett and Peter Otsiquette set off from Onondago with the Governor's Dispatches, and with similar Instructions to those I had received from Mr. Tayler, with the Addition of the Names of the Chiefs and Head Warriors of both Cayugas and Onondagas, who were not present at several previous Treaties held with their Nations by the Commissioners of this State.

Thursday called the Chiefs and Warriors of the Onondagoes together at the Request of some Individuals to acquaint them with the Governor's Message to their Brethren on the Buffalo, and to remove some Difficulties which labored in their Minds by the Voice of the Birds.

Returned to Oneida where I lay sick several Days. On the 18th I was informed that Webster, the Onondaga Interpreter,¹ had returned from Cayuga and passed Oneida on his way to Oriske. I accordingly rode to the Vicinity of Oriske to engage him as a second Messenger to go after Levett and Otsiquette, agreeably to ancient Usage, to expedite the Indians on their way to the Treaty. He appointed to meet me at Old Oneida by the 20 or 21st Instant for the Purpose."

On Tuesday the 2nd of June, in the Evening, a Committee of the Oneida Nation, consisting of *Agbwistonisk* alias Jacob Blacksmith, *Gagsaweda* alias Lodwick, *Tehonwaghweanglagakbon* alias Colo. Hanyury, *Kanaghsatyerba* alias Joseph, *Abeandyakbon* alias Lowlence, *Thagblaghgwesere* alias William, and *Atsiaktatye* alias Jacob Reed, authorized for the Purpose by that Nation, attended to receive their annual Payment, and on the 3rd in the Morning Payment was accordingly made to them of 600 Dollars by John Tayler, Esquire, the Person appointed by his Excellency the Governor, and a Receipt for the same, dated on the 4th of June, was in due form executed in the Presence of the Commissioners and witnessed by James Livingston, Samuel Street, William Colbreath and Samuel Kirkland.

On the same Day *Kabitotote*, one of the Onondaga Sachems residing on their Reservation, accompanied by Ephraim Webster, Abraham Bont, Capt. Peter, and one or two others,

¹ EPHRAIM WEBSTER, a Native of Hempstead, N. H., served in the Revolution, and a few Years after began Trade at Oriskany. In 1786, he settled at Onondaga near the Mouth of the Creek, and the next Year at Onondaga Hollow. He adopted the Language and Manners of the Natives, among whom

he became a Favorite, and from whom he received a Grant of Land. He served in the War of 1812-15, as Captain, was many Years Indian Agent and Interpreter, held several Years the Offices of Justice of the Peace and Supervisor, and died at Tuscarora in 1825.—*Clark's Onondaga County.*

attended as a Committee authorized for the Purpose by that Nation to receive their annual Payment. It being late in the Afternoon they were furnished with Provisions and retired to refresh themselves.

In the mean time Peter Otsiquette, the Messenger of the Commissioners, arrived from Buffaloe Creek, accompanied by an Onondaga Indian from thence, and made the following Report, vizt:

“That on the 16 Ulto. he and Mr. Levett arrived at Buffaloe Creek and the next Day delivered the Governor’s Dispatches in public Council of the Onondagoes, Cayugas and Senecas.

The old Cayuga Chief called the *Fish Carrier*, and the Onondaga Chief called *Clear Sky*, rejected the Governor’s Message inviting them to a Treaty at Fort Stanwix. They moved in public Council to invite the Governor and Commissioners from New York to Buffaloe Creek for the Business of the proposed Treaty. This Proposition was utterly rejected by Peter Otsiquette and seconded by many of their Warriors as ungenerous and impracticable. After counselling for several Days among themselves, the Onondagoes informed Peter Otsiquette that they had resolved to repair to the Governor’s Council Fire at Fort Stanwix. The Cayugas might do as they pleased. They also observed to Peter Otsiquette, that the Opposition to the Governor’s Message was made only by three particular Friends of Colo. Butler.

The next Day the Determination of the Onondagoes was published in full Council, upon which the *Fish Carrier* replied that they were very unwise. Their Resolution would tend to divide the Nation and that it was not safe to go down among a People who would take every Advantage of them when once in their Power. That they should remember what their Nation had suffered heretofore at Onondaga.

Peter Otsiquette replied that he would stake his Life against any ill Treatment they might receive from the People of New York by attending to the proposed Treaty. That he was fully satisfied of the peaceable Disposition of the

State and the Americans, and particularly the Governor of New York towards the Indians.

The Onondagoes then appointed a young Warrior to accompany Peter Otsiquette down to Fort Stanwix, with Orders to acquaint the Governor that they would set out within three Days. When they were just setting out, the *Fish Carrier* sent them Word that he had some Thoughts of following the Onondagoes, but he should take several Days to make up his Mind upon the Subject."

Whereupon Resolved, that it will be inexpedient to make the annual Payment to the Onondagoes, previous to the Arrival of that Part of their Nation which is expected from Buffaloe Creek, and that the Reason of the Delay be explained to *Kabiktote* and others, the Committee of that Nation.

On Friday the 4 Day of June, *Kabiktote* and other Onondaga Indians attended at the Commissioners' Quarters, when the Governor, after the ordinary Salutation, informed them that in Consequence of Reports of Uneasiness among the Indians to the Westward, which had been communicated to him last Summer, the Commissioners had thought proper to kindle a Council Fire at this Place at this time, and to invite those of their Nation who resided at Buffaloe Creek to attend it, in order to hear what they had to say and to remove all just Causes of Complaint and introduce Peace and Harmony among all our Indian Brethren. That it would therefore, if agreeable to them, be expedient to delay making the annual Payment to them until the Arrival of those Indians, who might be expected every Day.

To this they cheerfully consented, but informed the Board that agreeable to ancient Custom, which could not be departed from, they would be under the Necessity of returning to their Nation to make their Report; that this would tend to expedite and facilitate the Business, as they would meet their Brethren from the Westward and hurry them on; and that they would at the same time have an Opportunity of reconciling the Minds of their Brethren to the Agreement entered into by them with the Commissioners, and to settle

all Matters with them to the perfect Satisfaction of both Parties, and that they did not doubt but they would be able to effect an amicable Settlement.

It was at the same time deemed advisable that a Messenger should be sent on to the Westward to announce the Arrival of the Governor and Commissioners at the Council Fire at Fort Stanwix, and to hasten the Journey of the Indians from Buffaloe Creek; and for this Purpose Ephraim Webster of the Onondagoes was immediately dispatched for the Purpose, and Kahiktote and his Companions were furnished with Provisions and set off to Onondago.

On Saturday the 5th Day of June, the Commissioners having been informed that Animosities and Parties prevailed among the Oneidas about their private Concerns and that it was probable that this Business would occasion a Visit, unseasonable to the Commissioners and expensive to the State, the Governor accompanied by Messrs. L'Hommedieu, Gansevoort and Varick, with Mr. Kirkland their Interpreter, went to *Cononowabele*¹ alias the Oneida Castle, and after receiving the usual Congratulations on the Arrival of himself and the Commissioners with him, the Governor explained to *Domine Peter, Lodwick, Anthony, the Great Bear* and other Chiefs and Warriors who attended, the Reasons which induced the Commissioners to kindle a Council Fire at Fort Stanwix at this time, and informed them that when the Indians from the Westward arrived he would expect that some of their principal Chiefs & Warriors would attend at Fort Stanwix, to bear Witness to what might pass between them and the Commissioners and be convinced of the friendly Disposition of the State towards all their Indian Brethren, and of their Desire to adopt every reasonable and just Measure to heal the Animosities which subsisted between them.

¹ Usually written *Kanonwalohule*.— *wa-no-hate*, by the Onondagas, *Ga-no-wi-ba*, by the Cayugas, *Ga-no-a-o-ta*, and by the Senecas, *Ga-no-a-o-ha*, each signifying *Enemy's Head on a Pole*.— *Jones's Oneida County*, 871.

He also explained to them the Answer of the Commissioners to their Message of last Winter and mentioned the Causes which had excited Uneasiness and Animosity among them, and cautioned them to beware of those Causes in future and exhorted them to Peace and Friendship as essential to their Prosperity and Happiness.

On the next Morning the Governor and Commissioners returned to their Quarters at Fort Stanwix.

On Monday the 7th Day of June, in the Evening, the Messengers from the Onondagoes and one Messenger from the Cayuga Nation residing at Buffalo Creek, and also a Messenger from Capt. Joseph Brant and the Mohawk Chiefs residing at Grand River on the North Side of Lake Erie, arrived, and the Onondaga Messenger delivered the following Message, to wit:

Brother, the Governor of New York, you will now attend and open your Ears!

We two are sent from the Six Nations, particularly from the Onondagoes. We left them on their Way from Buffalo Creek at a small Place called *Kanawagbla*, and they will be on as soon as the Weather and their Strength (some being Weak) will admit.

The Chief of the Cayugas said they would leave Buffalo Creek the next Day, and request you to exercise a long Mind if they do not come at a particular Day; that they would be on as soon as the Weather and their Strength (some being old and feeble) would admit. Some of the Mohawks also propose to come on as we understand.

We have a Message to Mr. Street, which we are charged to deliver to him in your Presence.

The Messenger from the Cayugas at Buffalo Creek then communicated the following Message:

Brother, the Governor of New York, and the other Commissioners attend!

I am sent express by the Cayuga Nation. My Message consists of few Words, but they are important as relating to

your Council Fire. I am ordered to acquaint you that our Chiefs are on their Way. They request you earnestly to exercise Patience for their Arrival; many are feeble among them. The time has been so short since the Arrival of your Message that they have exerted themselves in preparing to come, and they again urge you to exercise a long Mind until they arrive, and not cover up the Council Fire until they see you.

Brother Governor :

Our aged Chief the *Fish Carrier*, has long been confined by Sickness and is very much enfeebled, that he has not been able to rise to attend a Council Fire at a near Distance; but now on hearing your Voice he will rise up and attend at your Council Fire; they are now I suppose at Kanadasegea. He particularly said he would have every thing ready to leave the Village in 3 Days after I left it. It is now seven Sleeps since I left the old Chief at the Village. 10 Chiefs of our Nation had agreed to come; I myself make the tenth Chief.

The Messenger from Capt. Brant and the Mohawk Chiefs then delivered his Message :

Brother Governor of New York and Commissioners, attend!

I am a Mohawk residing at Grand River, I am now arrived at the Council Fire, the kindling of which is of Importance to the Five Nations. I thank the Great Spirit for having preserved me on the Way. I came in Safety and now meet you in Peace. I acknowledge the Favour of the Great Spirit for our mutual Protection, and that I was so happy as to arrive the same Evening with the other Messengers of the Five Nations. My Message altho' important is comprized in few Words. I am directed to inform the Governor and his Chiefs that the Chiefs of the Mohawk Nation are on their Way to attend this Council Fire and to entreat that it may not be covered up until they arrive, as it is their Desire to be present at the intended Negotiations. For this Purpose I was sent on by Land and ordered to make the utmost Dispatch and to return by Water and meet them with an

Answer from the Governor, whether the Council Fire would remain kindled until they arrive.

The Letter of Invitation from the Governor to the Mohawk Nation was a long time on the way to them. It was detained a considerable time at the other Villages before it was forwarded to their Place of Settlement on the Grand River, being remote, which prevented them preparing to come on earlier.

Capt. Brant with the Chiefs ordered me to come forward with the utmost Dispatch I could make, lest the Council Fire should be covered up before I could arrive to inform the Governor and Commissioners that they were on their way, and to deliver to the Governor the Letter from Capt. Brant, which I have this Evening presented.

It is now 11 Sleeps since I left the Settlement on Grand River, & seven, according to Agreement, that Capt. Brant and the Chiefs were to leave it; whereabouts I shall meet them I know not. Captain Brant and the Chiefs particularly requested me to present their Compliments to the Governor and his Chiefs and to express their great Desire to see them.

To which the Governor replied :

Brothers :

We are happy to see you here. We join with you in Thanks to the Great Spirit for having preserved you in your Journey and for your safe Arrival at this Place. We will now order you Refreshment and in the Morning we will send for Mr. Street, and when you shall have delivered to him the Message which you are charged to deliver to him in our Presence, we will give you our Answer to your respective Nations.

The Letter from Capt. Brant to his Excellency the Governor is in the Words following, vizt :

Mohawk Village, Grand River,

Sir :

26th May, 1790.

I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's Letter, dated 8th April. We are very sorry it comes to our Hands

so late, as the time is so far expired. It is not in our Power to meet with you and the Commissioners at Fort Stanwix. Our hearty Wish is to have the Affairs about the Land accommodated with you, for which Reason I now send express to your Excellency to let you know the reasons of our not attending at the Time and Place appointed to meet with you. As we are very anxious to see you about different public Affairs, please to send Word by the Express where we shall meet with you and the Day, as we set off soon after the Express and go on slowly till further Notice from you. As for the Cayugas and Onondagoes we can't tell how they received the Invitation, as they are some Distance from us, at Buffalo Creek. You may be assured that Captain David, myself and proper Persons will attend.

Sir, I remain your most obedt.
humble Ser't,

Jos. Brant

GEO. CLINTON, Esq.,
Governor of the State of New York, &c., &c.

On Tuesday Morning the 8th of June, the Messengers who came from Buffalo Creek attended the Board and in their Presence the Onondaga Messengers communicated the following Message to Mr. S. Street, to wit :

That it was the Request of the Chiefs residing at Buffalo Creek, that he should not negotiate any Business for them with the Governor of New York and the Commissioners, until they arrived, as they understood that he had come away from that Country upon Business for them before they had received the Message from the Governor inviting them to his Council Fire at Fort Stanwix.

That if Mr. Street had passed this Place to wait on the Governor, he should return and remain at the Council Fire

till they arrived. That if the Council Fire was covered up before he arrived he should write the Governor requesting him to rekindle the same, as they were very anxious to see him.

The Governor then desired the Onondaga and Cayuga Messengers to inform their respective Nations that he would keep the Council Fire burning as long as he possibly could consistent with other public Business. That his Patience was almost exhausted, and requested therefore that they would expedite their Journey to this Place.

The Governor then delivered to the Mohawk Messenger an Answer to Captain Brant's Letter in the Words following:

Fort Stanwix, June 7th, 1790,
7 o'Clock P. M.

Sir:

I have this Moment received your Letter of the 26th Ult. I am sorry that mine of the 8th April met with so much Delay on its Passage. I should have written to you at an earlier Day but I concluded that the Intimation I gave you in my Letter of the 19th September last, that it was probable that I should be here on the first Day of this Month, would have rendered an earlier Notice (had not my Letter been so long delayed on the Road) unnecessary.

I have been at this Place with the Commissioners for Indian Affairs since the first Instant (the Day appointed for meeting), and altho' my other public Business calls very pressingly for my Attention at New York, I shall nevertheless continue at this Place some Days longer, in Hopes of having the Pleasure of an Interview with you and such of the Chiefs of your Nation as are with you. I must therefore request that you will expedite your Journey as much as possible.

I am with great Respect,

Sir, your most obed't Serv't,

GEO. CLINTON.

Capt. JOS. BRANT.

On the same Day, late in the Afternoon, Ephraim Webster, who was dispatched as a Messenger on the 4th Instant, to meet the Indians who were coming from Buffaloe Creek, returned and informed the Board that he proceeded as far as Cayuga, where he met with about 50 Onondagoes on their way to attend the Treaty. That the old Men had determined to take Passage by Water from the Cayuga Lake and the young Men set out by Land, and when he left them they were on their way between Cayuga and Onondaga. Webster also brought a String of Wampum from the Cayugas who reside upon the Reservation, acquainting the Board that their Brothers from the Buffaloe were on their way, and as soon as they arrived at Cayuga they would accompany them down and attend the Treaty. Both the Onondagoes and Cayugas intreated the Commissioners to exercise a long Mind and keep the Council Fire burning, as they had come a great Distance and could make but slow Progress in travelling, being very faint and hungry, and requested that a little Provisions might be sent on to those who come by Water, to boil one Kettle at the Oneida Lake, which would enable them to come on.

On Thursday the 10th of June, a Messenger arrived from Oneida with a Letter from the *Beech Tree*, informing the Governor that the Onondagoes from the Westward were arrived on this Side of Onondaga and that they were expected at Oneida on that Night and requesting that some Provision might be sent there to refresh them, and a Keg to grease their Joints and a Staff to enable them to compleat their Journey.

The Board were of Opinion that it would delay the Arrival of the Onondagoes, should Provisions be sent on for them to the Oneida Castle, and therefore the Governor wrote an Answer to *Beech Tree*, assigning this as the Reason for not complying with his Request, and sent him a small Staff for his own use.

On Friday the 11th of June, two Messengers arrived from the Onondagoes who are on their way from Buffaloe Creek

and who were this Morning at the Deep Springs, with the following Message to the Board, vizt.

Brother Governor of New York!

We are sent by our Chiefs to acquaint you that they are on their way and tomorrow hope to meet you at your Council Fire. The Warriors having come a long Journey, can not dress themselves in a suitable Manner to appear before the Great Sachem, without some Paint, which compleats their Dress in the Indian Style. They request you therefore to send a little of that Article by us, and they will dress themselves in the best Manner they can, in order to honor the Governor & Chiefs of New York upon their Appearance before them.

The Sachems being old and much Legweary request a Staff of the Bigness of half a Charger, to enable them to perform the remaining Part of the Journey and keep Pace with the Warriors.

On Sunday the 13th of June, in the Afternoon, the Onondagoes arrived from Oneida, and after encamping, waited on the Commissioners, and the Governor in a short Speech, in the usual Form, congratulated them on their safe Arrival to this Place. Whereupon *S'kalengbyowane* or *Clear Sky*, one of the principal Sachems from Buffalo Creek, made their salutatory Address to the Commissioners. After the usual Ceremony of kindling a Council Fire and smoaking a Pipe, the same Chief again rose and in another Speech, in which he acknowledged the Receipt of the Governor's Invitation, he expressed their high Satisfaction at the Prospect it gave them of having a personal Interview with the Governor and Commissioners, and he recapitulated the Purport of the Letter of Invitation, which with the Belt he returned in due Form.

They then delivered in Returns of the Number of each Tribe, amounting in the whole to 102, and requested that the ancient Custom might be revived of a little Refreshment in the Evening to make them sleep well, and in the Morning to wash their Eyes.

Several other Speeches were then made by the Sachems and

Chief Warriors, highly complimentary and expressive of their great Joy and Satisfaction at this Interview with their Governor and his Chiefs.

After the usual Ceremonies were passed, the Governor informed them that the Commissioners would be ready to meet them and proceed upon Business tomorrow Morning at 10 o'Clock, and then retired.

On Monday the 14th June, the Onondaga Nation attended the Board at the Council Fire and the Governor opened the Business of the Meeting.

After the usual Introduction on the Occasion, accompanied with a String of four Rows of white Wampum, he observed that being informed that Heats and Animosities prevailed among them, he was induced to kindle a Council Fire at this Place at this Time, agreeable to ancient Usage, in order to interpose his friendly Services towards healing those Divisions and introducing Harmony among them. He then observed that after the Close of the War, which had for a Time unhappily interrupted our friendly Intercourse, he had taken the earliest Opportunity of kindling a Council Fire at this same Place, to establish Peace, revive our ancient Friendship and rub off the Rust which the Covenant Chain had contracted in the Course of the War. That many of the Chiefs and Warriors of the different Nations attended at that Meeting, and the greatest Cordiality prevailed, so that he had Reason to believe that that Friendship which subsisted between our respective Forefathers, was again revived and confirmed; and lest any thing might interrupt it, he had at that Time explained to them the Manner in which Business was hereafter to be transacted between us.

(Here he mentioned particularly the Explanation which took Place at that Treaty & appealed to those who were present at that Time and now here, for the Truth of what he now repeated.)

He then observed that more than three Years had elapsed and nothing occurred during that Time to disturb our mutual Friendship and Tranquility; but that at the End of that

Period he was, to his great Surprize informed that some of the disobedient Children of the State had been among our Brethren of the Five Nations to the Westward, and had, contrary to our Laws and the ancient Usage that subsisted between us, purchased from them all their Lands; and that other white People who were connected with them, were in Consequence of this Transaction, rushing into their Country and possessing themselves of their Lands, in Defiance of the Authority of the State. That our Arm was long enough to reach them and had Strength sufficient to reclaim and punish them, but we desisted from these harsh Measures, lest the due Exercise of our Power might have interrupted the Friendship which we wished to maintain with our Brethren of the Five Nations; and the more especially as some of them appeared to countenance the Conduct of our disobedient Children. Possessed therefore of this friendly and peaceable Disposition, he had proposed kindling a Council Fire at this Place two Years ago, and accordingly invited all his Brethren of the Five Nations to attend it, that these Matters might be enquired into, and Measures taken to prevent the Evils which then threatened; but hearing that a Council Fire was proposed to be kindled under the Authority of Congress at Muskingum, nearly at the same time, and that our Brethren of the Five Nations were invited to attend it, he postponed kindling his Council Fire until the latter End of the Month of August, and renewed his Invitation to the Five Nations to meet him at this Place at that Time. That he attended with several Chiefs of the State on the Day last appointed & found many of his Brethren of the Onondagoes at this Place whom he now again saw here present, and he exercised much Patience for the Arrival of others of his Brethren of the same Nation from the Westward; but none of them came. After many Days waiting, and being informed that a National Representation was present, he proceeded upon Business. That they discoursed freely upon every thing that had passed and on the then unhappy Situation into which our Affairs had been brought, by Misconduct and a Departure from the ancient Mode of doing Business, and after much Delibera-

tion, we entered into an Agreement with each other which we considered as the best calculated to promote our mutual Good. That it was unnecessary to repeat all that had passed between us or the particular Covenants we then entered into. That these Things they must all be acquainted with, & he appealed to those of the Nation who were then present, whether all the Business which was then transacted was not done in Sobriety and with Fairness and Candour. That in Consequence of the Agreement which then took place, we paid our Brethren a large Sum of Money and Goods, and stipulated to pay them a considerable Sum on the first Day of this Month in every Year. That this Covenant on our Part had been faithfully complied with. That last Year our Agent brought the Money to this Place on the Day and it was honestly paid. That we had done more; when they were hungry and wanted Bread, we purchased Corn and sent to this Place at our own Expence to relieve their Distresses. That this Year we were also ready to pay the Money on the Day stipulated; but that as Uneasiness subsisted among them, and we had proposed to kindle a Council Fire on the same Day, we thought it advisable to delay the Payment till we could see all our Brethren together, and by our good Offices and Advice, endeavour to reconcile their Differences. He then desired them not to misunderstand him; that he did not mean by what he had said that any Alteration could take place in the Covenants we had already entered into; that these are for our mutual Happiness and they must stand as firm as the Mountains and endure as long as the Waters run. That our Business here was only to reconcile the Differences, and Animositities which had taken place among them, and we were now ready to afford them our best Services for this salutary Purpose. That we had already exercised a long Mind, as the public Business of the State particularly called for his Return to New York, and it would be necessary that they should meet together, deliberate upon their Affairs, and bring Matters to a Conclusion with all possible Dispatch. That they should avoid listening to the Birds, as they would again attempt to delude and deceive them. He exhorted them to deliberate

well, to think for themselves and act as Candour and Justice should dictate, and then there was little to fear but they would do what is right.

To which *S'balongbyowane* or *Clear Sky* replied as follows :
 Brother Governor of New York !

Open your Ears and hear what I have to say. The Great Spirit has appointed this Day for our Meeting in Peace and smoaking our Pipes together at your Council Fire.

Our Brother the Governor with his Chiefs have welcomed us to this Council Fire agreeable to the Custom of our Ancestors. You have opened our Ears that we may listen to what you shall say at this Meeting designed to revive the Friendship which subsisted between our Ancestors, and brighten the Covenant Chain.

We the Sachems & Warriors here present in Town now welcome you at the Council Fire which you have kindled ; and that nothing on our Part may obstruct the Business of this friendly Meeting, we wipe from your Eyes and those of your Chiefs the Tears, if any may have fallen for the Loss of your Wives, your Children or your Friends. We also remove every Obstruction from your Breasts, that your Minds may operate freely in adjusting the Affairs which concern our mutual Peace & Happiness.

By this String also we open your Ears that you may hear our Voices as distinctly as you have prepared us to hear yours.
 (A String of white Wampum.)

Brother :

In the Course of your Speech, you cautioned us to think for ourselves and to deliberate well, and in the opening of the Business you touched upon many Matters of great Importance to our Welfare. We will endeavour to observe your Advice, but as the Day is now far spent and the Sun sunk low, we will spend the Evening in Deliberation & Rest, and if we can be prepared we will give you an Answer Tomorrow.

Brother Governor with your Chiefs ! We have nothing more to say at present.

On the same Day the Board deemed it expedient to send forward a Messenger to hasten the Arrival of the Cayugas, and Ephraim Webster was accordingly despatched with the following Instructions, to wit :

Fort Stanwix, 14th June, 1790.

Sir :

Ever since the 1st of this Month, the time fixed for kindling a Council Fire at this Place, I with the other Commissioners have been attending in daily Expectation of meeting our Brethren, the Cayugas and Onondagoes. Yesterday the Onondagoes arrived and you told me the Cayugas are on their way, but at a very considerable Distance from this Place; I have therefore to request that you will again immediately set out and meet them and use every Means in your Power to expedite their Arrival. Inform them that our Patience is almost exhausted in waiting for them, and that the public Business of the State calls for my speedy Return to the City of New York; that it will therefore require their utmost Expedition to see me & the Commissioners here, on the Business for which this Council Fire was kindled, which was more on their Account than our own. That we shall continue here as long as other public Business will possibly admit, so that if there should be a Failure in their seeing us, it will not be chargeable to us, but to their Delay. If you discover any Person or Persons using Means to retard their Journey, you will authenticate the Fact and report the same to me, in order that the Offender may be brought to condign Punishment.

I am, in Behalf of the Commissioners,
your most obed't Serv't

GEO: CLINTON.

Mr. EPHRAIM WEBSTER,
of the Onondagoes.

A Letter was also written by the Governor to Colonel Seth Reed (to be delivered to him, in Case the Cayugas from Buffaloe Creek should not have arrived on this Side of Kanadasega), to furnish them with the necessary Provisions for their Journey.

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A Letter was also dispatched by Mr. Webster to the Sachems and Chief Warriors of the Oneida Nation, in the Words following, to wit :

Fort Stanwix, June 14th, 1790.

Brothers :

Our Brothers the Onondagoes arrived here yesterday Afternoon. I mentioned, when I was at your Castle, that when they come in and I was ready to talk to them, I would inform you of it, that a Committee of your Chiefs and Warriors might attend and be Witnesses to what passed between us. This I now do and shall be glad to see you tomorrow. It will be most convenient that the Committee should not be too large, as where a great many People are collected together, Business can not be too well transacted.

I am, Brothers, your Friend,

A large, ornate handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and features elaborate flourishes and loops, particularly at the end of the name.

The Board being informed that the Suttlers on the Ground furnished the Indians with Liquor, which occasioned great Disorder and unfitted them for Business, came to the following Resolution, to wit :

Resolved, That no Suttler or other Person be permitted to sell or give any kind of Liquor to any Indian attending at this Place, until the Business of the present Treaty shall be compleated, on pain of being immediately removed from the Ground and otherwise dealt with agreeable to Law.

On Tuesday the 15th Day of June, nothing was done. The Onondaga Chiefs apologized to the Commissioners for

not giving their Answer on this Day, agreeable to Promise, as their young Men were engaged in preparing for a Dance with others of the Five Nations on the Ground, which had interrupted their Deliberations, but promised to attend tomorrow Morning early.

On Wednesday Morning the 16th of June, Webster returned with two Cayuga Warriors as Messengers from that Nation, who informed the Board that they had four Sleeps ago arrived at Kanadasegea; that the Fish Carrier and some others of the more elderly People, and others who were too much fatigued to travel by Land, intended coming from thence by Water. That Colonel Reed was about preparing a Boat for them, and at their earnest Request had given them a small Supply of Provisions for their Journey, which the Fish Carrier promised the Governor would compensate him for. That they expected to be here (if nothing happened to obstruct their Passage) either this Evening or Tomorrow, and beg'd the Governor to wait with Patience for their Arrival. That their young Warriors were coming on by Land; that they had left them three Sleeps ago on this Side of Cayuga. They requested that Provisions might be ready for them, as they would be much fatigued and very hungry.

On the same Day the Onondagoes attended to return their Answer to the Governor's Speech, and being seated and informed that the Commissioners were ready to hear their Answer, *Peter* alias *Beech Tree* or *Quarter Master*, an Oneida Chief, addressed the Assembly as follows:

Brothers of the Six Nations attend!

I with others of our Chiefs and principal Warriors, were called by our Governor to be present here and be Witnesses to what shall pass between you and him. We wish you Happiness in your Meeting and that your Conduct may bear the Complexion of this fair Day.

Our Governor only requested a few of our principal Chiefs and Warriors to attend, but this would be contrary to our ancient Usage. When the sage Chiefs go out upon Business

some of the young Warriors always attend them, to take care of them, as well as to learn the Manner in which public Business is to be transacted. Accordingly a Number of our young Warriors attended us, agreeable to ancient Custom. We shall only open our Ears and hear what passes between you.

Peter having finished his Speech, sat down and *Clear Sky* rose & spoke as follows :

Brothers & Cousins of the five Nations, & Brother Governor of New York and your Chiefs, open your Ears and attend to what I have to say !

We are now assembled at this Place, on the Day appointed by the Great Spirit for our Meeting. We congratulate you on this Occasion and on the Protection afforded us by the Great Spirit. Two Days have passed since we met at this Council Fire, when our Brother the Governor opened to us the Reasons for kindling it here at this Time.

Brother Governor !

You then recapitulated all the Events which had taken Place between you and us, since the Close of the last War, and particularly our Transactions respecting the Disposal of our Lands without the Consent of the State, and contrary to ancient Custom, and of the Evils which had resulted therefrom. You mentioned that you had paid particular Attention to the Welfare and Happiness of our Nation, of our Wives and of our Children.

Brother Governor !

We have deliberated upon your Speech made to us two Days ago & thank you for your Attention to the Good of the Nation. We now see clearly that there was nothing unfriendly or wrong in any of your Negotiations with us, and we again thank you for your friendly Address and Counsel to us.

Brothers & Cousins of the Five Nations attend while I address the Governor, Chiefs and People of New York and the Americans in general. Let all present hear and bear Witness.

Brother !

You have exhorted us to Peace and cautioned us not to regard the Voice of the Birds.

Brother !

We in our Turn likewise exhort you to Peace and not to regard the Voice of the Birds who will break our Peace. My Words are few but they are strong.

A white Belt with eleven Rows of white Wampum & four oblique Rows of Black Wampum across it.

Brothers & Cousins of the Five Nations again attend while I address the Governor and his Chiefs of New York.

Brother Governor !

We have now cast away all Obstructions in the Path which impeded our Peace with you. We have heard your Voice with Pleasure. We wipe away the Blood which has been spilt. We have pulled up a great Tree from the Roots and we have buried the Voices of the Birds and all Discords and Jealousies in the Hole, that they may sink down to the Bottom of the Great Rivers and be washed away forever with the Floods, and we now take fast hold of the Chain of Peace, to be held between you and us and our Posterity forever.

Brother Governor !

We have now spoken from the Bottom of our Hearts, as you have spoken from the Bottom of your Heart. This we have done under the Eye of the Great Spirit above.

A long white Belt with 18 Rows.

Brother Governor of New York ! Open your Ears !

Before we left our Council Fires at Home, our Female Governesses heard your Voice or Message, and were glad and rejoiced, so did our little ones. Our Mothers advised us to see you and congratulate you on their Behalf, and to return to them with Messages of Peace.

One String of *five Rows* of chequered Wampum, representing the female Governesses, & one String of four Rows of white Wampum, representing the Children, were then presented.

Clear Sky then sat down, & Kahiktote, a principal Chief from Onondaga, rose and requested the Attention of his

Brothers, the Oneidas, who were present as Witnesses to what had been said, observing that their Brothers residing at Buffaloe Creek had now fully spoken their Minds to the Governor and his Chiefs, wherefore he requested that those who were attending as Witnesses might seal it up in their Memory.

The Governor then replied that it gave him and the other Commissioners the highest Satisfaction to observe that Harmony and Reconciliation was so perfectly restored between our Brethren the Onondagoes. That they were so perfectly satisfied with the different Transactions which had taken place since the Close of the War with respect to their Nation, and above all that Peace and Friendship was so perfectly restored and established between them & us. He then observed, that if it was consistent with their ancient Custom, it would tend to expedite the completion of the Business of the Council Fire, if a Committee consisting of their principal Chiefs and Warriors were appointed to confer freely with the Commissioners on the Business to bring it to a Close.

This Proposition was acceded to with great Readiness, as perfectly agreeable to ancient Usage, and a Committee of 20 of the principal Chiefs and Warriors was accordingly appointed, who immediately retired with the Governor and Commissioners and adjusted the Business to the entire Satisfaction of the Onondagoes.

In the course of this Transaction the Committee on the Part of the Indians mentioned that they expected that those who were entrusted with the Management of their public Affairs could receive some Gratuity for their extraordinary Trouble and Services. This was agreed to by the Commissioners.

Kahiktote also introduced to the Commissioners a young Sachem, who filled the Place of his deceased Father. He observed that the Father had been a Man of the first Character and Consequence in their Nation. That long ago in a Council Fire at Albany, Quedel Cola or Colonel Peter Schuyler had been very kind to him and made him a considerable Present. That he had asked them for a small Piece of

Land at the Falls (Oswego Falls) to carry his Boate over, and that they had promised it to him. That they understood Major Peter Schuyler, now upon the Ground, was his Descendant; they wished that the Commissioners would give him a Piece of Land there.

To which the Governor replied, that as that Land was ceded to the People of the State, at the late Treaty, it was not in the Power of the Commissioners to comply with their Request. That this was a Matter which rested entirely with the Legislature, and that these Circumstances and their Request would accordingly be reported to them.

The Committee then retired and soon after *Ojageghte* alias the *Fish Carrier*, a Sachem, and a Number of others of the Cayugas residing at Buffaloe Creek arrived and waited on the Commissioners. The *Fish Carrier* mentioned that his Business was barely to announce his Arrival and to inform the Governor that a Number of the Warriors who travelled by Land had not yet come in. That when they arrived and were refreshed they would wait upon the Governor and Commissioners in Form and they then retired.

In the Afternoon the Onondaga Nation assembled at the Council Fire. The Governor mentioned to them, that he presumed from their now assembling that their Committee had reported the Result of their Conference with the Commissioners to the Nation and that they had approved and confirmed it. That we were now ready to perfect the Business on our parts; and that nothing remained to be done but the payment of the Money & the execution of the Writings. To which they unanimously expressed their Assent.

The Governor then informed them that he had a few more Words to say to them in answer to the Messages and Strings presented to the Board, in behalf of the female Governesses and little ones residing at Buffaloe Creek. He observed that it gave himself and the other Commissioners peculiar Pleasure to be informed of the friendly Disposition of our Sisters and their Children; and that as a Testimony of the Regard and Friendship of the People of this State towards them, he now

presented them with Clothing and other Articles suitable for them, which, amounting in Value to £64:4:0, was then laid before them.

The Money was then produced & counted and the Instrument of Ratification comprising a Receipt for the annual Payment for this Year, was executed in the Presence of the Oneida Nation and of Captain Joseph Brant and others of the Mohawk and Cayuga Nations.

Captain Brant having previously in full Council, in presence of the Commissioners, called upon the Onondagoes to know whether the present Transaction was with their full Approbation and Consent, and being answered in the Affirmative, he inserted the Indian Names in the Instrument of Ratification and became a Witness thereto. The said Instrument is in the Words following, vizt :

We the Sachems, Chiefs & Warriors of the Tribe or Nation of Indians called the Onondagoes, being assembled in full Council at a Council Fire kindled at Fort Stanwix this Day, by his Excellency George Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, the Honorable Pierre Van Cortlandt, Lieutenant Governor of the said State, and Ezra L'Homme-dieu, Abraham Ten Broeck, Peter Gansevoort, Junior, and Richard Varick, Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians within the said State, Do hereby acknowledge to have received from the People of the said State the Sum of five hundred Dollars in Silver, being the annual Payment stipulated to be made to us the said Onondagoes on the first Day of June Instant, in and by certain Articles of Agreement or Deeds of Cession hereunto annexed and executed by and between the People of the State of New York by their Commissioners authorized for that Purpose and us the said Onondagoes, and bearing Date the twelfth Day of September in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight : And also the further Sum of five hundred Dollars as a Benevolence. And we the said Onondagoes do by these Presents fully, freely and absolutely ratify and confirm the said Agreement and Deed of Cession and all and singular the Articles,

Commissioners of Indian Affairs. 401

Covenants & Things therein expressed and contained on the Part of the said Onondagoes, done or to be done, executed or performed.

In Testimony whereof we the said Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the said Onondagoes for and in behalf of our Tribe or Nation, have hereunto set our Hands and affixed our Seals this sixteenth Day of June, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and ninety."

TEHONWAGHSKWENTON
RONONGHSIONNI
TEKANAGHKWAGHSHEN
AONGHWENJAGEGHT
SKANAWADIGH
ATTHAGSERANEN
SKAYANESS
AYANOO
OYADAGEGHT
AANHEINTE
OTHWENTAGEGHT
ARONGHYOWANENGH
KAGHICTOTON
ONAGHSADEGEAH als. }
 Flaming Arrow }
SKAYENDAKHON
RASSEGSTOGHARE
TEKANEGHSATE
ARONGHYEAGHTHA
JOGHAHISON
SAGOYENAGHS
KARONGYATSIGOWA
ONOONAKARONTON
TEHOUGHWEAHARONTI
KAGNENRAYEN
AGWIRONGTONGWAGHS
ANONGSIGHRAGHTHA
ONITARIYRO
KANEYAAGH.

Proceedings of the

GEO. CLINTON,
 PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT,
 EZRA L'HOMMEDIU,
 ABM. TEN BROECK,
 PETER GANSEVOORT, JUN'R,
 RICH'D VARICK.

Witnesses Present :

SAM'L KIRKLAND, Miss'y and Interpreter,
 JOHN LANSING, JUN'R,
 JOS. BRANT,
 DAVID HILL,
 JOHN TAYLER,
 MALACHI TREAT,
 ABM. HARDENBURGH,
 PETER OTSIQUETTE.

AGHWISTONISK
 ONEYANHA
 Coll. HONYERY

Oneida Chiefs.

ONONGAICKHON
 THOGHNAWAYIN

Senecas.

The Governor then addressed the Onondagoes as follows :

Brothers :

It affords us the highest Satisfaction that we have been able at this Time, through the Assistance of the Great Spirit, to bring our Pipes together at this Council Fire ; that the Business of it has been conducted with so much Unanimity and Cordiality, and that Peace and Friendship is so perfectly revived and confirmed between us ; but above all, that harmony and good will is restored and established between our Brethren the Onondagoes, who are of the same Blood, and whose Prosperity depends upon their Unanimity and Love towards each other.

Brothers :

This is all we have to say. We pray that the Great Spirit may protect you on your Journey home and preserve you when there in Peace and Happiness.

The Onondagoes then requested that the Money might remain in the care of the Commissioners till the next Morning, when they would call for it and receive the Provisions necessary for their Journey.

On Thursday Morning the 17th, the Onondaga Committee attended and the Money was again counted in their presence and put up in Boxes and delivered to them, and the Gratuities, with the usual Rewards to their Messengers, were then also delivered to them.

On the same Day, to wit, on Thursday the 17th June, the *Fish Carrier*, with a Number of Chiefs and Warriors of the Cayuga Nation from Buffalo Creek, assembled at the Council Fire and informed the Commissioners that they were there attending.

The Board being also convened, the *Fish Carrier* addressed them as follows :

Brothers !

We are now met here at your Council Fire. We thank the Great Spirit for his Protection on our Journey and that we now see you here.

Brothers :

According to the ancient Custom of our Forefathers, when an Invitation was given to the Six Nations, they all assembled before any one of them undertook to return the Message & Belt of Invitation. Our ancient Customs we are much attached to and they ought always to be strictly regarded ; but it seems in the present Instance they have not been attended to. Our Brethren the Onondagoes have been received at the Council Fire, returned the Message Belt and have transacted Business before we arrived. This is contrary to our ancient Usage, which we do not wish to depart from.

The *Fish Carrier* then sat down and the Governor addressed them as follows :

Brothers :

I do not pretend to be perfectly acquainted with all your ancient Customs. It is but a short time since I was first called upon to transact Business with my Brethren of the 5 Nations. This much however I can say ; that I have never intentionally, on my part, deviated from your ancient Usages. It has invariably been the case, since I have transacted Business with your Nations, to conduct our Council Fires in the same Manner which has now taken place with our Brethren the Onondagoes. This was the case at the Council Fire kindled at this Place soon after the conclusion of the War. Some of the Nations then addressed me separately. This also was the case at the last Treaty held at this Place, and I see many now here present who will recollect these Circumstances. Perhaps the peculiar Situation of our Brethren might have induced them to dispense, in some Degree, with the Observance of their former Customs ; but this is not to be imputed to me, for it always has been my Desire strictly to adhere to them.

The *Fish Carrier* then again rose & addressed the Governor as follows :

Brother Governor and your Chiefs, open your Ears and attend to what I have to say !

The Reasons you have assigned for any Departure which may have been made from ancient Usages, are satisfactory to us, and remove from our Breasts some Difficulties which had lodged there.

I now wash away the Blood that may have been spilt during the late War, and wipe the Tears from your Eyes, on account of your Friends who may have been slain, & remove every Obstruction from the Path of Peace, so that Friendship may take place and subsist between us.

A String of three Rows of chequered Wampum.

He then observed that he had received the Message and Belt of Invitation at Buffaloe Creek. These had been returned by their Brothers, the Onondagoes. He also observed

that they had met at Kanadasegea a Messenger with a String from the Governor to hasten their Journey, which he now returned.

He then informed the Board that all the Nation had not yet arrived, but that he expected to be ready to attend to Business in the Morning.

On Friday Morning the 18th of June, the Cayugas assembled at the Council Fire and the Governor complimented them in the usual congratulatory Speech on their Health and safe Arrival, and presented them with a String of 3 Rows of chequered Wampum to remove all Obstructions to Business, which Captain Brant, at the Request of the Governor, communicated to them in the Indian Language.

The Governor then made the following Speech :

Brothers :

According to our ancient Customs, it is now my Duty to explain to you the Business for which this Council Fire was kindled. If in the course of my Speech anything should be mentioned that may be unpleasant or disagreeable to you, I entreat you to believe that it is not done from an Intention to wound your Feelings, but from a Desire that the whole Truth should be disclosed and that all now here present should be fully informed of every Transaction which has taken place between the People of the State of New York and our Brethren of the 5 Nations, since the close of the late War ; and now I enter on the Task with Pleasure, from a Consciousness that when these Things are understood, I shall stand justified not only before the Great Spirit, but with our Brethren the 5 Nations and all Mankind ; for I can with great Truth declare, that it was always my sincere Intention to do Justice to our Brethren the 5 Nations, and to pay as much Regard to their Prosperity and Happiness as would be consistent with Justice to my Brethren the white People.

In the course of last Year I was informed by Reports from the Westward and afterwards by Letters, which I received from

our Brethren at Buffalo Creek, that Uneasiness and Dissatisfaction prevailed among them, on account of Agreements which had been entered into between the State and our Brethren the Onondagoes and Cayugas; and altho' I am sorry to remark that these Letters were not dictated in as friendly and respectful Terms as might have been expected, yet I immediately returned an Answer to them informing our Brethren at Buffalo Creek, that the Powers of the Commissioners for treating with the Indians had expired, but that I would lay their Letters before our Legislature who were to meet early in the Winter, and that I thought it probable they would authorize me to meet our Brethren at a Council Fire, to inquire into the Causes of their Dissatisfaction, and afford any Assistance to heal the Animosities and Discontents which prevailed among them. I accordingly did as I promised, and the Legislature, with as much Expedition as Business can be done in large Bodies, directed me and my Brothers whom you see now present to kindle this Council Fire, and I thereupon immediately dispatched a Messenger with a Letter of Invitation for you to attend it. The Purport of this Message is contained in what I have now related to you.

Brothers!

We arrived here on the Day appointed. We have exercised a long Mind in waiting for you and have discovered in every respect a friendly and generous disposition towards you.

Brothers!

It is now necessary, in order to a full Explanation of Matters between us, that I should give a Relation of the different Transactions which have taken place between me & our Brethren of the 5 Nations since the Close of the late War.

As early after that Period as was practicable, I kindled a Council Fire at this same Place, and I invited all our Brethren of the 5 Nations to attend it. The Object of that Meeting was to remove the Obstructions which had unhappily taken place to our friendly Intercourse during the War; to revive the ancient Friendship which had subsisted between our Fore-

fathers, and to brighten the Covenant Chain. Some of the Nations attended and a respectable Number of the Chiefs and Warriors of all the Nations, some of whom I now with Pleasure see here, were there.

Brothers !

I then informed you that Peace was restored ; that all Animosities which had arisen during the War had now subsided on our part ; that we received you as our Brethren, and that we were desirous of reviving and confirming our ancient Friendship ; that we did not blame you for the part you had taken ; that we had always previous to the War, considered the King, whose Cause you espoused, as our common Father, and had frequently advised you to hold fast to his Chain ; that you could not be supposed to be sufficiently acquainted with the Causes which had given us Dissatisfaction, and occasioned the War, and it was therefore excusable in you to take the part you did ; that many of our white People, who had better Opportunities of Information, took the same side, and we had even forgiven them and restored them to our Friendship.

At this Meeting, Brothers, we told you that your Lands were your own, & notwithstanding any Cession made to us on the part of Great Britain, we invited you to return to your Country and possess your Lands in Peace, and lest Dissatisfaction might thereafter arise respecting Transactions which might take place between you and us, I took particular pains to inform you of the Nature of our Government & Laws, as to the Manner of doing Business with our Brethren of the 5 Nations. This I informed you was agreeable to our ancient Customs before the War, notwithstanding the Change which had taken place in our Government ; and that no white Person had a Right to bargain for or purchase your Lands without the Consent of our Legislature. That if at any time you should be disposed to sell any part of your Lands, the State would be ready to purchase it from you. It is true (for I have no desire that any part of the Truth should be concealed) that at that Meeting I mentioned to you the Losses we had sustained during the War, and that a small Cession of your Lands to enable us to reward our young

Warriors for their Services, would be very acceptable to us¹ but finding that the Persons attending from your Nation did not conceive themselves authorized, agreeable to your ancient Customs, to make such Cession, I did not persist in urging it.

¹ The Reader will have noticed that the Idea of Recompense in Land for Losses experienced at the Hands of the Indians, while at War with the Colonies as Allies of the British, although distinctly announced, is treated in a very guarded Manner. There is no Occasion to doubt but that the favorable Terms granted to the Oneidas were earned by former Services, instead of being entirely dictated by the Motives assigned, namely, a greater Population, and Proximity to our growing Settlements. This Theory of Recompense for Spoliations had been stated in most emphatic Terms in the Preamble to the first Act passed by the State Government for settling Indian Claims in 1779, as follows:

Whereas, the Government and People of this State, from its first Beginning as an English Colony, as well as their Predecessors the Dutch, who were the original Planters thereof, have from Time to Time expended vast Sums of Money for the Protection and Maintenance of the Six Nations of Indians residing within the Territories of the said State; and the said Nations, by repeated Treaties and Grants, have put themselves and the Country which they occupied under the Protection of the Government of this State, while it was administered by the Crown of Great Britain, and a considerable Part of the Right of Soil hath been actually purchased from them for valuable Considerations: And

Whereas, since the present War with Great Britain the said Nations have by the most solemn Treaties, repeatedly renewed, engaged to observe the strictest Friendship towards the United States of America, and all their Inhabitants:

And Whereas, notwithstanding all these solemn Treaties, Engagements and Obligations on their Part, and the repeated Acts of Liberality, Benevolence and Protection on the Part of this State from its original plantation, four of the said Nations, namely, the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas, have, without Provocation or Complaint, ungratefully and perfidiously committed the most cruel Hostilities against this State, destroyed the Lives of a great Number of its Inhabitants, carried others into Captivity, demolished and burned down many Settlements and Villages, and plundered the Property of the Inhabitants of the same, to our very great Distress and Impoverishment, extending at the same Time their savage Barbarities to the Inhabitants and Territories of the neighboring States; and have, moreover, concealed in their Castles and Villages our implacable Enemies, encouraged the Disaffection of many of our Inhabitants by Promises and Menaces; and to the utmost of their Force and Power, voluntarily aided and assisted the King of Great Britain and his Adherents, in their Attempt to reduce this Country to ignominious Bondage; Be it enacted, &c.

The Act proceeds to appoint the Governor, Anthony Van Schaick, Levi Pawling, Peter Schuyler, and Col. Jacob Klock, Commissioners to demand Peace, and "to ask, demand, exact, and receive, such Compensation and Retribution for the above mentioned Hostilities," as might be proper. It is well known that the State was not until long after in a Condition to give Effect to this Determination.

These are the principal Matters which then took place, and for the Truth of what I have now said I can with great Confidence appeal to all who were present. We parted with great cordiality and good will towards each other, and I had Reason to believe that Peace and Friendship were, again restored and perfectly established.

Brothers!

In this happy Situation we continued for upwards of three Years. At length Reports were brought to us, that some of our disobedient Children had been among you and without our Authority and Consent had purchased from our Brethren the 5 Nations, all their Lands. I was astonished at this, and could hardly believe it, after the very full Explanation which had taken place between us, as to the Manner of transacting such Business.

I had almost concluded that it was a Story of the little Birds; but observing that a great Number, not only of our own disobedient Children, but of those from different States around us, were rushing into your Country, and settling themselves down there in Defiance of our Laws and Government, I began to credit the Report, and was soon after confirmed of the Truth of it, by their producing to me your Deeds for the Lands. This Conduct, so contrary to our ancient and established Customs, I was apprehensive would occasion much Evil both to you and to us, and be the Cause of great Discontent. It is true, our Arm was long and strong enough to have reached our disobedient Children and to have removed them from thence and to have punished them; but we had Reason to believe that they were countenanced by some of our Brethren of the 5 Nations, and if we were to pursue rigorous Measures, Consequences of too serious a Nature might take place and disturb our mutual Peace. This Brethren induced our Legislature to direct me, agreeable to our ancient Customs, to light up a Council Fire and to invite our Brethren of the 5 Nations to attend it, and to concert Measures with them for healing the Animosities which were like to take place, and to avert the Evils which were

likely to result from your Conduct, in departing from the ancient Customs established between us.

Brothers!

Two Years ago I accordingly proposed kindling a Council Fire at this Place, and I invited my Brethren of the 5 Nations to attend it in the Beginning of June. In my Letter of Invitation I explained very fully the Nature and Importance of the Business, and I not only invited but intreated you to attend. But I soon after heard that Congress had proposed kindling a Council Fire at the Muskingum and had invited our Brethren of the 5 Nations to attend there. I was not particularly informed of the Nature of the Business to be transacted at that Council, and lest your Attendance there might interfere with the Council Fire I had proposed to kindle at this Place, I postponed my Council Fire to the 25th Day of August, and renewed my Invitation to my Brethren of the 5 Nations to attend at this Place at that time. I accordingly attended here and found my Brethren the Onondagoes on the Ground; but wishing to have as many of that Nation present as possible, I delayed entering upon Business for 14 Days, when being informed that a National Representation, agreeable to their ancient Usage, were present and that they were ready to proceed upon Business, we commenced our Negotiations with them, and in the Course of which every Transaction was fully explained, and after much Deliberation, which was attended with great Cordiality and Soberness, an Agreement was soon concluded to the mutual Satisfaction of both Parties, and I am happy now to inform you that this Agreement has at the present Council Fire been confirmed by the whole Nation, and that perfect Reconciliation and Harmony appears to have taken place among them.

Our Brethren the Oneidas also attended at this Meeting, according to Invitation, and an Agreement equally satisfactory to both Parties was entered into with them. But our Brethren the Cayugas, the only remaining Nation with whom we had Business to transact, did not attend. We had invited you agreeable to the ancient Usage of our Forefathers. We

exercised a very long Mind in waiting for your Arrival, but you did not come. You did not listen to our Voice. We could invite you, but it was not in our Power to oblige you to attend. I was on that Business near two Months from home. It was still my Intention to meet my Brethren the Cayugas and I accordingly, before I left this Place, sent a Letter of Invitation to them to attend a Council Fire which I proposed to kindle at Albany in the beginning of the Winter. This was the Place where our Forefathers anciently met, and I conceived that as I had come so far and waited so long to meet them, there could be no Objection to their coming to Albany to meet me, especially as the Business was of equal Importance to their Welfare and Happiness as to ours. I attended at Albany at the time appointed, and waited there a long time, in Expectation of seeing my Cayuga Brethren; at length a Number of them arrived. We did not however enter upon Business with them, having some Hopes that a greater Number of their Nation would attend; but finding our Embarrassments to the Westward increasing by an additional Number of People going to settle there, and despairing that any other of our Brethren of the Cayugas would meet us, we proceeded upon the Business of the Council, being previously assured by the Cayugas who attended, that having taken all Circumstances into Consideration they were sufficiently authorized and would stand justified to their Nation in entering into an Agreement with us to defeat the Evils which threatened our mutual Peace and Happiness. Many Days were spent in our Negotiations; our Deliberations were conducted with Cordiality and Sobriety, and at length we entered into a Covenant with each other to our mutual Satisfaction.

It is unnecessary to repeat the Particulars of this Covenant to you, as we are sensible you are fully informed of it. It is sufficient to say that the Terms of it were equally advantageous to your Nation, if not more so, than those which we had concluded with our Brethren of the Onondagoes and Oneidas. We paid a considerable sum of Money down and with the Consent of the Cayugas with whom we negotiated

and who appeared to us disposed to do perfect Justice to the other part of the Nation, we retained a very considerable Sum of Money in our Hands until the first of June following, being the Day of the first annual Payment and upwards of three Months after the Agreement was perfected. This Sum, with an annual Payment stipulated to be made, we sent to this Place by our Agent on the Day appointed. He waited here a long time for the Arrival of your Nation, a considerable Number of whom at length came; among whom were several who we understood resided at Buffaloe Creek and who joined in signing the Receipt for the Money. If equal Justice has therefore not been done to the different Members of your Nation, the Blame is not to be imputed to us. We could use no other Precaution than what we did to prevent Injustice. We could ask you to attend but we could not compel you. This Brethren is a true and faithful Relation of the different Transactions which have taken place between us and our Brethren of the 5 Nations, since the Close of the late War; and for the truth of which I now appeal to all now here present. If in anything I have mistaken let them come forward and correct me, for I am as all other Men are, liable to Error, altho' I mean to speak the Truth only.

It will now be proper, Brethren, that we should take a short Review of these different Transactions, in order that we may be able to form a proper Judgment on the Subject and determine who is to blame. While I am doing this, I request your Attention and that you will divest yourselves of Prejudice and hear me with Candour; and if in the Course of what I shall say any thing shall pass that may occasion disagreeable Sensations in your Minds, rest assured that it will not be with Design to wound your Feelings. I come not hereto irritate, but to heal Animosities, and to promote Friendship.

It will appear then from what I have related, that as soon as the War was over I kindled a Council Fire and invited our Brethren of the 5 Nations to it, to renew our ancient Friendship and brighten the Covenant Chain. This was agreeable to the ancient Usages of our Forefathers. These, Brethren, we considered as sacred, for they are the Result of

Experience & founded in Wisdom. We also, in order to preserve our Friendship between us, explained to you the Manner in which Business was to be transacted between us in future. On the other hand, Brothers, let us examine what has been your Conduct. You have listened to the Stories of the Birds. You declined meeting us at a Council Fire, kindled for the Purpose of removing Uneasiness and restoring Friendship. Was this Condition, Brothers, agreeable to the Custom of our Forefathers and ancient Usage? You received among you our disobedient Children, entered into Treaties with them, and sold your whole Country to them, even the Places of your Nativity. What was our Conduct on this Occasion? Notwithstanding all the Evils you had by this Measure brought upon us; altho' the Peace of our Government was disturbed and our Friendship with our Brethren of the 5 Nations endangered, we discovered no marks of ill will or resentment towards you. We again proposed to kindle a Council Fire at this Place, in order to concert Measures for our mutual Good & prevent the Evils which threatened us. This was another Instance of our Attachment to the Usages of our Forefathers. What was your Condition at this Time? After you had received our Invitation, you again treated with our disobedient Children and confirmed the Agreement with them for the Sale of your Lands which had occasioned to us so much Trouble and threatened our Peace. You did not meet us, but declined accepting our Invitation. Was this, Brothers, agreeable to your ancient Customs? Our Brethren of the Onondagoes and Oneidas listened to our Voice. They met us and lasting Agreements were entered into between us and them respectively, which were for our mutual Advantage; and we appeal to those Nations, some of whom are now present, whether we have not faithfully performed those Agreements on our Part. From this state of Facts then, Brothers, we may venture to ask even yourselves which had paid the greatest Regard to the Customs of our Forefathers, or who is to blame for the Evils which have taken Place. I am conscious that my Friendship for you was sincere; that I possessed a Disposi-

tion to do you the strictest Justice, and to preserve inviolate your ancient Usages, and I now meet you possessed with the same Spirit of Peace and Friendship; and my first Desire is to restore Harmony and Reconciliation among my Brethren of the Cayugas, who are of the same Blood. It was for this Purpose that I proposed meeting you at this time. I came here upon the Day appointed and I have exercised much Patience in waiting for your Arrival, altho' I had almost despaired of seeing you, for on my way to this Place I met a Gentleman who is now present with a Power of Attorney from some of you to transact the Business for you with us. Was this Brothers the Manner of transacting Business between our Forefathers and yours? Is this agreeable to our ancient Customs, for which you have professed so sacred a regard?

Brothers!

Formerly when any Difficulties or Uneasinesses arose between us they were adjusted at a Council Fire, where we met Face to Face and consulted for our mutual Good. This salutary Custom, Brothers, I have on my Part endeavored to pursue, and I am now happy to see you here, and you may rest assured of our best Services to promote Peace and Reconciliation; and if in any Instance you have just Cause of Complaint, to do you the most ample Justice, for without this I cannot expect the Blessing of the Great Spirit.

Brothers!

I have nothing further to say. When you have consulted together, I shall be ready to receive your Reply, and the earlier it can be given the more acceptable it will be to us.

When the Governor had closed, the *Fish Carrier* rose and after mentioning that they had chosen Capt. Joseph Brant as their Mouth on this Occasion, through him he made the following Speech:

Brother Governor of New York and your Chiefs, open your Ears & attend to what I have to say!

I thank the Great Spirit that he has protected us and enabled us again to meet together, and that we have thus far

proceeded upon the Business of the Council Fire with Harmony and Satisfaction.

Brother Governor!

You have repeated to us the different Transactions which have taken place between you and the 5 Nations since the Close of the War. You mentioned to us your having kindled a Council Fire at this Place soon after that Period. Your Views & Objects in so doing, and the different Matters which passed between you and those Nations at that time. You informed us at that time, that our Country was our own, and invited us to return to it and enjoy it. That nothing but Peace prevailed with you, and we to the Westward were in pursuit of the same. You also have mentioned to us the different Transactions which have taken place since that Period. We will not go into a particular Recapitulation of your Speech. We are Witnesses to the Truth of all your Declarations. We acknowledge that you have paid a due regard to the Customs of our Ancestors and that you are not chargeable with any Evils which have taken place among us.

Brother Governor!

We have listened patiently and with Attention to what you have said, and we have frankly confessed that you are not to blame for any of the Evils which have taken place. I now call upon you and your Chiefs to attend in Turn and hear me while I assign my Reasons to you for my Conduct. We were in the quiet Possession of our Country & thought of nothing but Peace and Friendship, when a Number of your People came among us and proposed purchasing or leasing from us our Lands. We doubted of the Propriety of such a Measure, as we supposed it was contrary to your Laws and our ancient Customs; but they removed these Difficulties from our Breasts, by assuring us that they were authorized by our Brother the Governor and the other Chiefs of the State to make these Proposals to us, and as some of them appeared to be Men of Character and we knew from their Names they were connected with some of the first People of the State, & others of them bore Commissions under the State, we were induced to believe them and accordingly agreed

with them for the Sale of our Lands, without supposing that we were doing any thing disagreeable to you or what was wrong.

Brother Governor!

You mentioned that the peculiar Situation of the 5 Nations might have led them to depart in some Instances from a strict Observance of some of their ancient Customs, and this may account in some Measure for our Conduct in disposing of our Lands to your People.

Brother Governor!

In the next place, these same People again came to our great Council Fire at Buffaloe Creek, about two Years ago; they were accompanied by People from Boston, who had a Commission under the Seal of that State, to purchase our Lands from us, and they requested us to give them a Confirmation of the Deed or Lease which we had formerly given to them. We were then deliberating upon Affairs which were very interesting to the Indians, and we were also preparing to attend the Council Fire to the Southward. We at first declined complying with their Request or doing any Business with these People, alleging that we had received your Invitation to attend a Council Fire which you proposed to kindle at this Place; but they pressed us very hard to comply. They alleged that if we did not, every thing would be in Confusion and they would get nothing for their Lands, and again positively asserted that they were authorized and sent to get a Confirmation from us, by our Brother the Governor and the Chiefs of New York, and we were the more easily induced to believe them from their being in Company with the People of Boston, who had Authority to purchase our Lands from us, as we were informed by our Superintendent. These People also then mentioned another Reason to induce us to comply with their Request, which had great weight with us. They told us that a great many People had settled at Tioga Point and in that Quarter,¹ and that the State had

¹ Tioga Point is now known as the Village of Athens, a little Distance South of the Line of New York, in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. It is at the Confluence of the Chemung and Susquehannah Rivers. Settlement was begun here in 1780, by John Shepherd, Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Col. Satterlee, Elisha Matthewson, David Payne and Samuel Payne.—*Hotchkiss's Western New York*, 53.

granted to them those Lands, without paying us anything for them, and in the same Manner the State would grant all our Lands, unless we complied with their Request & gave them a Confirmation.

Brothers !

These Considerations induced us at length to comply. We are convinced it was wrong to listen to these Men, but we can assure you that our Conduct was not dictated by an unfriendly Disposition towards you, for from the Representation of these People, we did not believe we were acting against your Will or doing wrong, by holding the Treaty.

Brothers !

I have nothing farther to say but again to thank you for your candid Speech and friendly Disposition to us of the 5 Nations, and particularly for the Desire you and your Chiefs have expressed to heal the Animosities which subsisted and of restoring Peace among us.

To which the Governor replied as follows :

Brothers !

I am happy to observe that the Relation I have given you of the different Transactions which have taken place between the State and the 5 Nations, is so perfectly satisfactory to you, and that you are now fully convinced of the Friendship and the Attention we have paid to your Prosperity and Happiness.

I have listened attentively to the Reasons you have assigned for your Conduct, and I now acquit you of any evil or unfriendly Design in any thing you have done ; being fully persuaded that the Measures which have taken place and occasioned Discontent, originated from the Story of the Birds and the evil Intentions of some of our bad People.

It gives us particular Pleasure that the Truth is now so well understood on both Sides ; for this being the case a just & amicable Settlement between us cannot fail of taking place.

Brothers !

I have a few Words to say, to remove from your Minds any wrong Impression which may have taken place with respect to the Lands at Tioga Point. It is true a great Number

of white People had settled there, some of them from this, but most of them unruly Men from the neighbouring States. They came there without our Consent, soon connected themselves with our disobedient Children who had been leasing your Lands from you and held their Possessions under them. They bid Defiance to our Authority and drove off such of our People as went in that Quarter, and refused to take their Titles under them; they boasted too that a Number of our Brethren the Indians would join to protect them in their unlawful Proceedings. We had Strength sufficient to have brought them to a Sense of their Duty; but this would have been by Means which would have interrupted the Peace which subsisted between us and our Brethren the 5 Nations. We therefore declined those Measures, and were reduced to the Necessity of promising to those People Grants for their Lands when the same should be legally purchased from the Indians who were the Proprietors thereof.

Brothers!

This is a true state of the Matter, and you must be convinced that instead of being to blame, our Conduct in this Respect was an additional Evidence of a peaceable Disposition and of our Friendship towards you.

Brothers!

I have nothing further to add, only to request that you will retire and deliberate upon what has been said and to assure you that I will hear any Proposition which you may have to make, with Impartiality and Candour. That I consider myself as under the Eye of the Great Spirit and therefore bound to do the strictest Justice; and that I am disposed to do even more than Justice, to remove every Cause of Complaint and to restore Harmony and Friendship.

The Cayugas then retired to their Huts.

On Saturday the 19th of June, the Cayuga Nation attended at the Council Fire and the *Fish Carrier* addressed the Board as follows:

Brother Governor with your Commissioners, you will now attend, as we have again met together, having mutually shared

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the Protection of the Great Spirit since we met yesterday. You will now attend and open your Ears well. Yesterday you made us fully acquainted with the various Transactions which had taken place between you and our Nations since the War.

You have brought them up to View as they are in your Remembrance; we are glad that they are so perfectly in your Recollection, and that you have so good a knowledge of the ancient Customs of our Forefathers. We are exceedingly rejoiced that our Brother of New York and his Commissioners are so well disposed towards their Brethren of the 5 Nations.

There is one thing more you said yesterday which rejoiced us more than any thing you said; that is the Respect you had for the Great Spirit above, and that you consider yourself answerable to him for all your Actions; that your Ears are open to hear us.

We must conclude that you undoubtedly suppose that the Great Spirit had given us this Territory.

Every thing you said has been grateful to us. There is one Brother of the Confederacy not here which would have been agreeable.

Here are our elder Brother the Oneida and the younger Brother the Delawares, our adopted Brother the Tuscaroras,¹ and the elder Tribe of the Mohawks. These are now present and hear what I say.

Brother Governor and Commissioners open a candid Ear.

¹As this is the last Place where the Tuscaroras are mentioned in the Text of this Work, we may notice the Sequel of their Connection with the Oneidas. Upon their Emigration from North Carolina in 1713, and subsequently, they settled at the Oneida Village, Gudaneka (Chittenango), Oneahoquaga, Chanawke (Chenango), Canneasorake, Kannantats, and a few with the Senecas at Genesee, "not as Tenants in common, but as Tenants at will." In 1780, the British Party of these People removed

to the Vicinity of Fort Niagara. They subsequently settled on the Mountain Ridge in the Town of Lewiston, where by Donation from the Senecas and the Holland Company, and by Purchase, they acquired 6,249 Acres, which they at present enjoy as Tenants in common and free of Taxes. To this Tract the Tuscaroras, from Time to Time, emigrated from Oneida, and here they now reside. In 1855 they numbered 316 Souls, and had 3,092 Acres of improved Land.—*Census of 1855.*

I am exceedingly glad to see your Faces and to speak with you at this Place. This is what we have long wished for, at our Council Fire at the Buffaloe. We have spoken much to you by Letter, agreeable to your Custom, and even sent to your Council Place at New York, all purporting an adjustment of the Difficulties which had arisen. These are the Purport of what brought us now here.

Brother!

Continue to open your Ear! I must again repeat it, that we have great Satisfaction at meeting you at this Place. It is true that our Minds have been for some time uneasy, wishing for a righteous Adjustment of our Affairs. This Uneasiness has not only occupied the Breasts of us Chiefs, but even the Women and Children have inquired what is become of their Country, for they have received no Compensation.

Brother Governor, open your Ears!

You have now heard in few Words what it is that has given Uneasiness to our Minds, and Brother you cannot have a calm Mind when your Brothers are uneasy; both Sides must have a contented Mind to make them easy.

Brother Governor!

Continue to open your Ears while we are speaking upon the Subject of mutual Friendship and establishing a permanent Peace amongst us. If one Party enjoys Peace, he will still be wounded if the other Party is not easy. Now Brother attend while your Brothers the Cayugas speak about a Compensation for their Country, *an excellent Country*. They will ask you 4,000 Dollars as a full Compensation therefor.

Brother Governor!

You will open your Ears to what was agreed upon in our Council at Buffaloe Creek, towards removing all our Uneasiness. We have a Reserve which you left to us and we have agreed that a part of it shall be given to Major Peter Schuyler. That part we will previously point out to you. We have further agreed that our Cousin the *Steel Trap* shall remain where he is at what was formerly called the Lower Village.

Brother !

You will continue to open your Ears when we assign a Reason for the Resolution at Buffaloe Creek. We consider that Reserve assigned to us, as circumscribed by Lands to be given to others, and that they will be overpowered by the strong Waters. But if my Cousin *Steel Trap* chooses to continue there, why let him remain, but it is our Judgment that it will not be his own, for we do not consider the Reserve as our own. This is the Purport of our Agreement at a full Council at Buffaloe Creek, and no one can hereafter say he was not acquainted with it.

And one thing more, Brother, as to any annual Payment by way of Quit Rent, we leave that to your Breasts.

A Belt with Rows and three Crosses of white Wampum.

The Governor requested the Indians to keep their Seats a few Minutes until the Commissioners could take their Proposals into Consideration and then retired.

The Commissioners having returned and being seated the Governor, by their Direction, addressed the Cayugas as follows :

Brothers !

We have listened very attentively to what you have said and have considered your Proposals with the greatest Impartiality and Candour.

Brothers !

I informed you yesterday of the Covenant we had entered into at Albany with our Brethren of your Nation, and of every Circumstance respecting that Transaction. This Agreement was made after much Deliberation, and I sincerely believe it is calculated to promote our mutual Happiness. It therefore cannot be violated in any Particular. Several of our Brothers and Sisters of your Nation with their little ones attended the Council Fire at Albany. They were utterly averse to parting with the Place of their Nativity. It was their earnest desire to preserve to themselves and their Posterity forever, their present Place of Residence. This also appeared to us reasonable, and we cheerfully consented to it ;

no part therefore of the Lands reserved to them can be given to any other Person. We have hitherto performed our part of that Covenant faithfully, and we can not answer for it to the Great Spirit or to our Constituents, if we should consent to its Violation. What would you yourselves think of us, were we to consent to a Breach of this Covenant? or what Confidence would our Brethren the Onondagoes and Oneidas, with whom we have also entered into Agreements, place in us if we should be guilty of so great an Act of Injustice.

Brothers!

This Covenant must remain firm and unalterable forever.

Brothers!

I am particularly instructed by the Commissioners to inform you that Major Peter Schuyler was concerned with Dr. Benton and others, who attempted contrary to our Constitution and Laws and the ancient Usages which subsisted between us, to purchase from you, your whole Country, whereby so much Uneasiness, Discontent and Trouble have been occasioned, and to express to you in the strongest Terms their Astonishment, that in order to reward this Man, you should now ask to violate a solemn Agreement, by giving him a part of the Lands reserved for our Brothers the Cayugas.

Brothers!

By your unlawful Sales you had parted with the Places of your Nativity & even with the Bones of your Ancestors; reserving a few Acres only of your Country for the Convenience of Fishing. We have no Right, nor are we disposed to interfere, if some of you choose to reside in one Place and others in another; but while any of you wish to continue at your ancient Place of Residence, we cannot consistent with Justice dispose of any of the Lands comprized in the Reservation.

Brothers!

You might as well ask us to reward a Child for lifting up his Hand against his Father, as to reward a public Officer for betraying the Trust reposed in him by the People. Major Peter Schuyler was a Commissioner of Indian Affairs when

your Transaction with Benton and his Company (of whom Mr. Schuyler was one) commenced, and he then held other important Offices under the State.

Brothers!

If on this Occasion I have discovered some Warmth, you must excuse it; it is excited by your asking me to do what I conceived to be wrong.

Brothers!

We came not here to violate Agreements but to confirm them; and to afford you our friendly Assistance, to heal the Animosities and Divisions which we were informed subsisted between you, who are of the same Blood; and whose Happiness depends on your being united and loving one another. This was the Purport of our Message of Invitation to you.

Brothers!

This desirable Object we have already effected with our Brethren the Onondagoes, at considerable Expence, and they have gone home united and happy; and we are disposed to be equally generous to you, if the same good End can be accomplished.

Brothers!

You demand of us more than you sold your whole Country for to Benton and his Company. By your last Agreement with him, which as well as the first now lays here before us, you and the Onondagoes together were to receive only one thousand Dollars annually; the first Payment to commence the 4th of July in the next Year. By our Agreement with your Nation and the Onondagoes we are to pay you and them 1,000 Dollars annually. The first Payment commenced last Year and have been actually made on the day stipulated; besides we paid to you and them very considerable Sums down, and reserved to each of your Nations large Tracts of your Country with other very important Privileges.

Brothers!

Give us Credit for what we have already paid and we stand ready to pay you, if not already done, as much for your Lands as upon a fair Calculation you were to receive for it from Dr. Benton. This is all you can reasonably ask or expect.

You have told us in your Letters that you have sold your Lands, and if you are only paid the Money you are to get for it, it is immaterial to you who possesses it, for you have parted with it. This we are now willing to give you (if we have not already done it) and even something more, if thereby Reconciliation and Friendship, on which your Happiness so much depends, can be restored among you. I am sensible it may be alleged that farther Sums than those specified in your Leases to Dr. Benton and others, were to be paid to you by them; but I am well apprized of the Manner in which all that Business was transacted. I have no doubt but considerable Sums were promised to Individuals. This was the case with our Brothers the Oneidas, to the Amount of more than 2,000 Dollars; but it was done without the knowledge of the Chiefs or principal Men, and the Nation at large would have reaped no Advantage from these Promises.

Brothers!

I have only to add, that we expect that our Negotiations will be solely with the Indians, without the Interference of any white Man, and that they will receive whatever we may agree to give them.

I shall now retire and leave you to deliberate on what I have said, and I expect an early Answer. If the Appointment of a Committee to examine the Papers and confer upon the Subject is agreeable to you, it will tend to expedite Business. This was the case with our Brothers the Onondagoes, and they declared it to be perfectly consistent with their ancient Customs.

The Commissioners then retired and soon after the Cayugas went to their Huts.

On the Evening of the same Day the Board were informed that the Cayugas had appointed a Committee of their Nation, who would attend with Mr. Street for the Purpose above mentioned on the next Morning, if agreeable to the Commissioners.

On Sunday the 20th of June, the Committee of the Cayugas consisting of two Sachems from Buffaloe Creek, accordingly

attended at the Commissioners' Quarters, accompanied by Mr. Street, Capt. Brant and Dr. Gale.

The Governor commenced the Business by producing to them the Deed of Cession entered into between their Nation and the Commissioners at Albany. He stated to them the Sum paid in the first Instance as a Consideration. The Measures which had been taken by the Commissioners to effect an equal Distribution of the Money between the whole Nation, by retaining the greater part thereof in their Hands until the first day of last June, being the Day appointed for the first annual Payment. He also shewed them that the annual Payment of five hundred Dollars to their Nation was equal to the Sum stipulated to be made to their Nation by the Confirmation to Dr. Benton and others, admitting their Country and that of the Onondagoes to be equally valuable, whereas that of the Onondagoes was a much larger Territory. That by the Agreement with the State the first annual Payment had already commenced on the first Day of last June, whereas by the Confirmation to Dr. Benton and Co. their annual Payment was not to commence till the 4th Day of July, 1791. That exclusive of this Advantage a very extensive Tract of Country was reserved to them, and the Privileges of Fishing & Hunting as usual; so that in every Point of View, the Agreement entered into with the State was the most advantageous to them; and he concluded by observing that notwithstanding they were placed in a much better Situation than they would have been if the Agreement entered into by them with Dr. Benton had been confirmed; the Commissioners were willing, from a sincere Desire of restoring Harmony and Friendship among them, and removing every Cause of Complaint, to give them, as a Benevolence, the same Sum of Money and Value in Clothing which they had given to their Brethren the Onondagoes, whereby they would be enabled still to make such a Distribution among themselves as to remove Discord.

The Committee listened with great Attention to what the Governor said and appeared to be well satisfied, when Mr. Street officiously attempted Calculations upon what he alleged the Lessees were to have paid, but of which no Evidence was

produced. This Conduct of Mr. Street appeared to be intended to defeat the favorable Impressions made upon the Minds of the Indians. Capt. Brant appeared to be displeased with Mr. Street's Behaviour, as foreign to the Business of their Appointment.

On Monday Morning the 21st of June the *Fish Carrier* with the two Sachems above mentioned and two principal Warriors from Buffalo Creek again attended at the Commissioners' Quarters, and the Governor again entered into the same Explanation with them which had taken place yesterday, and moreover shewed the Receipt of the last Year's annual Payment, which appeared to be signed by several of the Indians residing at Buffalo Creek who had not attended the Treaty at Albany. He also agreed to give them a larger Quantity of Clothing than had been given to the Onondagoes on account of there being a larger Number of that Nation who resided at Buffalo Creek. The Indians expressed their Satisfaction with the Terms offered to them and retired to convene the Nation to compleat the Business.

In the Afternoon the last mentioned Committee of the Indians returned to the Commissioners' Quarters, and intimated a Desire of a further Explanation upon the Subject of the late Conference; and Mr. Street, who was present and through whose Influence there was Reason to believe some Dissatisfaction had taken place among those Indians, again attempted to make Calculations designed to defeat the Views of the Commissioners; but the Commissioners protested against admitting any part of the Transactions with the Lessees,¹ as the Basis of the present Negotiation; but his Reasonings appeared to have little Influence upon the Indians, who again retired apparently well satisfied.

¹The Leasee Company, after these Treaties, spoke confidently of their being able to hold the whole or a Part of these Lands, notwithstanding the Treaty with the State. It was proposed to bring Canadian Influences to bear upon the Indians, and that a strong Delegation should go down to Albany and remon-

strate openly with the Legislature against the Proceedings at Fort Stanwix. In the Spring of 1789 they were still confident, but by Degrees became less assured, and in the Fall of that Year began to talk of taking what they could get. As previously stated, they finally concluded to surrender their Leases.

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On Tuesday Morning the 22nd of June, the Cayuga Nation attended at the Council Fire, when the *Fish Carrier* made the following Speech to the Commissioners :

Brother Governor of New York with your Commissioners, you will now attend & open your Ears !

The Great Spirit has given us this Day to meet again at the Council Fire. After many Conversations together since our first Meeting and after much Deliberation of both Parties, you have found the Means of restoring Peace and Amity between us. This Event, Brother, we must attribute to you. Our Peace is one and the same thing. The Great Spirit therefore will have Justice done to each Party ; when any Misunderstanding or Misrepresentation has interrupted their Peace and Friendship is again restored, it is agreeable to his Pleasure. You have complied with every Desire and Wish of ours, particularly in your last Promise that you would make your Assembly acquainted with our Wishes, and we have therefore acceded to every Proposal of yours to bring about this Accommodation.

Brother !

Having determined to accede to all your Proposals, and having perfectly understood them, after Conversation among ourselves, we have this Day determined to establish our Peace & accordingly confirm the Agreement between us. We now therefore make this public Declaration in the hearing of all here present, of our acceding to the Proposals and this Day confirming the same.

Brother ! This is all we have to say.

Whereupon the Governor answered as follows :

Brothers !

Our mutual Thanks are due to the Great Spirit for having brought us together this Day and for inspiring us with such Dispositions towards each other, as to remove all Causes of Uneasiness and to establish Harmony and Friendship between us. You may rest assured that we will hold fast to the Covenant Chain, and that every thing we have promised shall be faithfully performed ; and that it shall be our con-

stant Endeavour to promote the Happiness and Prosperity of our Brothers the Cayugas wherever they may reside.

Brothers !

As a Testimony of our Affection for our Sisters of your Nation at Buffaloe Creek and their little ones, I present you with this String to be delivered to them with a small Donation of Clothing, which you see there laying for their use.

Nothing now remains but to perfect the Agreement according to ancient Usage, and for us to make the Payment stipulated and deliver the Benevolences promised to you.

The Money was then brought before them and counted, and the Goods produced and examined with the Invoices by Mr. Street; and the Instruments of Ratification, comprising a Receipt for the annual Payment for this Year was executed in the Presence of the Oneida Nation, Captain Joseph Brant and many other Witnesses.

Capt. Brant on this Occasion also inserted the Indian Names in the Instrument of Ratification. The said Instrument is in the Words following, vizt :

At a Treaty held at Fort Stanwix in the State of New York, by his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the said State, ~~Pierre~~ Van Cortlandt, Esqr., Lieutenant Governor of the said State, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Abraham Ten Broeck, Peter Gansevoort, Junior, and Richard Varick, Esquires, Commissioners authorized for that Purpose by and on behalf of the People of the State of New York, with the Sachems, Chiefs & Warriors of the Tribe or Nation of Indians called the Cayugas, on the twenty-second Day of June, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

We the said Cayugas do hereby acknowledge to have received from the People of the State of New York the Sum of five hundred Dollars in Silver, being the annual Payment stipulated to be made to us the said Cayugas on the first Day of June, Instant, in and by certain Articles of Agreement or

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Deeds of Cession hereunto annexed & executed at the City of Albany, by and between the People of the said State, by their Commissioners, authorized for that Purpose, and several of the said Cayugas for and in behalf of the said Tribe or Nation, and bearing Date the twenty-fifth Day of February, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine; And also the further Sum of one thousand Dollars as a Benevolence. And we the said Cayugas in Consideration thereof do by these Presents fully, freely and absolutely ratify & confirm the said Agreement and Cession, and all and singular the Articles, Covenants, Matters and Things therein expressed and contained, on the part of us the said Cayugas, done or to be done, executed or performed; And we the said Cayugas do further hereby grant and release to the People of the State of New York, all our Right, Interest and Claim in and to all Lands lying East of the Line of Cession by the State of New York to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except the Lands mentioned in the said Deed of Cession hereunto annexed to be reserved to us the Cayugas and our Posterity.

In Testimony whereof, as well the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Cayugas, as the Governor and other Commissioners on Behalf of the People of the State of New York, have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and affixed their Seals the Day and Year first above written.

SHOGEDAS

TEHAGEASEREGHTHA

TEHAGHYOGHSAYEN

THODEAGHARES his  mark.

ATSIAAKTATYE

ONGWEGHGONAGH

OGHSKADAONGH

TEKARAGHKO

TEWAGHTAGHGOTE

SKONONGHSOWANE

KANONGHSAYONTON

KAGHNOWIYOO

*Proceedings of the*OJAGEGHTE alias *Fish Carrier*

SHAGOYEGHWATHA

OGONGHSANIYONTE

KARONGHYAGETEN

TEYONTHOREGHGONGH

KARENHODON

OGHNIOWENTON, (Signed by
the Fish Carrier in the Absence of the above.)

TEYORONGHYONGOAH

TEYORENHAGWENTE

TEHAGHSHARANEGEAH

TEYOYAGHYAGONGH

KANENTAGONRA

GEO. CLINTON,

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT,

EZRA L'HOMMEDIEU,

ABM. TEN BROECK,

PETER GANSEVOORT, JUN'R,

RICH'D VARICK.

Sealed & Delivered
in presence ofThe Word (State) was interlined before the Ensealing
& Delivery; also was interlined the Word (Instant)
before the Ensealing & Delivery.

SAM'L KIRKLAND, Miss'y.

JOS. BRANT,

ABM. HARDENBURGH,

SAM'L GALE, JUN'R,

GEO. TAPPEN,

CH: NEWKERCK,

ELISHA KANE,

PETER OTSIQUETTE.

AGHWISTONIS

ONEYANHA

GAGHSAWETA


Oneida Chiefs.

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The Board then Resolved that Richard Varick pay to John Tayler, Esq., the Agent of this Board, the Sum of six hundred Pounds, to be applied by him for defraying the Expences of the present Treaty, for which Sum he is to be answerable to the People of the State of New York.

The Remainder of this Day was spent in auditing and adjusting the Claims of Samuel Kirkland, the Interpreter, and others who had performed Services or furnished Supplies for the Treaty, and in making Preparations to set out for Albany the next Morning.

On Wednesday the 23rd of June, about 8 o'Clock in the Morning, the Commissioners embarked on Board of Batteaux for Schenectady and arrived from thence at Albany on Friday the 25th.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners appointed to hold Treaties with the Indians, at the House of Abraham Bloodgood, on Saturday the 26th Day of June, 1790.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.
His Honor Lieut. Governor Van Cortlandt.
Ezra L'Hommedieu,
Abraham Ten Broeck,
Peter Gansevoort, Jun'r, and
Richard Varick.

The Accounts of Abraham Bloodgood and others, for Services performed, were audited and adjusted.

The Commissioners then also Resolved that Richard Varick, out of the Monies in his Hands, pay to John Tayler, Esqr., the Agent to this Board, the Sum of five hundred Pounds, to be applied by him to defray the Expences of the Treaty lately held with the Indians, for which Sum he is to be accountable to the People of the State of New York.

The Commissioners then delivered to Mr. Varick a Certificate, that out of the public Monies in his Hands, he had at different Times, pursuant to the Directions of the Board, paid to the Onondaga and Cayuga Nations, and to particular Indians of different Nations attending at the Treaty, as

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Benevolences and for Services performed by them, several Sums of Money, amounting in the whole to one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three and an half Dollars.

The Board also delivered to Mr. John Tayler a Certificate, that in their Presence he had paid to the Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga Nations the annual Payments due to them respectively on the first Day of June Instant, and amounting in the whole to one thousand six hundred Dollars.

The Board also took into Consideration the Allowance to be made to Mr. Tayler, their said Agent, for his Services: Whereupon they came to the following Resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That Mr. Tayler, Agent to this Board, be allowed as a full Compensation for his Services, the Sum of five per Cent upon all Monies received and paid by him on Account of the Treaty, including the like allowance on the Albany Price of Merchandize furnished by him for the Use of the State; and the further Sum of two and an half per Cent on the Sum of sixteen hundred Dollars, being the annual Payments stipulated to be made to the Oneidas, Onondagoes and Cayugas in the present Year, which were made by him.

On Saturday Afternoon, at 6 o'Clock, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and Messrs. L'Hommedieu and Varick embarked on Board of Capt. Samuel Lewis's Sloop for New York.

END OF PROCEEDINGS.



A P P E N D I X .

*Letter from Simeon De Witt, Surveyor-General, to
Governor Clinton.*

[Clinton Papers, No. 6034, N. Y. State Library.]

Albany, 11 July, 1789.

SIR :

HAVE just now received by a Messenger from Captain Hardenbergh, who is employed in surveying the Lands appropriated to the Troops of this State, a Letter relative to that Business, dated at Cayuga Ferry, the 5th July, 1789, from which the following are Extracts :

“ Dear Sir :

Agreeably to Directions, received in your Letter dated at Fort Schuyler, and handed to me by Colonel Reed, I proceeded to Cayuga in order to run out the Lands reserved to the use of those Indians. When I arrived at Cayuga Ferry, I received Information that Mr. Ryckman and the Chief by the name of Steel Trap, had the same Morning passed on to Canadesago. As Webster, my Interpreter, was not very familiar with this Nation, Prudence and Policy dictated to me the Necessity and Propriety to follow them on to that Place with a View to obtain their Aid in the Business. I accordingly went up the Seneca River to the Falls, where I left my Boat with three Men. With the Remainder, being

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four in Number, and Webster, I proceeded by Land to the Place, being about ten Miles. When I arrived, Information was brought me, that there were two Indians on the Ground, who had been sent by the Chiefs at Buffaloe Creek, with a Message to Col. Reed and Mr. Ryckman, to quit the Ground (a Narrative of which I think Col. Reed informed me he had forwarded to Government, as this Communication was made a day previous to my Arrival), also with a Request to me as Surveyor from the State, to desist in my Business for a while.

The Morning following was at their Request appointed for the Interview with me. When we met they informed me that it was the Desire of the Chiefs at Buffaloe that I should desist for ten Days or a Fortnight from surveying the Cayuga Lands; that the Sale of the Lands had been made by a parcel of Boys and old Women, and not by the Chiefs, and that these Chiefs were determined that the State should not hold the Lands by Virtue of said Sale. After they had delivered their Message, I informed them that the State of New York had purchased the Lands from the Cayugas; that it was by Law appropriated and ordered to be run out into Townships;¹ that in order to carry this Law into effect, I was sent on with a large quantity of Stores, accompanied by Surveyors and Men to execute the Business; that I did not conceive myself justifiable in delaying the Business one single Day on account of any Requests of that Nature received from the Indians at Buffaloe Creek; that if they had any Grievances to the State with respect to the Sale of those Lands, they should make them to the Government of the State, which was to convene in this Month; that if they were considered there as well founded, I had no doubt but they would be redressed, otherwise not. That I was wholly unauthorized to receive or redress such Grievances; and lastly, that I was accountable to Government only for the Stores and Business, and therefore necessarily determined to pursue it until I should receive Orders from that Quarter to quit. In answer

¹ Act of Feb. 28, 1789, entitled "An Act to appropriate the Lands set apart to the use of the Troops of the Line of this State, lately serving in the Army of the United States, and for other Purposes therein mentioned."

to this he replied, '*he did not think that the Chiefs would apply to Government on this Subject.*' This is the Substance of what passed between me and them at the Interview. Steel Trap made a Reply to the following import: that when the Indians at Buffaloe Creek disposed of their Lands to the Leasees, there was no Provision or Reservation made for them, in consequence of which, when they were last Winter called to a Treaty at Albany, the Women and rest of the Indians requested that he should go and sell the Lands and secure a Reservation for them. He accordingly went, was well received and well used; sold their Lands excepting a sufficient and generous Reservation, that the Business was now finished, that the Chiefs at Buffaloe must be contented, and that he was determined to support the Sale. They also desired that he should accompany them to Buffaloe, to talk with the Chiefs on the Subject. He told them he had promised the State to attend the running out of the said Reservation, that he was now called on for that Purpose, and that if the Chiefs from Buffaloe had any Business with him, they should come to him. This is a full Statement of Circumstances so far as relates to our Interview with the Messengers, which was held publicly in the Presence of the Inhabitants. I remained two Nights in Town, during which Time I made it my Business to venture out a little among the People, and hold forth to them, sometimes by reasoning with them, and sometimes mixing in Threats and positive Declarations that I would go on with my Business, and that I was well assured of the Determination of the State to support me in it.

I soon found that my Determination began to work on them, and reduce them to Reflection, so that before I came away, many came to me and gave Assurances of their Intentions, if it became necessary, to assist me in the support of Government and my Business; so that I have no doubt if it became necessary to beat up for Volunteers, but I would at least be able to cope with the Lessee Party in Geneva. Now, Sir, you may judge under what Apprehensions I went on to that Place, and from hence we may estimate the usefulness of Determination in suppressing this impending Evil. I left

Three River Point on Sunday last, with a Party consisting of Mr. Dey, Webster, and five Men. In my Passage up, all the Information I received was, that I would be opposed in my Business, that it would be dangerous for me even to shew myself at Canadasego, and that the Indians and Leasees were determined that the Lands should not be surveyed. I returned from Canadasego yesterday Afternoon, with Mr. Ryckman and Steel Trap, and immediately at Cayuga Ferry commenced a traverse of the River to the Salt Springs. The Indians will accompany as soon as I begin the Lines on the Lands. These carryings on I have no doubt are fostered by the Preëmption People, looking forward for the establishment of a new State. However, as I am not yet possessed of the necessary Information on that Head, I shall not venture on Particulars, but that such a Disposition prevails in this Quarter may be depended on. These are serious Matters, and demand the immediate Interposition of Government. In the first Place, it is my Opinion that we should by all means be supported in our Business, for if we should now be drove off, it will redouble the Strength of the Leasees and put the State to ten times the Expense and Trouble to rectify Matters. For this Purpose, it will at least be necessary to forward on immediately about 40 or 50 Stand of Arms, with some Ammunition. My own Party is bare of Arms, and you may judge from the above Statement of Facts, whether sending on a Body of Men will be expedient or not. I would also advise that some civil Officers should be appointed and Government established in this Quarter. And I also think, that if Government should even go to the Expense of paying a small Salary, or making some other Compensation to some Person or Persons possessed of Prudence and Integrity, who would settle here to superintend the settlement of this Country, they would find their account in it. Many People who settle here get imposed on by wicked and designing Men, for want of good Council, and afterwards are prevailed on to turn Enemies to the Government and turn Desperadoes. I fear Col. Reed will be injured; he ought to be considered; he risques much. I am determined to

fight before I am drove off, provided the State will support me.

N. B. The following are the Heads of the active Leases :

Doctor Caleb Benton,¹ most influence.

Joseph Smith.

John McKinstrey,¹ very active.

Benjamin Allen,² violent in Words.

Horatio Jones, an Interpreter.

Peter Bartle,³

Lark Jennings, subtle Fellow.

Robert Mitchell, Interpreter.

I think it would be well if they were immediately apprehended. It would discourage the rest, and bring them to serious reflection."

Besides the above, Captain Hardenbergh informs me that he has had offers of Assistance from Persons who are in the Councils of the inimical Party, provided there is a probability that the State will do something effective, but that they dare not otherwise disclose themselves, for fear of being driven off by the Resentment of their Party. I thought it necessary to make this Communication to your Excellency immediately in order that I might be instructed how to proceed with regard to this Business.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your Excellency's

most obedient and most humble Serv't,

S. D. Witt

To his Excellency Governor CLINTON.

¹ Resided in Hillsdale, Columbia Co.

³ Resided in the eastern Part of Cla-

² Resided in Hudson. He was a Merchant.

verack, Columbia County.

Letter of Governor Clinton to Abraham Hardenbergh.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6035, N. Y. State Library.]

Albany, 14th July, 1789.

SIR :

THE Surveyor-General on the 11th communicated to me an Extract of your Letter to him of the fifth Instant, which, with a Letter dated the 2d of June, at Buffaloe Creek, signed by six Indians, said to be on behalf of the Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca Nations, and other Informations received from the westward, have been laid before the Legislature now sitting at this Place, in consequence of which they have come to certain Resolutions, a Copy whereof you have enclosed.¹

¹ The Papers sent to the Legislature by the Governor, were referred by the Senate to a Committee, consisting of Mr. Isaac Roosevelt of New York, Mr. Ezra L'Homedieu of Suffolk Co., and Mr. Abraham Yates, Jr. of Albany; and by the Assembly, to a Committee, consisting of Mr. Samuel Jones of Queens Co., Mr. James Gordon of Albany Co., Mr. John Smith of Suffolk Co., Mr. Matthew Clarkson of New York, and Mr. Albert Baker, of Washington Co.

In the Senate, Mr. Roosevelt reported, July 13th, 1789, as follows:

"That it was the Opinion of the Committee, that in order to quiet the Disorders existing in the western Parts of Montgomery County, it would be proper for the Legislature to adopt the following Resolution, which was agreed to by all the Members present, except Mr. Morris:

Resolved (if the Honorable the Assembly concur herein), That his Excellency the Governor be requested, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Appointment, to appoint as many Civil and Military Officers within that part of the County of Montgomery,

lately purchased from the Cayuga, Oneida and Onondaga Nations of Indians, as he shall judge proper; and that his Excellency be requested to take such other Measures as he shall judge necessary, by ordering out the Militia or otherwise, in order to preserve the Peace of that part of the said County, and for the Protection of the Surveyors acting under the Authority of the State, in the Execution of their Business; and at his Discretion to carry into effect the Act entitled *An Act to punish infractions of that Article of the Constitution of this State prohibiting purchases of Lands from the Indians without the Authority and Consent of the Legislature, and more effectually to provide against Intrusions on the unappropriated Lands of this State*, passed the 18th of March, 1788."

This Resolution was immediately concurred in by the Assembly.

The Act referred to was as follows:

"*Whereas*, by the thirty-seventh Section of the Constitution of this State, reciting that it is of great Importance to the Safety of this State, that Peace and Amity with the Indians within the same be at all times supported and maintained;

In order to carry their Determinations into execution, and to give you that Protection in the performance of the Business in which you are employed, which you seem to think necessary, I have directed the Surveyor-General to forward on to you, with all possible dispatch, an additional Number of Men, with Provisions, Arms and Ammunition, of which he will transmit to you a particular Account.

Mr. De Witt will himself take the conduct of this Business as far as Fort Schuyler, and endeavor to get Major Colbreath to take charge of the same from that Place.

In addition to this, I have thought it advisable to form the Inhabitants residing west of the Line of Property, south of the Wood Creek and the Oneida Lake, and the Onondaga River, East of the Line of Cession by this State to the State

and that the Frauds too often practiced towards the said Indians, in contracts made for their Lands, have in diverse Instances been productive of dangerous Discontents and Animositics; it is ordained, that no Purchases or Contracts for the Sale of Lands, made since the fourteenth day of October, 1775, or which might thereafter be made with or of the said Indians, within the Limits of this State, shall be binding on the said Indians, or deemed valid, unless made under the Authority and with the Consent of the Legislature of this State. In order therefore more effectually to provide against infractions of the Constitution in this respect:

I. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same,* That if any Person shall hereafter, unless under the Authority and with the Consent of the Legislature of this State, in any Manner or Form, or on any Terms whatsoever, purchase any Lands within the Limits of this State, or make Contracts for the Sale of Lands within the Limits of this State, every Person so purchasing or so making a

Contract, shall be deemed to have offended against the People of this State, and shall on conviction forfeit *one hundred Pounds*, to the People of this State, and shall be farther punished by fine and imprisonment in the Discretion of the Court.

II. *And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That every Person who shall hereafter give, convey, sell, demise or otherwise dispose of, or offer to give, convey, sell, demise or otherwise dispose of, any Lands within the Limits of this State, or any right, interest, part or share, of or in any Lands within the Limits of this State, or intrude or enter on, or take possession of, or settle on any Lands within the Limits of this State, pretending or claiming any right, title or interest in any such Lands, by virtue, under colour, or in consequence of any purchase from, or contract for the Sale of Lands made with any such Indian or Indians as aforesaid, at any time since the fourteenth day of October, 1775, and not under the Authority and with the Consent of the Legislature of this State, every such Person shall be deemed to have offended

of Massachusetts, and North of the Town of Chemung, and the Lands purchased of the Oneidas, in the Year 1785, into a Battalion. You are appointed Major, Mr. John Hardenbergh and John Thornton, Captains; Moses De Witt and Benjamin Dey, Lieutenants in the same. Commissions

against the People of this State, and shall on Conviction forfeit the Sum of one hundred Pounds to the People of this State, and be further punished by fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

III. *And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That if any Persons other than Indians, shall after the passing of this Act, take Possession of, or intrude or settle on any of the waste or ungranted Lands of this State, lying eastward of the Lands ceded by this State to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and westward of the Line or Lines commonly called the Line of Property agreed on between the Indians and the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Year 1768, every Person so taking possession of, or intruding or settling on any such waste or ungranted Lands, within the Limits aforesaid, shall be deemed as holding such Lands by a foreign Title, against the Right and Sovereignty of the People of this State, and it shall and may be lawful for the Person administering the Government of this State for the time being, and it is hereby declared to be his Duty to remove or cause to be removed, from time to time, by such means and in such manner as he shall judge proper, all Persons other than Indians, who shall so take possession of, or settle or intrude on, any of the waste or ungranted Lands of this State within the Limits aforesaid, and to cause the buildings or other improvements of such Intruders on such Lands to be destroyed; and for that Purpose, in his discretion, to order out any proportion of the Militia

from any part of this State; and such an Occasion to be deemed an Emergency intended in the second Section of an Act entitled 'An Act to regulate the Militia,' passed the 4th day of April, 1786. And the Detachments so from time to time to be ordered out, shall receive the same Pay and Rations, and be subjected to the same Rules and Regulations, as is provided in the said Section of the said Act. And for defraying the Expense of paying and subsisting the Militia, so from time to time to be ordered out, and of the Contingencies to arise in such Services,

IV. *Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That it shall be lawful for the Person administering the Government of this State for the time being, from time to time, by Warrant under his Hand, to draw from the Treasury of this State, such Sum and Sums of money as he shall deem necessary, not exceeding *ten thousand Pounds*, and the Treasurer is hereby required, out of any Monies he may have in the Treasury, forthwith to answer every such Warrant, any other Appropriation of Monies in the Treasury, except Appropriations to private Persons in discharge of Contracts notwithstanding. And every Person to be appointed or intrusted by the Person administering the Government, with the Expenditure of any of the said Monies, shall be responsible to the People of this State for the respective Expenditures, and shall account with the Auditor of this State accordingly."

agreeable to these Appointments are enclosed to you. When I can be informed of more suitable Persons, an additional Number of militia Officers will be appointed.

I have also, with the Advice of the Council of Appointment, thought it expedient to appoint yourself, Seth Reed, and George Fleming, Justices of the Peace, and to appoint you by a writ of Dedimus Potestatem, to swear all Officers, civil and military, in the County of Montgomery, which comprises the District of the Battallion.

The latter Commissions will be deposited as usual in the Office of the Clerk of the County, an Extract from the Minutes of the Council of these Appointments certified by the Clerk, to justify your acting under these Commissions is enclosed, together with a Roll of the Oaths to be administered to the Officers before they act.

These Arrangements, you will readily perceive, are calculated to confer on you legal Authority to support Government in that Quarter, and to call on the Inhabitants for their Aid and Assistance therein, which from your Representation I am induced to hope will be sufficient. But if unhappily it should not, I shall then consider it my Duty to exercise every Authority vested in me by Law for the Support of Government, and the Preservation of Peace and good Order in that part of the State.

I have not been able to learn with any degree of certainty, what the Disposition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Chemung¹ is, but presuming from the Indulgence they have re-

¹ Chemung, as erected into a Town, Feb. 28, 1789, embraced the following Limits:

“Beginning at the Intersection of the partition Line between this State and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Pennsylvania Line, and running from the said Point of Intersection due North along the said partition Line to the Distance of two Miles north of the Tioga River; thence with a straight Line to the Owego River, to intersect the said River at the Distance of four Miles on

a straight Line from the Confluence thereof with the Susquehannah, thence down the Owego and Susquehannah Rivers to the Pennsylvania Line, and thence along the Pennsylvania Line to the place of beginning.”

These Limits embraced a considerable part of Chemung, Tioga and Broome Counties as now bounded. This Tract had been settled by Parties without sufficient Title from the State, and the Act of Incorporation appointed Commissioners to visit the Tract, and inquire

ceived from the State, as well as a sense of duty, that they will be disposed to give you their Aid for the support of Government, I have issued an Order which I now enclose to the commanding Officer of that Battalion, to march to your Assistance, in case an Insurrection to oppose the Surveys directed to be made by you should render it necessary. This Order you will however retain in your own Hands, unless the exigency of Affairs should require it to be forwarded.

I am very sensible that the Difficulties which threaten you are excited by Benton, McKinstry, and the other Persons mentioned in your Letter to Mr. De Witt. But although repeated Information has been received, charging them with treasonable Practices against the State, yet for want of Magistrates authorized to take Affidavits we are not possessed of any legal Proofs of the Facts. This Difficulty will now be obviated, and you will be able to authenticate the Charges against them, so that they can be legally proceeded against.

I also transmit you enclosed, a certified Copy of the Law alluded to in the Resolutions of the Senate and Assembly, which I entrust to your execution. On this Occasion I would only observe that the Powers conferred by it, under your Circumstances ought to be exercised with much Prudence and Discretion. The Law perhaps, if rigidly construed, might apply to all the Persons residing within the Limits of your Battalion, Col. Reed, Peter Ryckman, the People living on the ten Townships purchased by Brown and others, and reserved by the Cession of Massachusetts, and the Indians excepted. But I would rather suppose that such of the Inhabitants as will embody themselves under your Command, and act in support of the Government of the State, ought not to be considered at present as subject to the Penalties of the Law. At least it appears to me, under the present Circumstances, that good Policy forbids that they should, as a contrary construction would necessarily destroy every Stimulus they might have to give Assistance.

into, and adjudicate upon, the Claims among the State Archives, afford many and Pretensions of the Parties. This Details concerning these Transactions. Act, and the Field Books and Surveys

I have only to add, that I place great Confidence in your Zeal and Prudence in the execution of the Trusts reposed in you, and that I shall expect the earliest Communications of whatever may appear to you necessary that I should be informed of.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

A large, ornate handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and features elaborate flourishes and loops.

TO ABRAHAM HARDENBERGH, Esquire.

Letter from Governor Clinton to Simeon De Witt, Surveyor General.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6036, N. Y. State Library.]

Albany, July 1789.

SIR:

IT appears to me indispensibly necessary, in order to carry into effect the Views of the Legislature with respect to the western Parts of this State, expressed in the Resolutions of the Senate and Assembly, a Copy whereof is enclosed, that the Surveys directed to be made by Government, particularly in the Onondaga and Cayuga Country, should be expedited as much as may be, and to this end I have to request that you will engage twenty-five Men, in addition to the Number you have already employed in that Service, and that you send them with as much dispatch as may be.

You will discover from the Dispatches delivered for Major Hardenbergh, and which are left open for your perusal, the

Measures taken to establish Government in that Quarter, and to give Security to your Surveyors against any Insurrections in that Place to obstruct them in the execution of the Business committed to them. But to afford them further Protection, it is my Desire that these Men which you are now directed to employ, be engaged to serve for such limited time as you shall judge necessary to complete the Business; that they go properly armed and equipped for defense, and be subject as Militia to the Order of Major Hardenbergh, or the commanding Officer of the District; and that you furnish as well for these Men, as the Parties already out, a sufficient quantity of Ammunition. If a few stand of Arms can also be procured to forward to Major Hardenbergh, it will meet his Ideas and be agreeable to me.

It is unnecessary to mention, that in executing this Business, attention must be given that the Parties are furnished with a proper supply of Provisions. You will readily perceive that by this Arrangement, while œconomy will be promoted by employing the Men in a double Capacity, it will afford Protection most expeditiously to the Surveyors now on the Ground.

As soon as you furnish me with an Estimate of the Expense, I will grant you my Warrant on the Treasury for the Sum requisite to defray it.¹ I have only to add that if in your way to Fort Schuyler, you should receive any Information to render it prudent either to encrease or diminish the Number of Men hereby directed, you will do it forthwith, reporting the same to me. I have the highest Confidence that the Business under your care will be executed with Frugality and meritorious Dispatch.

And am, Sir, your very humble Servant,

GEORGE CLINTON.

To SIMEON De WITT, Esquire,
Surveyor-General.

¹ A Draft for £500 was issued for the use of the Surveyor-General, July 14, 1789.

Letter from Simeon De Witt to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6038, N. Y. State Library.]

Albany, 17 July, 1789.

SIR :

CAPT. Hardenbergh arrived here this Morning. The enclosed is a Letter from him, stating in part the Information he came down to communicate. For further Particulars he has sent down Mr. Richardson, from whom your Excellency will be able to obtain a Detail of Circumstances as they respect the Cayuga Country. The Measures directed to be pursued will be executed with all possible Speed. What shall be farther judged necessary I will pay the earliest attention to, as soon as I receive Instructions for the Purpose. I am informed that about two hundred Families are already on the Ground on the east side of the Cayuga Lake, a much greater Number than I apprehended, and from the present run of Emigration thither, they will soon be able to make a serious opposition to Government.

The Effort which Capt. Hardenbergh will make, will bring it to a Test what their Disposition is. If they cannot be divided, and remain united in their Opposition, I fear that nothing less than a Regiment of Militia will be sufficient to subdue them, and even such a Step will require dispatch to ensure its efficiency. If Moses De Witt, has heretofore intimated an intention of residing at Chemung, if he should still be so inclined, I beg leave to suggest whether it would not be polite to give him some such Appointment in a civil or military capacity, as would give him Consequence among these People. He would certainly be able, from his mildness of Temper, and that Address which is suited to the Characters with which he will encounter, to command a considerable part of them. It will be the greatest consequence to have such Characters in the remote parts of the State. Capt. Hardenbergh tells me that his Brother has expressed the same Inclination to settle somewhere in the Cayuga Country. If he should, he would be of great service as he is well qualified

for the Offices which are necessary to preserve the Peace, and a Man of Resolution. However, these Reflections are rather premature. As to the Business in hand, I have only to mention, that Mr. Richardson will be expected back as soon as possible. Capt. Hardenbergh will probably wait here for his return.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir, your Excellency's most obed't
 and humble Serv't,
 SIMEON DE WITT.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Letter from Abraham Hardenbergh to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6039, N. Y. State Library.]

Albany, July 17, 1789.

SIR :

SINCE my last Letter to the Surveyor-General, dated Cayuga Ferry, July 5th, 1789, an Extract of which was laid before your Excellency, I have received some Information, the Importance of which, together with the Advice of the Gentlemen of my Party, induced me to give my personal Attendance at this Place, in hopes of seeing your Excellency, and of finding the Legislature still in Session, in order to give a full Statement of Circumstances relative to that Quarter of the State in which the Surveys I have undertaken are to be made. Soon after I had forwarded the above mentioned Letter, the Fish Carrier, a Cayuga Chief residing at Buffaloe, together with a certain Dockstader, a Tory formerly from the Mohawk River and now residing at Grand River, and several other Indians arrived at Canadesago, and in a Speech made to Ryckman, Col. Reed, &c., after his Introduction informed them that the Cayuga Lands had been sold to the Leasees before the Sale was made to the State; that the Sale to the State had been made by a parcel of Boys and old Women, who were not authorized to sell the Lands; that their Sale of the Lands to the Leasees had been executed by the proper Chiefs of the Nation; that he was determined to support

that Party as long as one of them would stand up for their Right, and even should they relinquish their Claim, the State in such case should not hold the Lands by virtue of the present Sale until they had made another purchase from him and the rest of the Cayugas at ^{the}Buffaloe.

The Fish Carrier also ordered Col. Reed and Mr. Ryckman to quit the Ground immediately, and he said the State Surveyors must also quit Business on the Cayuga Lands, or abide by the Consequences. Mr. Moses De Witt, who it was thought proper should go up to Canadesego on purpose, was present when this Speech was delivered.

Mr. Richardson, the Bearer hereof, has been induced by Col. Reed, and myself, to accompany us down, to give Information against the Leasees. He has been fully possessed of their Secrets and Proceedings, the Reason I suppose he will assign to your Excellency. I believe (from what Information I can collect respecting him) that he has from not knowing the Constitution and Laws of the State, been imposed on by the Arts of the Leasees. And this I can beg leave to say in his Favor, that as soon as I arrived on the Cayuga Ground, he came to me and offered his Service to me in support of Government, and told me he also had at least thirty Men at his Command who should also be at my Service whenever Necessity required it. I am informed he is of a respectable Family in Lancaster County, in Penn'a, as well as his Wife.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obed't humble Serv't,

A highly stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Am. Hordensburgh". The signature is written in a fluid, flowing style with many loops and flourishes, particularly at the end.

His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

*Letter from Governor Clinton to Simeon De Witt, Surveyor
General.*

[Clinton Papers, No. 6040, N. Y. State Library.]

Kingston, 18th July, 1789.

SIR :

YOUR Letter of yesterday, by Mr. Richardson, has been duly received, and for Answer to it I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed Letter to Major Hardenbergh, which is left open for your perusal.

You will easily perceive, that should the Indians at Buffalo Creek be seriously determined to support the Leasees in their unjustifiable Pretensions, it will be in their Power to obstruct the Surveys directed to be made in the Cayuga and Onondaga Countries, for the present, notwithstanding any Force we may be able to raise for their Protection. How far therefore it will be advisable to carry the Arrangements lately made and entrusted to your Direction, into execution, must be determined by the Knowledge Major Hardenbergh has of the Temper and Disposition of the Inhabitants in that Quarter. If what Mr. Richardson informs me may be relied upon, that two thirds of the Inhabitants will give their support to Government, in that case I should presume the Measures directed will prove efficient, as to that Object, and as to the Surveys, I consider them at present as a secondary one. I am not without hopes that the Letters we have written to the Indians may produce a good Effect on their Minds, if faithfully interpreted to them, and I submit it to you whether it would not be advisable for Major Hardenbergh to contrive Means to have this done, either by a personal Interview with them or otherwise.

I am, &c.

GEORGE CLINTON.

TO SIMEON DE WITT, Esqr.

Letter from Abraham Hardenbergh to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6043, N. Y. State Library.]

SIR :

I HEREWITH enclose to your Excellency a Letter from Captain Brant, as also sundry Depositions taken against the Lessee Party. Captain Allen we have had in Custody, and the day before yesterday, as I was laying with a Fit of the Ague in my Tent, the Party, as generally will be the case, growing careless, he made his Escape, and immediately took out of sight into a thick Woods, so that we could not retake him. McKinstry has also been sent after to Canododaque,¹ but cannot be found. On this Occasion Phelps² was applyed to for his aid, in order to avoid impropriety, as it is in Ontario County, and we are informed he is appointed Judge. On application he made many frivolous Excuses, intentionally it is thought, to give McKinstry an Opportunity to get out of the way. — The Letter from Brant we have obtained a Copy of, and is considered by us as insulting to the Dignity of the State, especially when we reflect that it is sent from a Savage, obviously at the Instigation of a set of white People at Cannodaque, who we suppose would wish the World to have an exalted Opinion of them.

Apparently a great Change has taken place among the People since my last arrival from Albany, in consequence of the Proceedings of the Legislature relative to this Quarter, so that we have made considerable progress in the Surveys since. However last Evening we were something alarmed by the Information which Mr. M. De Witt brought from Cannadasego, who had gone up to that Place in Company with the Party which went after McKinstry at Cannodaque.

This Intelligence Mr. De Witt had from the Deposition of a Mr. Scott, taken in his presence before Col. Reed, which

¹ Canandaigua.

Massachusetts Lands in Western New York. He resided at Canandaigua, and was appointed first Judge of Ontario Co., May 5, 1789.

² Oliver Phelps, of the firm of Phelps & Gorham, extensive Purchasers of

is enclosed for your Excellency's perusal. What this Council mentioned and held at Buffaloe will produce, we are at a loss to conceive. They intimate their Object is Kentuck, in compliance with a call for Assistance from the Cherokee and other southern Nations. This may be the case, but the Deposition of Scott also declares that they have a number of Bark Canoes, with which they are to go round to Oswego, and from there to make an incursion into this Country in order to drive off the Surveyors and such Inhabitants as are favorable to Government. The Senecas, we begin to learn from other Information, wholly decline taking any part in this Business. We shall endeavour to obtain further Information on this Subject, and if we learn from any degree of certainty, that this Quarter is the Object, we have concluded to take post on a small Island in their Lake containing about an acre of Ground, situate a quarter of a Mile from Shore,¹ from which I hope we will be able to defend ourselves against a very superior Force should they attempt to disturb us.

Your Excellency's Letter dated Albany, July 14th, 1789, directed to the Onondaga Nation, and transmitted to my care, has been safely handed to them, and on the 2d August was in my presence interpreted to Kyaedote, their Chief, and others; immediately after which they handed me the Letter for my perusal, and agreeably to your Excellency's Directions to me, contained therein, I asked them whether it was their wish that I should proceed to remove the Persons of whom complaint had been made by them. They answered that the one at the Eelwear, below the Cross Lake was very poor, and if they were now to send him off he would starve. They therefore concluded to let him remain untill Fall, and desired me to warn him to depart immediately after his Corn was ripe, and to deliver them, the Onondagos, the one half of his Produce. These Directions have been personally communicated by me. As to the Person at the Salt Springs, they said it was their business to make something from their Lands, and they got annually some Corn from him, and

¹ This Island is in the present Town the Village of Union Springs. of Springport, Cayuga County, opposite

therefore thought it best not to drive him off at present, or as long as he behaved well. The other Letters have also been forwarded agreeably to their several Superscriptions. Seven of the Cayugas, in consequence of your Excellency's Letter to them, have been up to Fort Stanwix and brought from there three Barrels of Corn, the other nine they have sold at that Place, some for three Quarts of Rum per Barrel.

I have the Pleasure to communicate that your Excellency's Order for organizing into a Battalion the Inhabitants residing within the Bounds described therein, seems to give general Satisfaction, and the People generally have spared no trouble to assure me of their Intentions to afford every Assistance in support of Government, and their wishes to have its Operations extended to them. However, if an Opportunity offers, I would wish to try them, before I vouch to your Excellency for them, since I scarcely can have a favorable Idea of such sudden Transitions of Mind in such Matters as those, yet have judged it good Policy to give an attentive Ear to them.

I have had a Meeting of the People at Canadasego and its vicinity, at which I read to them the 37th Art. of the Constitution, together with the Laws of the State, and late Resolutions of Senate and Assembly relative to the Leasees business. These things I explained as far as I was capable, which seemed to point out to them the Villainy and Deception which has been played upon them by the Leasees, and from what Information I can collect since, has had a very good effect, and they must now undoubtedly be convinced that their Disappointments and Misfortunes altogether flow from the unwarrantable and base Transactions of that Company.

The Cayuga Reservation, I am apprehensive, will afford a continual Source of Trouble and Uneasiness, as well to this Quarter as to the Government of the State, since from its pleasing and favorable Situation and goodness of the Soil, it forms an irresistible Inducement for the white People to settle within its Bounds, as well as for greedy and unprincipled Speculators again to form unwarranted Plans for obtaining it independent of Government; besides the Lands circumjacent are very good, which will naturally bring forward numerous

Settlers, many of which from the antipathy imbibed against the Indians in the course of the War, and still aggravated by Depredations which it must be expected this wild and savage Nation will daily commit, and which they have already committed on their Property, will be the means of exciting Quarrels which may perhaps involve the future Peace of the State, and render frequent and expensive interventions of Government necessary. It will however be the province of your Excellency only to decide, whether if a purchase could be accommodated with this Nation, it would not conduce to the Peace and Interest of the State. This perhaps may at present be practicable, as the Buffaloe Indians seem very much disposed for such a Sale. Those Indians also now are very much dissatisfied with the Sale made to the State, and what little Expences it will be necessary for the State to enter into in order to pacify them, future time must determine.

This perhaps may be found equal to that which at present would accommodate this Dissatisfaction, and purchase the Reservation also. These Circumstances I can only presume to suggest to your Excellency, from a sense of the Obligation I am under to convey every Information from this distant Quarter, which appears to me will be conducive to the welfare of the State.

Mr. Ryckman and the Cayugas insist upon it, that a Mile square on each side of the River at Scaware is reserved to the use of the Indians. Our Directions mention "a competent Piece of Land on the southerly side, sufficient for the Indians to land, encamp and cure their Eels on." Your Excellency's Orders or Directions from the Surveyor-General can only be our guide herein, and we shall be obliged to abide by our present Directions, unless new Instructions are received, for which Reason we have postponed the Survey for some time. I have only to observe that their old encamping Place is on the north side, and the southerly side is low, wet Ground. Their large Reservation is run out, as also Ryckman's Tract.

I am considerably embarrassed with respect to the County of Ontario, there being no full civil establishment there, and possibly so much of one as might render my acting in it impro-

per, besides, no dependance could be placed on them, provided there was a full Appointment, for it is notorious, that they are friendly to the Lessees. If therefore your Excellency should consider the Depositions sufficiently criminating to apprehend the Persons against whom they were taken, some Orders or Directions respecting the same will more fully authorize my acting. I doubt not but we will be much watched in our Conduct, and we would wish not to give any cause of complaint. In our opinion, if Allen and McKinstry¹ were apprehended, it would be a great help towards completely reducing the lessee Business. How far it would also be proper to turn out a number of Militia to assist in apprehending such Persons, I am at a loss to know. If I had been certain that my Letter would have found Col. Varick in the City, I would have avoided being so tedious by taking his Advice on those Subjects, but suppose he is much absent since his late Appointment,² and therefore trust your Excellency will excuse me in writing so full and lengthy.

I remain your Excellency's
most obedient humble Serv't,

ABM. HARDENBERGH.

Cayuga Lake, September 3d, 1789.
His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

Letter from Governor Clinton to Abraham Hardenbergh.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6045, N. Y. State Library.]

New York, 19th Sept'r, 1789.

SIR :

ON Wednesday last, I had the honor to receive your Letter of the third Instant, by Captain Thornton. The very full Communication made of your Proceedings, and of the Situation of Affairs in that quarter of the State in which you

¹ The McKinstry brothers, Members of the Lessee Company, were from Hillsdale, Columbia Co., N. Y.

² Richard Varick was appointed At-

torney-General of the State, May 14, 1789, and was required to attend the Circuits of the Supreme Court, and discharge throughout the State, the Duties since devolved upon District Attorneys.

are employed, is highly acceptable. The different Measures which you have taken, appear to me to be as well calculated to establish the Authority of Government, and ensure Peace and good Order as could be expected, and I would fain hope that in the end they will prove effectual.

I perfectly agree with you in opinion, that the Apprehension of McKinstry, Allen and others, who appear to have a principal Agency in supporting the Claims of the Lessees, and in exciting an Opposition to Government, would be attended with the most salutary Consequences. Under this Impression I now transmit you Warrants from the Chief Justice against such of them as stand criminated by the Depositions you transmitted to me. This will obviate the Difficulties you mention respecting the County of Ontario, as these Warrants are derived from an Authority which pervades this State, and will sufficiently justify you in causing them to be executed in that or any other County where the Offenders may be found. I do not conceive that there would be the least impropriety, especially circumstanced as you are, to call out the Militia to assist in apprehending them; but to remove all Doubts on this Question, I now enclose you an Order to all Officers, civil and military and others, the good People of the State, to be aiding and assisting in apprehending the Offenders, which Order you will use as you may find necessary. Should they be taken a Rescue or Escape must be carefully guarded against, as the former would discover a feebleness in Government, and the latter an inattention that would not fail to raise the Hopes of their Partizans, and be productive of evil Consequences.

The Powers of the Commissioners for treating with the Indians, expired thirty days after the last Meeting of the Legislature. It is not in my power therefore to give any other positive Directions than what is contained in the Deed of Cession from the Cayugas respecting the Reservation at the Scawyace, having no Board to consult on the Subject. It is my Opinion, however, that it will be serving the Interest of the State to gratify them, and that you will stand justified in your Survey to make the small Reservation they claim

at that Place. It cannot be an Object worth contending about, and your making the Reservation will at any rate not confer Title. It appears to me to be of the first Importance to retain the Confidence and Friendship of the Indians with whom we have treated. If the Powers of the Commissioners existed, this consideration alone would be an Obstacle against treating with the Indians at Buffaloe Creek, for the reserved Lands at this time, as it would naturally tend to excite Jealousy in the Minds of those who reside on them, and appear to have an invincible Reluctance to quit the Habitations of their Ancestors.

From the Information in Schott's Affidavit as well as the Determination expressed in the Letter from Capt. Brant, and other Indians to me, it is more than probable that the Object of the Preparations at Buffaloe Creek, is to interrupt you in your Surveys, altho' at the same time the Accounts lately received from the Frontiers of Virginia would justify an Opinion that they are also intended to afford Assistance to the Indians who are committing Depredations in that quarter. If an Opposition to you should be their principal Object, and the Party at Buffaloe's Creek unanimous in their Determinations to prevent your Surveys, altho' you may defend yourself from personal insult for a time, I presume it will not be in your Power to protect yourself against them and complete the Business you are on, nor would it be practicable, if it was otherwise thought advisable to afford you a sufficient Force for the Purpose. I conclude therefore that Negotiation will in this case be our only Resource, and under this Impression I have thought it expedient to address the inclosed Letter to Captain Brant, and to prevent suppression I have subscribed several other Copies of it, which you have inclosed, to be directed and delivered to such other Indians who have signed the Letter to me, as you shall judge most likely to promote the Views of the State.

The Information given by Capt. Thornton, respecting the Behavior of the Indians to him, and the Ideas they entertained of the Substance of their Letter to me (which has not a single trait of Indian in its Composition, and I am per-

suaded has been wholly dictated by the Lessees), induce me to hope that the Indians will concede to the Proposition contained in my Letter, and suffer you to proceed without molestation. Should I however be mistaken, this Overture for Accommodation can do no present injury, and may eventually be of service. If you should have met with actual Insult from the Indians before this Letter reaches you, in that case it may be improper to forward the Letters to them and you are at Liberty to retain them, if you think it best.

I would observe, that altho' I am pleased with the Account you give of the Professions and apparent Disposition of the Inhabitants, I agree with you that it would not be prudent to place too much Confidence in them until you shall have better Evidence of their Conversion.

I am very sensible of your delicate Situation, and I could wish I was able to give you more particular Directions for the government of your Conduct, but this at so great a Distance is impracticable. You must be governed by Circumstances as they arise, and I am the less anxious as I have great Confidence in your Discretion, and that you will be influenced by a strict regard for the interest and honor of the State, observing at the same time, as much œconomy as the nature of your Situation will admit of.

I am, with great regard,
Your most obed't Serv't,

GEORGE CLINTON.

To Major HARDENBERGH.

Letter from Governor Clinton to Major Hardenbergh.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6053, N. Y. State Library.]

New York, 4th October, 1789.

SIR :

YESTERDAY Evening Col. Reed delivered me your Letter of the 21st Ultimo. It gives me great Satisfaction, that notwithstanding the Threats that were thrown out against you, accompanied with hostile Appearances, you have

a prospect of completing your Surveys without interruption. My Dispatches by Captain Thornton, who left there on his return a Week ago, will explain to you my ideas so very fully that it is unnecessary to add any thing on the Subject. I would barely observe, that least you should by any Cause be prevented from completing the Business this Fall, it may be advisable to run such Lines, and make such traverses of Lakes and Rivers, as will render it practicable from your Map, to grant the Lands to the Persons who are entitled to them, without waiting for the completion of the Surveys.

Some time since, Col. Reed entered a Caveat in the Secretary's Office against granting to Peter Ryckman a Patent for the Lands which by the Cayuga Cession are reserved for him, under an idea that Col. Reed is entitled to a moiety of it, in consequence of an Agreement between them antecedent to the Cession. On this Occasion I would observe to you, that the Com'rs were induced to consent to this Reservation in consideration of Services and Trouble in promoting the Treaty, and I recollect that Mr. Ryckman mentioned at the time that Col. Reed had an Agency in the Business, and was to have some Share, without mentioning the proportion or quantity of the reserved Lands, altho' the Reservation was made solely in his Name. It is probable, therefore, that this Controversy will require the interposition of Government in some mode or other, and as Justice will be the Object, I could wish through you to be furnished with all such Facts respecting it, as may appear necessary to an equitable Decision on the Subject. Perhaps it will not be amiss to extend your inquiries to the general tenor of the Conduct of both Parties prior and subsequent to the Treaty, last [at] Albany, and their disposition and capacity to promote the interest and views of Government in that Quarter.

By Col. Reed, I have also received a Letter signed by Edward Paine, J. Richardson and a great Number of other Inhabitants in the Cayuga Country. I request that you will be pleased to inform them that Professions of Attachment to Government and the Disposition they manifest to support the Laws of the State, are highly acceptable to me, and that

H hh

a perseverance cannot fail to ensure them my Friendship on every proper Occasion.

Col. Reed requested me to write to the Cayugas, to permit Major Danford¹ to carry on Salt works, which it seems he has erected or is about to erect at the Springs in their Country, but as their Springs and the Lands adjoining them are reserved to common use, I deem it improper for me without the direction of the Legislature to interfere. If, however, the Indians have no objection to it, I presume the State will not prevent a Business which may tend to accommodate the Country, provided it is not conducted to the injury of the Community.

I am with great respect,
Your most obedient Serv't,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and features elaborate flourishes, particularly a large, sweeping loop at the bottom that extends across the width of the signature.

Major HARDENBERGH.

P. S. As Col. Varick will write to you by this Conveyance, and of course make such Communication respecting family Affairs as will be agreeable, I shall refer you to his Letter and only tell you that Mrs. Hardenbergh spent the Afternoon with us two days ago, in good Health and Spirits.

¹ Asa Danforth of Onondaga.

Instructions for Mr. Abraham Hardenbergh.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6066, N. Y. State Library.]

WHEREAS, a Proclamation dated 7th May, 1790,¹ has been issued by me, directing all the Inhabitants residing within the Bounds of the two Tracts of Land respectively reserved to and for the use of the Onondago and Cayuga Nations of Indians, to remove by the first day of June last past, on penalty of non compliance to have the Law as specified in my said Proclamation vigorously executed against such said Inhabitants. If therefore on your Arrival in that Country, you find that the Directions in my said Proclamation have not been complied with, you will pursue such coercive Measures as to you shall appear best calculated to effect the Objects and Intentions of my Proclamation, and in order to support you in such coercive Proceedings, I hereby call on all Officers, civil and military, and all and every the good People of this State, to assist you in the execution of these my Instructions to you. If, however, the

¹ *Proclamation,*

By His Excellency, George Clinton, Esq., Governor of the State of New York, General of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same,

Whereas, the Cayuga and other Nations of Indians, residing within this State, have complained to me that a number of Persons have lately settled and intruded on the Lands reserved to the said Nations for their own use and cultivation, I have therefore thought fit to issue this Proclamation, hereby requiring all Persons who have so settled or intruded on the said Lands, forthwith to depart and remove from off the same, and hereby notifying all Persons who having so settled and intruded, and shall remain on the said Lands after the first day of June next, that I shall in pursuance of the

Authority vested in me by an Act of the Legislature of this State, entitled "An Act to punish infractions of that Article of the Constitution of this State, prohibiting purchases of Lands from the Indians, without the authority and consent of the Legislature, and more effectually to provide against intrusions on the unappropriated Lands of this State," passed the 18th Day of March, 1788, cause all such Persons to be removed and their Building and other Improvements to be destroyed.

Given under my Hand, and the Privy Seal, at the City of New York, the seventh Day of May, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

GEORGE CLINTON.

—*Albany Gazette.*

Inhabitants can agree with the Indians aforesaid, so as to accommodate their stay until they the said Inhabitants can reap and collect their Crops of Grain, which they now have in the Ground, you will assure to such, accommodation as far as prudence shall dictate to you to be consistent with the mutual interest and welfare of the State of New York, and the said Onondagoes and Cayugas, provided the said Inhabitants furnish you with a Certificate, signed by the Chiefs of the Nation claiming the Reservation, in which such Inhabitant or Inhabitants reside, importing that they the said Chiefs have consented to the stay of such Inhabitant or Inhabitants until the fifteenth day of October next ensuing, after which Date you will permit none to remain within the Limits of either of the Reservations aforesaid.

Given under my Hand at Fort Stanwix, this twenty-first Day of June, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and ninety.¹

(A true Copy.)

Letter from Brant to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6067, N. Y. State Library.]

Grand River, 21st July, 1790.

SIR:

A GREEABLE to Promise I take the Liberty to inform your Excellency of our safe Arrival, without any thing remarkable on our Journey. We have the rumor of a Spanish War, the certainty of which you have before now, your Country not lying quite so remote from Europe as we do, get the certainty of those distant Transactions. Early tomorrow I take my departure for Detroit, on public Business, or otherwise I should write more fully. When I had the

¹ No further Documents are preserved among the Clinton Papers, showing the Terms upon which these Surveys were completed, or the nature and extent of the Difficulties opposed to their Execution.

It is however known from other Sources, that no serious Obstacles were encountered, and that the work was done with promptness.

Pleasure of seeing your Excellency last, we had a little distant Conversation concerning a Tract of Land given me by Doctor Benton. I would be happy to have your Excellency's Determination on the Subject, as I always understood that it was a Present, or perhaps the Present that I received this Summer by the Commissioners of the Land Office. As I expect to have the pleasure of seeing your Excellency next Summer, I should be very happy to have your Excellency's Determination before that time. I am at a loss for Words to express my gratitude for the civility and attention I received from your Excellency and the rest of the Gentlemen when at Fort Stanwix. My best respects to Col. Varick, not forgetting my Brother Sachem the Doctor. I also expect to receive any Tribute from my Friend Lamodieu.¹ I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's very
Humble Servant,

Jos. Brant

His Excellency GEORGE CLINTON,
Governor of State N. York, &c. &c. &c.

N. B. I [am] sorry to inform you, that I am like to loose my Horse. He is very sick and I don't expect he will live.

¹ Ezra L'Hommedieu of Suffolk County, one of the Commissioners. We have no indication as to the nature or extent of this Tribute, but may be allowed to conjecture as follows: The Indians of Long Island were known at an early period to have been tributary to the warlike Mohawks. Mr. L'Hommedieu had purchased certain Lands on the eastern end of Long Island, upon which this Tribute may have been claimed as a lien. Upon the strength of this, Brant, on be-

half of the Tribe to which he belonged, may have demanded tribute, from the alleged vassal upon these Lands, under the ancient Covenants between their Forefathers. It was doubtless claimed by way of pleasantry, as no serious allegation of Title could have been entertained or urged. The "Brother Sachem, the Doctor," was Dr. Samuel Gale, Jr., who attended the Treaty at Fort Stanwix, about a Month previous to the Date of this Letter.

Letter from Governor Clinton to Joseph Brant.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6070, N. Y. State Library.]

New York, 1st Sept'r, 1790.

SIR :

I WAS favoured with your Letter of the 21st July, Yesterday, and am happy to hear of your health and safe arrival at your place of residence.

The Rumor of a Spanish War also prevails among us. It is certain that both that and the British Nation are equipping powerful Naval Armaments, the ostensible Object of which is the Settlement of a Dispute which has taken place between them with respect to their Possessions on the north west part of this Continent, and the Right of Fishing on that Quarter. It is however probable that all this political bustle may terminate in Negotiation by the one conceding and the other accepting of what neither have any well founded Pretensions to, further than new discovery and the displaying of a national Flag by the permission of the hospitable and unsuspecting Natives.

The Gentlemen who are appointed Commissioners of Indian Affairs and whom you saw with me at Fort Stanwix, chiefly reside in the Country, and are now so dispersed, that it is not practicable to confer with them. I perfectly recollect the Conversation which passed between you and me relative to Lands which you was to have had from Dr. Benton, and at the time communicated the purport of it to the Commissioners, and you will remember I afterwards informed you that however strong their Dispositions were to serve you, yet that they could not consent to any thing that would give the least sanction or countenance on to any part of Benton's Transactions, as they considered them not only contrary to Law, but committed by him in open defiance of the Authority of the State.

They at the same time expressed Sentiments of the warmest Friendship for you, and considered the Present which they directed me to make you as the only way they had it in their Power to evince the sincerity of their Professions.

I shall be happy to see you here next Summer, and will endeavour to make your Visit agreeable to you.

Col. Varick and your Brother the Sachem, are the only two Gentlemen who were at Fort Stanwix now in Town. They request you to accept of their best Respects. I will not fail to communicate your Expectation to our Friend L'Hommedieu, that he may stand prepared to discharge the Tribute. With best Compliments to Capt. David, and other Friends at Grand River,

I am, your most obed't Serv't,

GEORGE CLINTON.

TO JOSEPH BRANT.

P. S. I am sorry to hear that you are like to be so unfortunate as to loose your Horse.

Letter from Joseph Brant to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6075, N. Y. State Library.]

Nassau, 5th Nov^{br}, '90.

SIR :

I SOME time ago wrote your Excellency on different Subjects, agreeable to Promise. From not being honored with your Answer I am apprehensive you did not receive it, therefore I have taken this Opportunity of letting you know that I intend meeting your Commissioners at Fort Stanwix, on the 1st of June next, when the Onondagoes and Cayugas are to receive payment, after which, if nothing extraordinary should occur, I shall accompany them in order to pay you a Visit.

Not having thoroughly understood what was to be done respecting the Tract of Land given me by Livingston & Co. in their Purchase near to the reserved Lands, having received a Horse, &c., from your Commissioners, [I] know not whether it was intended as a recompence and in lieu of said Tract or not, having been informed by a Letter from Major Fonda, that Klock & Remsen still persist in opposing him taking possession of the Lands he fairly and openly purchased

from us, and to which they lay an unjust Claim, no writings they or either of them have, must have been obtained in an illegal Manner, and from persons no ways authorized to dispose of the Property that appertained to the Nation in general, [I] therefore request every justice may be done Fonda, in order to give him peaceable Possession, as he is the just and true Proprietor.

Your Excellency will please to remind Mr. L'Hommedieu of the ancient Tribute which I expect to receive when I visit you, and if you should wish to have any Curiosities this western World may afford, [I] beg you will lay your Commands upon me, and I shall be happy in procuring them for you. My good Friend Capt. David, a few days ago, after a fit of sickness departed this life. Permit me to assure your Excellency that your Politeness and Attention to me, as likewise that of the Commissioners and other Gentlemen attending, will be ever gratefully acknowledged.

By a Vessel just arrived from Detroit, we have the following Intelligence: That on the 23d ult. a body of one thousand Americans, on horseback, being advanced of the main body, in order to surprise the Miamis Village, of which the Indians were aware, and laid in ambush to receive them some distance from the Place. The Americans were warmly received, and repulsed with considerable loss. The Indians are one thousand strong, and in high spirits, and we have every reason to expect to hear of the main body being attacked. This I have long expected would be the Consequence, as Gov. St. Clair, when I was at Muskingum, laid claim to greater Tract of their Country at once, and the Business, had it not been for that, might in my opinion have been amicably settled without the State's incurring the Expense of an Indian War.

I shall be happy in being honored with a Letter from your Excellency.

I am with respect your Excellency's
Most Obed't Humble Serv't,

JOS. BRANT.

Governor CLINTON, New York.

Letter from Governor Clinton to President Washington.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6076, N. Y. State Library.]

New York, 26th Nov'r, 1790.

SIR :

I HAVE this Moment received a Letter from Capt. Brant, dated Nassau, the 5th Instant. It contains Expressions of the warmest Friendship and Attachment, and a Promise to visit me at this Place in June next, &c., and gives me the following Information, which I beg leave confidentially to communicate to your Excellency. I believe it would not be proper that my Correspondence with him should be publicly known. If this Intelligence is true, you will receive it as through another Channel.

[Here follows a quotation from Brant's Letter.]

Your Excellency will recollect that I mentioned to you on my return from Fort Stanwix last Summer, that Brant entertained unfavorable Sentiments of the Management of the Treaty at Muskingum, and was displeased with his Treatment at that Place. It is certain he is a Man of very considerable information, influence and enterprize, and in my humble opinion, his Friendship is worthy of cultivation at some Expense.

I am with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's

most obed't & humble Serv't,

GEORGE CLINTON.

The President of the United States.

Letter from Henry Knox, Secretary of War, to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6077, N. Y. State Library.]

War Office, December 2d, 1790.

SIR :

I HAVE the honor to transmit to your Excellency an Extract from a written Memorial delivered by Captain Abeel,

I ii

or the Cornplanter, complaining of the Conduct of Messrs. Livingston and Phelps, in certain Purchases of Lands from the Senecas. The President is uninformed upon these Points and I am also entirely unacquainted with the Particulars of the Transactions alluded to.

If your Excellency is in possession of any written Documents, or could give any Information on the Subject, which will enable the President to answer the Cornplanter with precision and effect, I should be exceedingly obliged by a speedy communication thereof, as the Cornplanter and others have been here at considerable Expense, and will remain until they receive some Satisfaction upon the Subject of their Complaint.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Excellency's most obed't and
very humble Serv't
H. KNOX.

His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

*The Speech of the President of the United States to the Cornplanter, Half-Town and Big-Tree, Chiefs of the Seneca Nation of Indians.*¹

BROTHERS: I have maturely considered your second written Speech.

You say your Nation complain that, at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, you were compelled to give up too much of your Lands; that you confess your Nation is bound by what was there done; and acknowledging the Power of the United States, that you have now appealed to ourselves against that Treaty, as made while we were angry against you, and that the said Treaty was, therefore, unreasonable and unjust.

But, while you complain of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, in 1784, you seem entirely to forget that you, yourselves, the Cornplanter, Half-Town and Great-Tree, with others of

¹ This Speech was made in Reply to Big-Tree, given in the Note on pp. 168-171.
that of Cornplanter, Half-Town and 171.

your Nation, confirmed by the Treaty of Fort Harmar, upon the Muskingum, so late as the ninth of January, 1789, the Boundary marked at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, and that, in consideration thereof, you then received Goods to a considerable Amount.

Although it is my sincere desire, in looking forward, to endeavor to promote your Happiness, by all just and humane Arrangements, yet I cannot disannul Treaties formed by the United States, before my Administration, especially, as the Boundaries mentioned therein have been twice confirmed by yourselves. The Lines fixed at Fort Stanwix and Fort Harmar, must therefore remain established. But Half-Town, and the others, who reside on the Land you desire may be relinquished, have not been disturbed in their possession, and I should hope, while he and they continue to demean themselves peaceably, and to manifest their friendly dispositions to the People of the United States, that they will be suffered to remain where they are.

The Agent who will be appointed by the United States, will be your Friend and Protector. He will not be suffered to defraud you, or to assist in defrauding you of your Lands or of any other thing, as all his Proceedings must be reported in writing, so as to be submitted to the President of the United States.

You mention your Design of going to the Miami Indians, to endeavor to persuade them to Peace. By this humane Measure you will render those mistaken People a great service, and probably prevent them from being swept from off the Face of the Earth. The United States require only that those People should demean themselves peaceably; but they may be assured that the United States are able, and will most certainly punish them severely for all their Robberies and Murders. You may, when you return from this City to your own Country, mention to your Nation my desire to promote their Prosperity, by teaching them the use of domestic Animals, and the manner that the white People plough and raise so much Corn. And if, upon consideration, it would be agreeable to the Nation at large to learn these

valuable Arts, I will find some means of teaching them, at such places within your Country as shall be agreed upon.

I have nothing more to add, but to refer you to my former speech, and to repeat my wishes for the happiness of the Seneca Nation.

Given under my Hand, and Seal of the United States,
at Philadelphia, this nineteenth Day of January,
one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

*The Speech of the Secretary of War to the Cornplanter,
Half-Town, and Big-Tree, Chiefs of the Seneca Nation
of Indians.*¹

THE Subscriber, the Secretary of War, has submitted your Speech, of yesterday, to the President of the United States, who has commanded him to assure you of his good wishes for your Happiness, and that you may have a pleasant Journey to your own Country.

The Governor of the Western Territory will appoint you an Interpreter whenever one shall be necessary. The President of the United States does not choose to interfere on this Point.

The President of the United States thinks it will be the best mode of teaching you how to raise Corn, by sending one or two sober Men to reside in your Nation, with proper Implements of Husbandry. It will therefore be proper that you should, upon consultation, appoint a proper Place for such Persons to till the Ground. They are not to claim the Land on which they shall plough.

The President of the United States, also, thinks it will be the best mode of teaching your Children to read and write, to send a Schoolmaster among you, and not for you to send your Children among us. He will, therefore, look out for a proper Person for this Business.

¹ This Speech was made in Reply to Big-Tree, given in the Note on p. 171. that of Cornplanter, Half-Town and

As soon as you shall learn any thing of the Intentions of the Western Indians, you will inform the Governor of the Western Territory thereof, or the Officer commanding at Fort Washington, in order to be communicated to the President of the United States.

Given at the War Office of the United States, this eighth Day of February, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

H. KNOX, *Secretary of War.*

Letter from Joseph Brant to Governor Clinton.

[Clinton Papers, No. 6086, N. Y. State Library.]

Grand River, 4th March, 1791.

SIR :

YOUR Favour of 29th July, and 1st of Sept. last, only came to hand last Week, or I should [have] done myself the honor of acknowledging them sooner.

I thank you and the Commissioners for the favorable opinion you are pleaséd to entertain of the part I took in accommodating the Differences in the Cayuga Nation, but am sorry the Nation have not succeeded better in the Plan which we thought most eligible, as well as correspondent with what they were given to understand by the Commissioners at Fort Stanwix. I hope however the Legislature will consider the hardship of the majority of the Nation loosing the Benefit of the reserved Lands, as well as the greatest part of the proceeds of the rest, through the Misconduct of a few of the inferior part of the Nation.

Altho' the Indians in general, not be susceptible of the Rights they ought to have to Property, yet it appears hard to those that are more enlightened, to see their Brethren because they know not the right they should have deserved of which they always conceived they had.

I am not a little surprised, that Mr. Street [should] have misrepresented the Proceeding at Fort Stanwix, as such Conduct differs widely from his general Character ; but if he has

done it he is inexcusable, and the more so, in shewing me a very true Statement of the Proceedings which he asserts to be the same that he laid before the President.

I see the impropriety of the Authority making good any Engagements at Livingston, in the same light as you are pleased to explain it, and altho' I am like to fall so far short of my Expectation, I am equally obliged to you, and the other Gentlemen for the attention and civility shew'd me at Ft. Stanwix, and still hope to pay you a visit in June next, when your Madeira, and the Rearage of my Friend L'Hommedieu, must make up the Difference.

The Observation I made to you last Summer, is in some measure verified, that altho' the States might get the Land in dispute to the Westward, that the Measure they were about to pursue was by far the dearest way of securing them.

I am very sorry the Breach is now greater than ever, as the late Success of the Indians has not only exasperated those that were immediately concerned, but has spread the Sore where it was not felt before, and will make it worse, in place of better to heal, and all that will be gained in the end, will not be adequate to the Expence in Blood and Treasure.

Since writing the above, the Kayugas have had a Council, and resolved to send to the Legislature to know how far their Right extends to the Reservation, that an end may be put to their Doubts.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with much respect,
Your most obedient and very humble Serv't,

JOS. BRANT.

Governor CLINTON:

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