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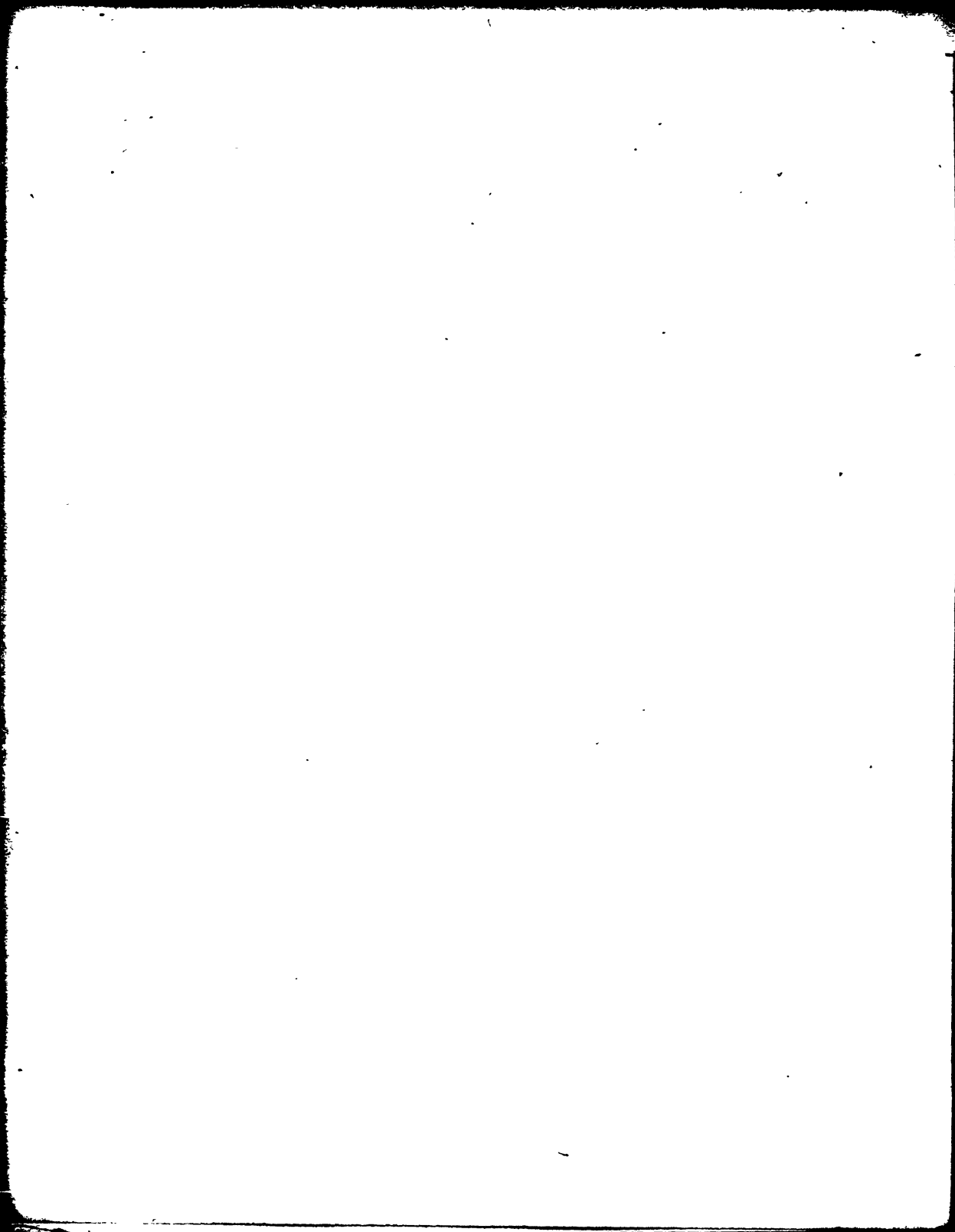
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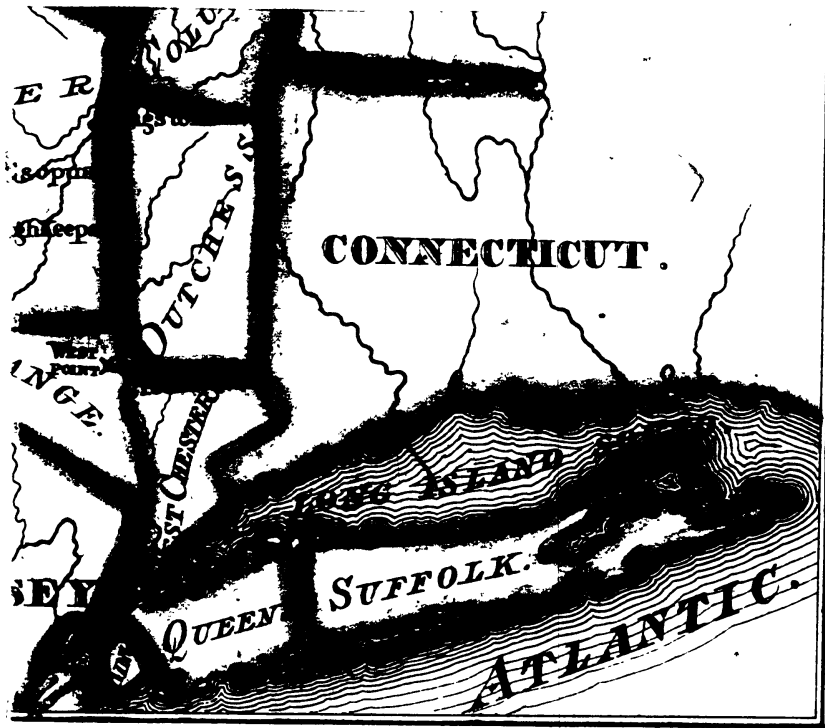
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# PROCEEDINGS

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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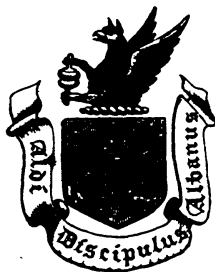
WITH AN

*Introduction and Notes,*

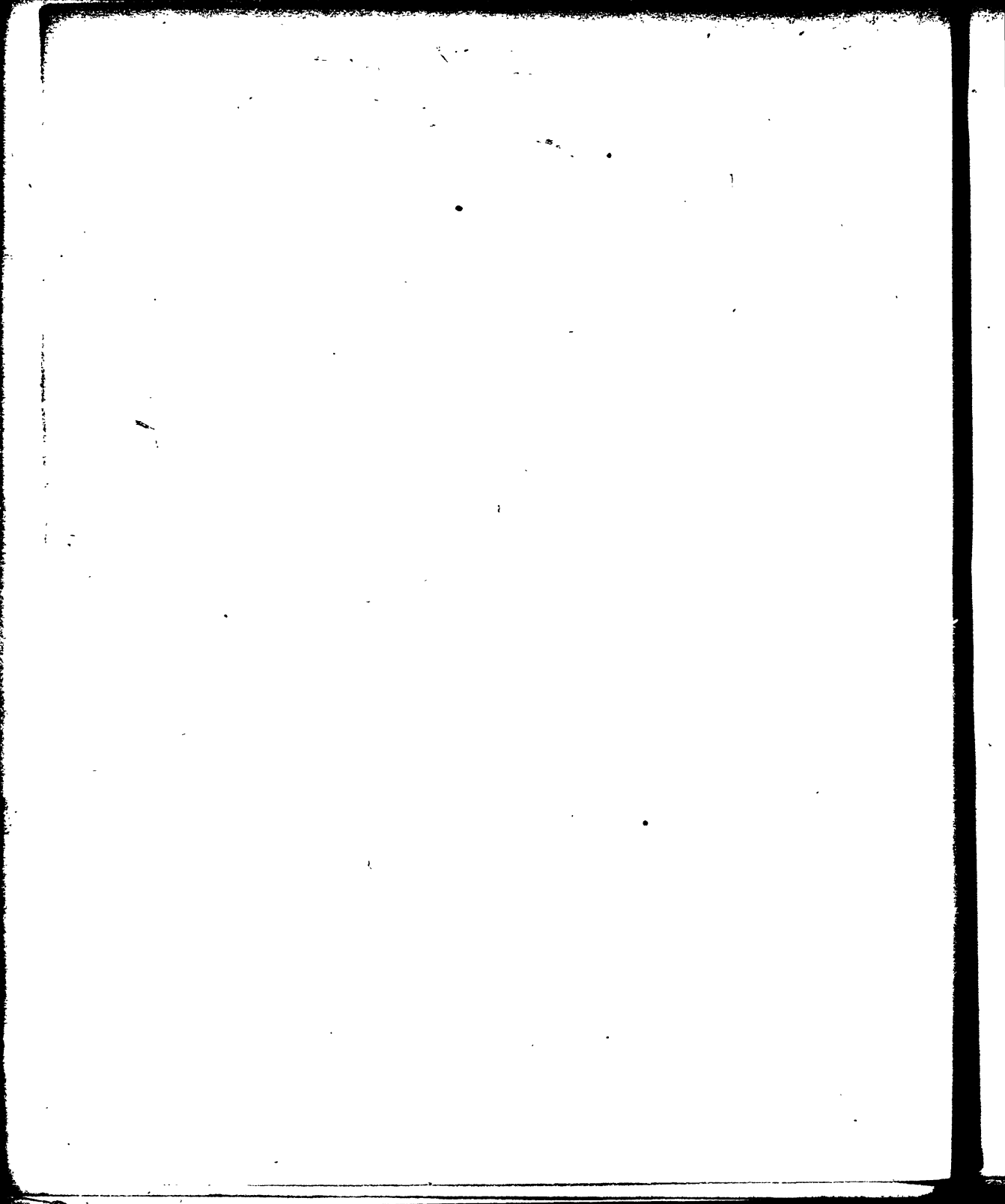
BY FRANKLIN B. HOUGH,

MEMBER OF THE ALBANY INSTITUTE.

VOL. I.



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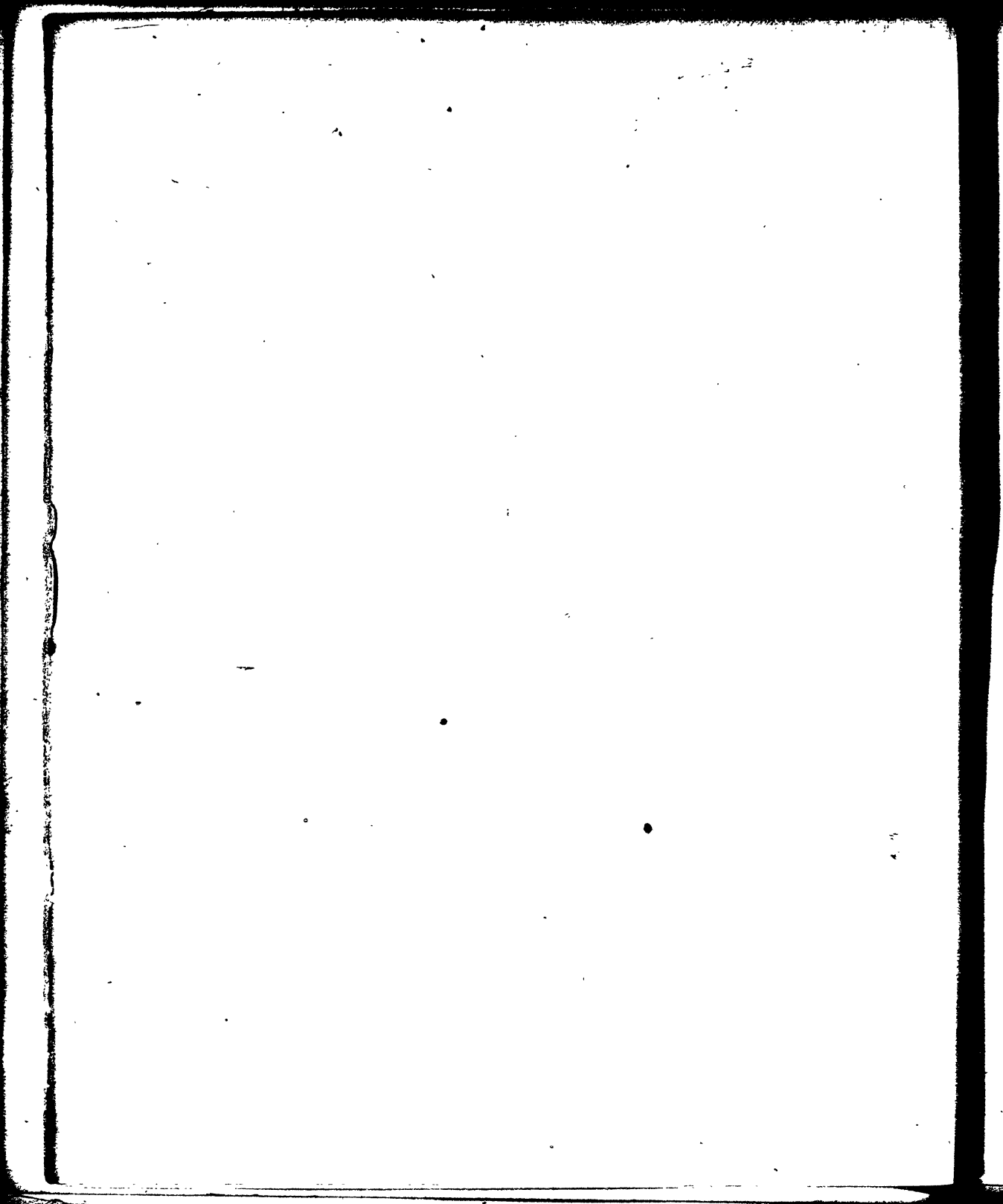
TO  
JOHN V. L. PRUYN, LL. D.

PRESIDENT OF THE ALBANY INSTITUTE,

THESE VOLUMES

IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST TAKEN BY HIM IN THEIR PUBLICATION,

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.





## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE War of the Revolution having resulted in Freedom and Peace, the Energies of the Nation were allowed to expand without Restraint, and a Spirit of Emigration soon spread among our People, especially in the Eastern States, to an Extent previously unknown. The Military Expeditions into the Indian Country had brought under the Notice of our Citizen Soldiers, Regions as yet unbroken by the Plow, whose broad Intervals, enriched by annual Overflow, gave Promise of inexhaustible Fertility, and whose ancient Orchards upon the Hillsides bore Evidence of a genial Climate, and gave Promise of unlimited Wealth under the Hand of the skilful Husbandman.

By a Compact recognized by the New Government, the Extension of the New York Settlements westward was checked by a Line passing along the present Eastern Border of Broome County, and up the Unadilla to its Source, and thence in a direct Line to a Point on Wood Creek about seven Miles west of Rome. This Line, known as the *Line of Property*, had been established as the Boundary of the Indian Lands, and no Settlement could be formed beyond

it, without a formal Cession by its acknowledged Owners. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras who occupied the Frontiers, had been our Friends during the Revolution, and every Consideration of Justice demanded that we should deal generously with our late Allies, and take no Lands but with their full Consent, and upon payment of a satisfactory Price. Beyond these, there dwelt the Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas, our late Enemies, and still warmly attached to the British Interests, and in close Relation with their former Allies, who still occupied the Military Posts at Oswego and Niagara, and enjoyed an unrestricted Trade with these Nations. The Cayugas and Senecas had suffered much in the Expedition of Sullivan's Army in 1779, and the Casualties of the War had thinned their Numbers, and reduced them to comparative Poverty, yet they were still able to prevent Settlements upon their Lands, unless protected by a Military Force; and Policy would have alone suggested the Purchase of their Rights to the Soil, had not the uniform Practice of the Government dictated such a Course.

Having had many unhappy Proofs of the Dangers arising from the Purchase of Indian Lands by Individuals, the Colonial Authorities had for many Years placed Restrictions upon the Practice; and the Framers of the first State Constitution wisely forbade any Purchase of Lands from the Natives, except by Commissioners acting under the Authority and in behalf of the State. In 1779 the first State Commissioners were appointed, but the

time for peaceable Negotiation had not yet arrived, and they effected nothing towards procuring the Cession of Lands, or even towards a Cessation of Hostilities. Many of the Oneidas were induced to remove to Schenectady, where they were supported at the Expense of the State, during the latter Part of the War.

In 1783, the first effectual Step was taken towards this Object, by the Appointment of Agents to settle the Indian Boundaries, and obtain such Cessions of Land as might be deemed proper, granting to the Native Owners such Annuities and Payments as would satisfy their Claims, and leaving them in Possession of certain Reservations for their own Residence and Cultivation.

The Transfer of Title to large Areas of Land, is of itself always an important Era in the Civil History of a Country, because it involves a Change of Policy with regard to Settlements, and may determine the future Character of the Population through long Periods of Time. But when the Change has in express View the Substitution of Civilization for Barbarism—a dense agricultural Population in the Place of a thinly scattered and half starved Race of Savages, earning a precarious Subsistence by the Chase or by Fishing, the Event becomes one of unusual Importance, and claims of the Historian a full and ample Record.

The Deeds of Cession procured from the Native Owners, under the Negotiation of the Commissioners appointed by State Authority, have at various Times




been published, and their Conditions have imparted their Influence upon our History. The Negotiations which attended these Transactions, have however never before been published, although partial Accounts of the Treaties appear in the Writings, or are preserved in the traditional Statements, of those who attended them. Of the living Witnesses who had attained to Years of Maturity sufficient to understand the Purport of these Conferences, none survive, and even of the Children who witnessed any Part of the Ceremonies, there are perhaps none now living. We will not anticipate the Details of these Events by their Recital in this Place. They are stated with sufficient Clearness in the following Pages, and will be read with Interest. The Volume from which they were printed, was left in the Hands of the Hon. Pierre Van Cortlandt, one of the last Set of Commissioners, and Lieutenant Governor of the State. It was presented by his Grandson, Col. Pierre Van Cortlandt, to the Library of the Albany Institute, where it is now preserved. In April, 1860, the Institute authorized the Publication of the Manuscript under the Direction of the present Editor, and in Pursuance of that Authority it is now printed.



## NOTE

### CONCERNING THE MAPS IN THIS WORK.

HE Map facing the Title, shows the Counties as defined by the General Act of 1788, and the Territorial Limits of the original Five Nations. The Tuscaroras held with the Oneidas. The eastern and southern Portions of the State had been inhabited by various Tribes tributary to the Six Nations, and especially to the Mohawks. The latter had, at the Period referred to, lost their Right to the Soil, by adherence to the Royal Cause, and had emigrated to Canada. The Seven Nations of Indians in Canada, claimed a Portion of the northern Border, which was limited in 1796, to two or three small Reservations, a Portion of which now belongs to the St. Regis Tribe. The Boundaries of the several western Tribes are marked upon the Authority of Mr. L. H. Morgan, in his Work entitled, *The League of the Iroquois*.

The Map of New York, facing Page 45, is reduced from a Map by Aldam and Wallis, 1793-4, and now first published, with slight modern Additions by the Draftsman. It is in some respects incorrect in its relative Distances, but represents the *Line of Property*, and the Location of certain Places mentioned in this Work, with tolerable Accuracy.

The Map of the Oneida Reservation, Page 241, is from a Plate belonging to the Albany Institute, and we believe never before published. It was prepared by the Surveyor-General, Simeon De Witt, and engraved on Copper by Fairman, an Albany Artist. The blue Line encloses the largest and principal of the Oneida Reservations. Those North of Oneida Lake and on Fish Creek, are not included. The Date of this Map is uncertain, but probably not far from the Year 1800.

#### ERRATA.

Page 198, Note 1 is accidentally attached to the Onondaga Treaty. It belongs to the Oneida Treaty, Page 241.

In several Instances the Initial K, in the Names of Indians, has been mistaken for H, or R, by the Compositors, and the Error was not observed until the Edition was printed off. The latter were very unusual at the beginning of Iroquois Names, and among the Seneca and Cayuga Tribes, G was usually substituted for K.



# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Commissioners appointed by the Statute

ENTITLED,

*An Act to Appoint His Excellency the Governor of this State or Person Administering the Government thereof for the Time Being, and the Commissioners therein designated to Superintend Indian Affairs, passed the Sixth Day of April, 1784.*<sup>1</sup>



HE following Message was by Advice of the Commissioners sent by his Excellency Governor Clinton to the Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca Nations of Indians, viz<sup>t</sup> :

*Sacbems and Warriors of the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas,*

Attend! I am appointed, as Governor of this State, to preside at a Board of Commissioners instituted for the Purpose of conferring with You, in order to accommodate the

<sup>1</sup> An Act passed March 25, 1783 (Folio Laws, 6th Sess., p. 29c), directed the Council of Appointment to appoint three Commissioners of Indian Affairs with Power to superintend and conduct the Affairs of the Indians and perform such other Duties as might be

required by Law. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras were to be secured in their Rights from their Attachment to the Cause of the Colonies during the War, and the Acts of the Commissioners were to be submitted to the Legislature for Confirmation before they could become Valid.

Differences which have unhappily arisen between You and Us, in the Course of the late War between Great Britain and America. This Appointment has been made expressly, lest You should object to the Impropriety of treating with any others than those You have always (until the late Troubles) considered as your immediate Brethren, and who have always, until then, considered You as such, and who now wish to renew the ancient Covenant which subsisted between Us. In Order therefore to promote this salutary Business, which is the Object of this Message, it appears to us necessary that the Path of Communication between You and Us should be immediately opened, and We do accordingly hereby remove all the Obstacles which lay in it and pluck up by the Roots all the Briars and Brambles with which it is overgrown, that We may freely pass and repass to and from each other.

*A String of six Rows.*

Sachems and Warriors aforesaid. We are persuaded, from the Communication made by General Schuyler, that You are heartily inclined to renew that ancient Friendship which heretofore subsisted between You and Us, and between your Forefathers and ours; That your Intentions are honest, generous and sincere. We are glad to hear it, because We wish that all Animosity should be buried in eternal Oblivion; and a future friendly Intercourse should prevail between Us, to the Benefit of Us both. To this End, We now invite You to meet Us in Council at the German Flatts, where You will also find the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, and where We hope all Differences will be amicably adjusted, and that We may part from each other reconciled Brethren.

We do not fix on a Day for the Meeting, as your Distance and other Circumstances might render it impossible, or very

The Council appointed Abraham Cuyler, Peter Schuyler and Henry Glen, June 27, 1783.

By the Act of April 6, 1784, the Governor, with these Commissioners, was authorized to associate them such other Persons as might be deemed expedient, and to enter into such Compacts

and Agreements with the Indians within the State as might be for the Interest of the Public and to stipulate the Ratification of such Agreements by Law. The Governor and two of the Commissioners were constituted a Quorum for the Transaction of Business.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 11

inconvenient for You then to attend; but We wish You should be at the appointed Place as early in the next Month as You can. You will probably be able to determine on the precise Time whilst the Bearer is with You; and inform Us thereof by him. If not, it is our Desire that You will dispatch Runners to Us with a Message written in English previous to your setting out, that no unnecessary Delays may intervene in a Business so important to both. Direct your Letters to Henry Glenn<sup>1</sup> Schenectady, who will immediately give me and the other Commissioners Notice when to attend.

A large White Belt.

Sachems and Warriors! We have sent Mr. Peter Ryckman<sup>2</sup> with this Message because many of You are well acquainted with him, and We trust You will afford him all the Assistance in your Power on his Return to Us. If Sickness or any Accident should prevent his Return, We desire You to send your Answer by those who accompany him or by Messengers of your own.

A String.

GEO. CLINTON.

City of New York, April 12th, 1784.

*Instructions for Mr. Peter Ryckman.*

Sir. You will convey the Message herewith delivered You, to the Indians to whom it is directed, and take with You two or three Oneidas or Tuscaroras; and if any Accident should prevent You from proceeding, either in going or returning, You will forward the Dispatches by those who may accompany You.

Whilst at Niagara,<sup>3</sup> You will mix as much as possible

<sup>1</sup> HENRY GLEN was a Member of the Provincial Congress, and was three Years in Assembly subsequent to this Treaty. He resided near Schenectady, it is believed, in the present Village of Scotia.

<sup>2</sup> PETER RYCKMAN spent the principal Part of his Life in Business connected with Indian Affairs, residing many Years in the Cayuga Country. He died at Albany, January 15, 1811, aged 80

Years. He was prominently concerned in the Lessee Company.

<sup>3</sup> The Fort at Niagara, although within the Territory of New York, was not surrendered until June, 1796. At this Period it was the Head Quarters of the British in that Region, and the Seat of an active Fur Trade with the Western Tribes. Its Possession gave the effectual Control of this Trade to the English.

with the Indians, and try to discover their Intentions as minutely as may be, and make Notes of every Information You may obtain. You will easily find who are the leading Characters in each Nation; their Names you will note down, and try to learn their Temper with Respect to Us. If You find any who have Influence, and whose Inclinations are not friendly, You will also note their Names and the Nations they belong to.

To Captain Brandt<sup>1</sup> You will hint that our People in general are pleased with his Generosity to the Prisoners he took during the War, and that he may become a great Man if he conducts himself in such a Manner as will give the Commissioners Occasion to believe that he means to be a sincere Friend.

Peter, the Oneida, You must also pay Attention to, and flatter him on Account of his Good Sense and Friendship to Us.

Cayenquerachta, the Seneca Sachem, must have particular Attention paid him, and You must privately promise him that You will recommend him to the Notice of the Commissioners.

There are Reasons of State why the Object of your Journey should be kept a profound Secret; You are therefore on no Account to mention it to any Person whomsoever. As You have traded to Niagara, You must give out that You are going there to collect some Debts from Persons who are leaving that Place. Should it be discovered what your Business is, before you reach Niagara, the State might sustain great Injury, as the disaffected in the Country (some of whom are Emissaries from the British) might, by their

<sup>1</sup> JOSEPH BRANT (*Tbayendanegta*) was born in the Ohio Country in 1742, and while a Lad came under the Protection of Sir William Johnson, who educated him in Dr. Wheelock's School at Lebanon, and employed him as a Secretary. He became an active Loyalist in the Revolution, and held a Colonel's Commission. Numerous Incursions upon the Frontiers were led by him, and his know-

ledge of Public Affairs rendered him particularly Serviceable to the Government that he served. He took an active Part in settling the Mohawks at Grand River in Upper Canada, and labored to promote the Welfare of his People. He died November 24, 1807, at his Residence at Burlington Bay, in Canada. His Memoirs have been written by William L. Stone.

machinations, prove Obstacles in the Way which it would be difficult to surmount: You will therefore take the utmost Precaution to prevent any Person whatever so much as suspecting that You are employed by the State.

I forgot to mention Teoquanda the Cayuga Chief as a Person of Influence, he must also have Attention paid to him, least a Neglect should offend him.

The Indians named herein are those who are represented to me as the principal Men; You will however be best able to judge who are the Persons of Influence among them and pay them that Attention which may be necessary to promote the Business of the Treaty.

I am Sir

City of New York, }  
April 12th, 1784. }

Your humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

GEO. CLINTON.

To the preceding Message the Governor received the following Answer; viz<sup>t</sup>

A Meeting held at Loyal Village, June 6th, 1784, by the Chiefs & Warriors of the 6 Nations, &c., viz<sup>t</sup> the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras and Delawares, &c., in Consequence of a Message delivered in Council by Peter Ryckman from the Governor & Commissioners for the State of New York dated the 12th of April, 1784.

Attend Governor Clinton of New York! You inform Us that You are appointed a Commissioner to confer with Us, in Order to accommodate the Differences that have unhappily arisen between Us in Course of the late War, and that this Appointment has been made expressly least We should object to the Impropriety of treating with any others, than those whom We had always considered as our immediate Brethren, and who now wish to renew the ancient Covenant which subsisted between Us.

We clearly and fully understand the Meaning of what You have said, which appears to Us just and reasonable; you likewise clear the Path of Communication between You and Us, & as the Roads are now clear We can pass & repass



without Interruption. We now do in the like Manner clear the Path, with a firm Resolution that it shall remain so, that We may equally pass and repass. A String.

Governor Clinton hearken! You say that You have understood by General Schuyler that We are inclined to renew the ancient Friendship which subsisted between Us, and that our Intentions are honest, generous and sincere, and that You were glad to hear it; that You wish all Animosity should be buried in eternal Oblivion.

We the six Nations assure You that we are glad to hear that You are disposed to Peace, and as it clearly appears to Us by the Manner of your Speech, that a firm and perpetual Peace can be established, our Intentions have been and are such. We have communicated our Sentiments to General Schuyler on that Subject, that We meant to bury in Oblivion what is past and an honorable Peace established between Us, to be settled upon, for the Interest of both; and as We have before said, that We comprehend the Purport of your Speech, We are convinced that this Friendship will be renewed and settled upon without Difficulty, as it seems it would be difficult to settle a Peace with General Schuyler by the Manner of his Speeches. You invite Us to this End, to meet You in Council at the German Flatts, but You do not fix on a Day for the Meeting, as our Distance might render it inconvenient for to attend. We look upon this as a very reasonable Remark of yours. We the Chiefs are sorry to inform You that at the time We received your Message, We likewise received one from our Brethren the Southern Indians, informing Us that they were uneasy in Mind; that the Virginians had crossed the Ohio River and were surveying their Lands, this we are apprehensive will be attended with bad Consequences, which has occasioned Us from immediately attending the proposed Meeting, and We intend to dispatch, with all speed, Runners to prevent if possible any such Accident as commonly follow; and on the Return of those Runners, We shall immediately dispatch one to You, to inform You of the time We shall meet You, as we are desirous that this salutary Business should be set-

tled, and We expect that a few of the Southern Indians will also attend this Meeting, as it will be conformable to our Agreements with them; as our intentions in settling the Peace will be strong and as public as possible. We are desirous that you will communicate to Congress the Accounts which we have received from our Brethren, as it may be in their Power to prevent any such Accident, and let them know whatever passes between Us, and that We expect the Meeting will soon take Place, and at the same time wish to see proper Persons from the different States present, and We expect to make one Peace with the whole.

A large White Belt.

With this Belt We now remove your Council Fire to Fort Stanwix, as it will be more convenient to Us, and don't think it can make material Difference with You. We will be glad to hear whether the Removal of the Council Fire, &c., meets with your Approbation.

A Belt.

JOS: BRANT.

Albany, 28th June, 1784.

Sir. Last Evening Mr. Ryckman arrived from the Borders of Niagara, with the inclosed Answer to the Message sent into the six Nations Country by your Excellency in April last. Mr. Ryckman further tells Us, that Mr. Brant and the Chiefs of the different Nations then in Council told him they would set off within a Month of the date of his leaving them for Fort Schuyler, formerly Fort Stanwix.<sup>1</sup> Mr.

<sup>1</sup>Fort Stanwix, in the present Village of Rome, N. Y., was begun in 1758 by Brig. Gen. John Stanwix of the British Army, and at Times was occupied by a strong Force during the French War. It was built of Earth and Timbers, square, with Bastions at the Corners, surrounded by a Ditch, and mounted with heavy Cannon. In June, 1776, Col. Elias Dayton took possession, and named it *Fort Schuyler*. In 1777, it was besieged by a large Force of Tories and Indians under St. Leger, and success-

fully defended by Col. Gansevoort. It was afterwards abandoned, and in May, 1781, was destroyed by Fire and Flood. To the Disgrace of the Founders of the Village of Rome, the Ruins of this Work were allowed to be razed and occupied by Buildings. Fort Schuyler was the Name of a small Stockade built in the present Limits of Utica, in the French War, but whenever the Term is used in this Work, it invariably refers to the Vestige in Rome, then called indiscriminately *Fort Stanwix* or *Fort Schuyler*.

Ryckman left the Village on the 10th Inst. and has Reason to believe, of a large Number of them coming to the Treaty, You will find that they request moving the Treaty to Fort Schuyler, which will occasion the Expenses of transporting the Stores<sup>1</sup> to Fort Schuyler, to as much more as to Fort Herkimer,<sup>2</sup> which Place the Treaty was intended and the great Cry of Flour in this Quarter makes that Article very high. We have got 30 Barrels of salted Provisions and some other Articles Mr. Glen brought from New York, and bought some Flour equivalent to the salted Provision. We have likewise contracted with a Person on Condition. Should We have occasion for them to have as many Oxen as We may stand in need of, We wish You to bring when your Excellency comes up, the five hundred Pounds. We will have the greatest Occasion for the Cash to complete the Treaty; the Articles above mentioned, with Boats and the hands are all ready at Schenectady, but shall not order them to move, till We hear of their being near at hand, of the Place where the Treaty is to be, and as the Matter is not properly fixed, where the Treaty is to be held, We would wish your Excellency would be pleased to direct Us, as We have Reason to think

<sup>1</sup> The Stores deemed necessary in this Treaty were as follows, with their Rates and total Prices :

An Estimate of sundry Articles necessary to be bought in New York for the Use of the Indian Treaty, and forwarded to Schenectady.

10 Barrels of Pork at	110s	£55. 0
20 Barrels of Beef	80	80. 0
800 Weight of Tobacco	1	40. 0
30,000 Wampom	30	45. 0
500 Gallons Rum	3 6d	87. 0
1 Quarter Cask Madeira 30 galls	24	36. 0
1 Barrel of Spirits 32 galls	8	12.16
300 Weight of Gammon	1 2d	17.10
1 Case Gin	60	3. 0
1 Case Brandy	60	3. 0
40 Weight of Loaf Sugar	1 6d	3. 0
3 Wt of Green Tea	20	3. 0
4 Battoes with Tools complete at £14	56.	0
12 Hands from Schenectady to Ft Herkimer at £3.10 pr Man they finding themselves	42	0
250 small Kegs to draw the Rum in 2s6d	31.	0

Freight to Albany	£10. 0
Cartage from Albany to Schenectady	10. 0
do at the Little Falls	6. 0
200 Weight of hard Bread	35s 3.10

£543 16

Sir. Should your Excellency think proper I think it would be best to draw at once the Whole of the £1,500, where there is Cash, and the Commissioners can lay in the Rest of the Articles in Albany where they can be had as cheap as here, and make the proper Arrangement so that everything may be ready by the Time your Excellency comes up.

Yours

H. GLEN.

May 11, 1784.

<sup>2</sup> Fort Herkimer was a Stockade built around the old Stone Church and adjacent Buildings in German Flatts in the French War. It had fallen into Ruins long before this Period, but had given its Name to the Locality.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 17

they will make a Halt in Oneida for a few Days, and send a Runner, so that We will have it in our Power to send them Word whether they must come as low as Fort Herkimer or to Fort Schuyler.

Its the general Opinion of the Inhabitants in Tryon County to have them to meet at Fort Schuyler, for the Ease of the Inhabitants. We agree, for our Parts, in Sentiment with them; as the Inhabitants in that Country are generally unruly, and don't like to see Indians since the affair of General Herkimer. We must leave the Matter for your Excellency to judge when to set off. Mr. Ryckman is of Opinion they will be in the Oneida Castle in the Course of three Weeks, and as the Distance from New York to Fort Schuyler is considerable, We would be happy in seeing your Excellency a few days before We set off for the Place where the Treaty is to be. We are and remain

(Copy) Your Excellencys most obed<sup>t</sup> and  
hum<sup>le</sup> ser<sup>ts</sup>

ABRAHAM CUYLER,  
HENRY GLEN.

His Excellency GEO. CLINTON, Esq. &c.

New York, July 8th, 1784.

Gentlemen: I have received your Letter of the 28th of June with its Inclosure; I submit entirely to your better Judgment, aided by the Advice of those who are better acquainted with the Temper and Disposition of the Indians than I can be supposed to be, the determining the Place of Meeting for the proposed Treaty; and I must request, that after fixing the Place, you will make every necessary Arrangement, so as to prevent any Delay when the Indians arrive. I shall leave this Place for Albany in the Course of next Week, and will bring with me the residue of the Money allowed, agreeably to your Request; in the mean time I have the honor to be

Gentlemen your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

GEO. CLINTON.

The Commissioners for Indian Affairs.

New York, August 10th, 1784.

Sir: As Commissioners appointed by Congress to negotiate Treaties with the Indians<sup>1</sup> We wish to hear from your Excellency if Measures are taking for raising the armed Force recommended by Congress for the Protection of those Treaties.

Nothing now prevents the Commissioners from entering upon the Business, but the Want of such Force to garrison the Frontier Posts or protect the Negotiation.

We therefore beg the Favour of your Excellency to inform Us what Measures You have taken for raising the Quota of this State and when We may rely on its being ready for Service.

We have the honor to be with great Respect your Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>ts</sup>

ARTHUR LEE.

RICH'D BUTLER.

His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

Niagara, 21st July, 1784.

Sir. In our last We promised to let You hear from Us as soon as our Messenger returned from our Western Confederates, who are now returned, and tell Us the Chiefs of the different Nations are on their Way in Order to accompany the six Nations to the intended Meeting at Fort Stanwix, where We expect to meet Deputies from the different States. We should be glad You would acquaint Congress of this, that the whole of the States may have time to send their Representatives to attend, as We wish to settle Matters finally at this Council with all concerned, at which time proper

<sup>1</sup> Congress on the 4th of March, 1784, elected George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higginson as Commissioners to negotiate with the Indians of the United States. They were requested to meet at New York on the 10th of April, and fix upon Times and Places for holding Treaties. On the 24th of April, Benjamin Lincoln and

Arthur Lee were elected in Place of Higginson and Greene. Mr. Lee subsequently held the Office of Commissioner of the Board of Treasury. Mr. Butler had served with Distinction in the War, was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern Department in 1786, and was killed Nov. 4, 1791, in St. Clair's Expedition to the Miami. He was from Pennsylvania.

Places may be fixed on for any future Meetings. We expect the Chiefs from the Westward in a few Days; on their Arrival We shall immediately dispatch a Runner to let You know the exact time We shall be at the Place appointed. We have for some time expected to hear from You respecting what We mentioned pr. Mr. Ryckman, about the Fire Place being at Fort Stanwix. A Belt.

I am Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

JOS: BRANT.

In Behalf of the Confederates.

HENRY GLEN, Esq<sup>r</sup>

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor & the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at the City of Albany, 14th of August, 1784.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.

Colonel CUYLER.

HENRY GLEN, Esq.

Together with the following Gentlemen called upon to consult on<sup>t</sup> the Business of the Commission, to wit,<sup>1</sup>

Genl. SCHUYLER,  
Mr. Douw,

Genl. TEN BROECK,<sup>2</sup>  
Mr. J. J. BEEKMAN,

<sup>1</sup> Chancellor LIVINGSTON, and perhaps others, had been invited to participate in this Treaty, but Circumstances prevented the Attendance of all except those here named.

<sup>2</sup> ABRAHAM TEN BROECK was the Son of Dirck Ten Broeck, an early Mayor and Recorder of Albany. He engaged in Merchandize, and in 1753 married Elizabeth, Sister of Stephen Van Rensselaer. From 1760 to 1765, he represented the Manor in the General Assembly, and took an active Interest in the Revolution. He was a Delegate in the Provincial Congress, and as Brigadier General of

the Militia rendered efficient Service, especially in 1777. In 1779 and 1796 he was appointed Mayor; from 1780 to 1783 inclusive, was in the State Senate; and in March, 1781, was appointed First Judge of Albany County, an Office which he held thirteen Years. He was also President of the Bank of Albany, and enjoyed in a large Degree the Confidence and Esteem of the Public. His Death occurred Jan. 19, 1810, and his Funeral was attended with Military Honors and a very large Concourse of Citizens.—*Munsell's Annals*, v, 27, *Holgate's Genealogy*; *N. Y. Civil List*.

Mr. A. YATES,  
Mr. P. W. YATES,  
Mr. Justice YATES,

Mr. OTHOUT,<sup>1</sup>  
and  
Mr. M. VISSCHER.<sup>2</sup>

The Governor laid before them his Message to the Indians of the 12th of April, 1784; their Answer of the 6th of June, 1784; a letter from J. Brant to Mr. Glen of the 21st of July, 1784, together with a Letter from the Honble Richard Butler and Arthur Lee, Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the United States, dated 10th Augt. Instant, which being read, the following Letters and Instructions were drafted and agreed to, to wit.

Albany, Augt. 13th, 1784.

Gentlemen. Your Letter of the 10th of this Month by Mr. Monroe has just been handed to me.

The Recommendation of Congress to the State, to raise from the Militia a certain Number of Troops for the Purpose of garrisoning the Frontier Posts and protecting the Treaties to be held with the Indians, did not reach me till some time in July. The Legislature of the State, who alone were competent to this Business, had then dispersed, after a Session which from the peculiar Circumstances of the State, had detained them from the Fall until late in the Spring, and it was not only my Opinion, but that of every Member of the Legislature whom I had an Opportunity of consulting, that it would then be impracticable to convene them together, nor indeed did the Urgency of the Case seem to require that they should be put to so great an Inconvenience; for tho' they had assembled and complied with the Recommendation of Congress, it would have been already too late in the Season to have established the Garrisons for which the Troops were

<sup>1</sup> HENRY OTHOUT of Schenectady, who was at this Time a State Senator. He had been a Member of Assembly before and after the Close of the Revolution.

<sup>2</sup> MATTHEW VISSCHER was a Counselor-at-Law, and at an early Period in the Revolution was appointed County

Clerk of Albany County, an Office that he held at the Time of this Treaty and until 1790. He was also City Clerk many Years, and took an active Part in the Revolution. He died Aug. 8, 1793, aged 42. He was one of the Leasee Company.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 21

required, and besides I had received Information in a Manner which deserved Credit, and which Congress could not be apprized of at the time, that altho' the Definitive Treaty was officially received in Canada, no Orders had come from Europe for evacuating the Posts, and have good Reason to believe that until such Orders are received, no Measures will be taken for that Purpose. If therefore the Legislature were to raise a permanent Force, as recommended, they could not be applied to the Purpose proposed, and would only be a useless Addition to Expences, which We are already but too little able or disposed to discharge.

I conceive myself however authorized to draw from the Militia a Force sufficient, if any should be necessary, to protect the Commissioners of Congress in any Negotiation with the Indians, and this will in a great Measure save the unnecessary Expence attending a present permanent Force.

The Indians of the six Nations, whom I have requested to convene at Fort Schuyler, have advised me that they will be accompanied by Deputies from other Nations possessing the Territory within the Jurisdiction of the United States; I shall have no Objection to your improving this Incident to the advantage of the United States, expecting however and positively stipulating that no Agreement be entered into with Indians, residing within the Jurisdiction of this State (and with whom only I mean to treat) prejudicial to its Rights.

These Engagements being made on your Part, You may rely on every Exertion in my Power and that of my Colleagues to promote the Interest of the United States; which I flatter myself no State in the federal Union has at any time more cheerfully and efficiently supported than this.<sup>1</sup>

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

GEO. CLINTON.

The Honble RICHARD BUTLER & ARTHUR LEE,  
Commissioners of the United States for Indian Affairs.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. James Duane, who had been a Delegate from this State in Congress, communicated to the Governor the following Views in regard to this Treaty: Great Difficulty arises from the Interference of the proposed Treaty with the Authority and the Views of Congress. Five of the six Tribes of Indians were at open War with the United States. The general Treaty of Peace doth not



Albany, 14th of August, 1784.

Sir. Mr. Glen has delivered your Letter to me of the 21st Ult. It was my Intention to have advised You by the

mention nor extend to them. Congress therefore, on the 9th Art. of the Confederation, claims the exclusive Right to make this Peace, and if the Tribes are to be considered as *independent Nations*, detached from the State, and absolutely unconnected with it, the Claim of Congress would be uncontrovertible.

There is then an indispensable Necessity that these Tribes should be treated as *antient Dependants on this State*, placed under its Protection, with all their territorial Rights, by their own Consent publicly manifested in solemn and repeated Treaties (of this there is sufficient Evidence), and particularly by the Deeds of 1701 and 1726, which tho' in the Name of the King, were obtained at the Expense of the People of the State and for their Benefit. On this Ground the Tribes in question may fall under the Character of *Members of the State* with the management of whom Congress have no concern. (Confed., 9th Art., 4th Clause.)

But the Spirit of the Message from the Indians renders it questionable whether they will submit to be treated as *Dependants*. The Piece bears a strong Appearance of a British Emissary in its Manner and Composition. The Indians used to be respectful in their Address. This is Familiar and even Impertinent. They assume a perfect Equality, and instead of Contrition for their perfidious Behavior, seem even to consider themselves as the Party courted and solicited for Reconciliation and Favor.

This then will be a Point to be managed with Skill and Delicacy, nor will any Care bestowed on it be misapplied; for besides the Respect which we

owe to the Union, our own particular Honor, Interest and Safety require that these Tribes should be reconciled to the Idea of being Members of the State, dependant upon its Government, and resting upon its Protection. If we adopt the disgraceful System of flattering them as great and mighty Nations, we shall once more, like the Albanians, be their Tools and Slaves, and this Revolution, in my Eyes, will have lost more than half its Value.

From these Observations it will follow, that the Stile as well as the Substance of the Communications on the Part of Government are very material, and I may add that instead of conforming to the Ceremonies practiced among the Indians, it would be Wise to bring them to adopt gradually our Forms.

At an Interview with some Southern Indians, a Committee of Congress adopted this Idea, and told the Indians it was not the Usage of Congress to deliver Strings or Belts.

1st, then, if it will not be too great and hazardous an Innovation, which I think is not to be apprehended, I would use neither Belts nor Strings in any Communication. Instead of it all Messages or Communications should be signed or sealed or both.

2d, I would never suffer the word "Nation" or "Six Nations" or "Confederates," or "Council Fire at Onondaga," or any other form which would revive or seem to confirm their former Ideas of Independence, to escape. I would say nothing of making Peace or burying the Hatchet, for that would be derisive to Congress, perhaps very justly. But I would study to carry on the Inter-

Runners, who should have announced that the six Nations were on the Way down, that I had agreed to hold the Treaty at Fort Schuyler agreeable to your Wish.

course (for I object even against the Term *Treaty*, which seems too much to imply Equality) with as much Plainness and Simplicity as possible, and as if I was actually transacting Business with the Citizens. This must, I am sensible, be repugnant to the Opinions which will be given at Albany; but their Management instead of humbling will give the Indians the Superiority and make them their Tyrants, and I have long and fatal Experience to convince me that they were in a wrong Course.

3d, As to the Substance of the Speech, it may be introduced by observing that the Return of the Tribes into this State and the Eagerness of the Citizens to obtain Settlements in the Western Countries, led to Apprehensions that mutual Resentment and Animosity might break forth into Outrage and Hostility, disturb the Peace so lately established, and render a Reconciliation altogether Impracticable. That these Considerations had induced me to consent to the present Meeting. This might be followed by a Recapitulation of the kind and gracious Manner in which they and their Ancestors had been treated by the Dutch and their Descendants and Successors, who never once deceived, betrayed or injured them, but always fought for their Protection, and relieved their Wants and Distresses. They should be told of the Friendship and Harmony which almost uninterruptedly subsisted between the Inhabitants of this State for Ages. They should be reminded of the kind and generous Advice given them at the Commencement of the late War, "to sit still and smoke their Pipes in Peace, in their own Shades," that they rejected this Advice, and without any Provocation

burnt and destroyed our Villages and Effects, and slaughtered our Citizens; that we foretold to them the Consequences of such a Behavior, "that the Hand of the United States could reach the remotest Corners of their Country, and that they would avenge the Wrongs done to our Citizens." That the Indians had felt the Truth of this Prediction and been driven from their native Homes and suffered all the Horrors of War. That they had seen their late Friends, the British, who deluded them, conquered, and reduced to the Necessity of making a Peace, and sealing the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States by a solemn Treaty.

That the Indians now had their Eyes opened by their Sufferings and Misfortunes, and plainly saw that their true Happiness consisted, not in the Professions and Flatteries of Strangers, but in the steady Kindness and Friendship of their own Countrymen, born in and inhabiting the same Soil which they themselves inherited. That much as we had been injured Forgiveness was a Principle which we professed; that we were willing that they should be restored once more in their native Land, with their Wives and their Children, and live in uninterrupted Tranquility. That for this Purpose, and to prevent future Animosity and Contention, we would establish a Line between the Settlements of the white People and the Lands to be reserved for the Use of the Indians within our State, in such a Manner as would be for the Advantage and Comfort of both Parties. And we would prevail on all our Citizens, even those who had been most injured by the Ravages and Murders perpetrated by the Indians, to forgive what was past, pro-

In Expectation that the six Nations would have commenced their Journey long before now, I came to this City about a Month ago and shall remain here until I hear that You are on the Way down (which I wish may be as soon as possible) and immediately thereupon I shall proceed to Fort Schuyler. You will observe, by my letter of the 12th of April last, that the Board of Commissioners in which I preside, were appointed on the Part of this State to adjust the subsisting Differences between the six Nations, their immediate Brethren, and the People of this State.

I have however agreeable to your Request, informed the Commissioners (appointed by Congress to represent this and the other United States in a general Treaty with all Indians possessing the Territory not comprehended by any particular State) that Deputies from other Nations will accompany You to the proposed Treaty; whether these Gentlemen will attend or not, it is not at present in my Power to determine, as I have not yet received any Answer from them.

It is however indispensibly necessary, in Order to prevent future Occasion of Discord and to cement the Friendship which formerly subsisted between Us, that the Treaty proposed on the Part of this State should in the first Instance be prosecuted without delay, even if the Commissioners from Congress should not attend.

I am your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

GEO. CLINTON.

Capt. JOS: BRANT.

vided the Indians on their Part would be reasonable in their Claims, equitable in their Concessions, and inoffensive in their future Deportment.

Sentiments like these, may properly introduce the Business to be negotiated.

4th, The Stile by which the Indians are to be addressed is of moment also. They are used to be called, *Brethren, Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations*. I hope it will never be repeated. It is sufficient to make them sensible that

they are spoken to, without complimenting twenty or thirty Mohawks as a Nation, and a few more Tuscaroras and Onondagas as distinct Nations. It would be not less absurd than mischievous. They should rather be taught by separating from the Oneidas and entering into a wicked War, they had become wretched and destroyed themselves, and that the public Opinion of their Importance had long since ceased.

Albany, August 14th, 1784.

Sir: You are charged with a Letter to Joseph Brant, with which You will proceed as speedily as possible to Niagara, unless you should meet with him at some intermediate Place.

You will inform such of the six Nations as You may meet with in your Way of its Contents, and if You should be in Council with any Nation, You will observe, as from yourself, that the Reason why the Communication is immediately made to Brant, is because they seem to have appointed him to be the principal Negotiator in their Behalf.

You will also hint, as from yourself, that it would be more proper for the six Nations to transact their Business as heretofore, when the Onondagas took the Lead in their public Affairs.

If You find that any Jealousy of, or Envy to, Brant, prevails; You will try to discover who are most jealous or envious of him, and promote it as much as You prudently can. You will frequently in Conversation observe to the Indians, that those intrusted to negotiate with them on the Part of this State are well disposed to accommodate Matters on Principles of mutual Benefit to them and Us, & that nothing ought to prevent them from improving this favorable Disposition without delay, and become again cordially connected with their ancient Brethren.

Albany, August 14th, 1784.

Sir: Mr. Ryckman who is charged with a Message to the Indians will deliver You this Letter, and will inform You that a Treaty is to be held with the six Nations at Fort Schuyler at an early Period. The exact time can not yet be ascertained, or You should have been informed of it before this. Whenever it takes Place We shall expect to see You and from the Zeal and Attachment, We are persuaded You have, for a State, of which You have been so long a Citizen We doubt not You will lend every Aid in your Power towards rendering our Negotiations effectual.

In Behalf of the Commissioners I am Sir

Your very hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

Mr. JAMES DEANE.

GEO. CLINTON.

The following Gentlemen were then named and by his Excellency the Governor and the said Commissioners associated with them in the proposed Treaty, viz<sup>t</sup>

General SCHUYLER,	Mr. P. W. YATES,
Mr. DOUW,	Mr. VISSCHER,
Mr. ABRAHAM YATES,	Mr. Chancellor LIVINGSTON,
Judge YATES,	and
JOHN J. BEEKMAN,	Mr. TEN BROECK.

The Meeting then adjourned.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners of Indian Affairs with them associated at the City of Albany, the 25th of August 1784.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.

Colonel CUYLER,	ABRAHAM YATES, <sup>1</sup>
General SCHUYLER,	PETER W. YATES,
General TEN BROECK,	JOHN J. BEEKMAN,
Judge YATES,	MATTHEW VISSCHER.

His Excellency the Governor laid before them the following Letters :

At our Fire Place near Niagara  
11th of August 1784.

Sir: We request You will without delay acquaint his Excellency Governor Clinton, that agreeable to his Desire signified to the six Nations in his Speech brought to this Place in the Beginning of Summer by Peter Ryckman, and according to our Promise in Answer to the Governor's Message, That ten Principal Chiefs of the several six Nations will set out from hence this day on their Way to Kanonwarohare, where they mean to wait until they hear that some Persons properly authorized shall come to Fort Stanwix to speak with them on the subject of settling a Peace between the Indian Nations and the United States.

<sup>1</sup> ABRAHAM YATES, Jr., an active lawyer, was a State Senator in 1777, and from 1779 to 1790. He was appointed Mayor of Albany, Sept. 29, 1790, and held the Office till his Death, which occurred June 30, 1796, at the Age of

73. He was widely known as an active Whig in the Revolution, and wrote a Number of spirited Articles over the signatures of *Sidney* and *Rough Hewer*. He was a Cousin of Chief Justice Robert Yates.

To prevent any Misunderstanding or unnecessary Trouble, We request further Sir, that You will inform his Excellency the Governor that We the War Chiefs who go at present, are not impowered to conclude a final Peace with the United States, but are sent by the six Nations and the several Western Nations in Alliance with them, to settle some Points necessary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting which is intended to be held, to establish an everlasting Peace and Friendship between all the Nations and the United States.

You will oblige Us also Sir, if You will, as soon as possible, inform Us of the time when We may expect to have the Governor's Answer, or that We may look for the Arrival of the Persons that will be appointed to meet us at Fort Stanwix.

We request when you send the above Message to his Excellency the Governor, that You will send likewise the Pipe of Peace which will be delivered to You by the Bearer of this to accompany it. I am Sir

In the Name of the Chiefs  
Your hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

To HENRY GLEN, Esq.

JOS: BRANT.

Kanonwarohare, August 20th, 1784.

Sir: Two Messengers have just arrived express from Capt. Brant; they bring a Letter from Mr. Glen which the six Nations desire may be forwarded immediately, as expeditiously as possible. Brant will be here Tomorrow. Capt. Jacob Reed desires You to send him Two Gallons of Rum from the public Store for the Use of Brant and Party. Capt. Jacob further desires You to prevent the Traders from selling Rum to the Bearers of this, whereby they may be detained: only wish to give them some Provisions and a small Matter of Rum for their Refreshment.

I am Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

Mr. COLBRETH.

JAMES DEANE.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> JAMES DEAN was born in Groton, to reside at Oquago, on the Susquehanna, where he learned the Indian Language, August, 1748, and in Youth went

The following Letter was drafted and agreed to and despatched :

Albany, 25 August, 1784.

Sir: In Consequence of the Letter from Captain Brant and Mr. Deane, which You forwarded, I have had a Meeting with the Commissioners and Associates in this City, the Result of which is that We will leave this on Friday Afternoon for Schenectady and the next day proceed on our Way to Fort Schuyler. Should You conceive it necessary to send Capt. Brant Information of this, You will be pleased to forward a Message for the Purpose.

I expect that every thing will be prepared to leave Schenectady early on Saturday morning: Four Waggons will be necessary to convey the Gentlemen and their Baggage from here and You will from thence be able to determine what additional Number will be wanted, and which You will be pleased to provide.

I am Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

HENRY GLEN, Esq.

GEO. CLINTON.

General Gansevoort<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Gerardus Lansing were named and associated with the Commissioners.

guage with the Fluency of a Native. He entered the first Class formed at Dartmouth, and graduated just before the Revolution. He was soon after employed as a secret Agent among the six Nations, in the Guise of an Indian Trader, and in the Course of his Travels in Lower Canada he was arrested as a Spy, but by his Self Possession and his Papers he escaped Detection. He continued in the Service of Congress through the War, as Agent of Indian Affairs and Interpreter, residing most of the Time at Fort Stanwix and Oneida Castle. The Neutrality of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras during the War was chiefly due to the Influence of Mr. Dean and the Rev. Mr. Kirkland.

Mr. Dean received a Grant of Land

in Westmoreland, Oneida Co., under an Act of the Legislature passed in 1786, and Settlement was begun the same Year by Mr. Dean and his Brother, Jonathan Dean; in the same Year several other Families from Western Massachusetts were induced to share in their Enterprize, which proved very successful. Mr. Dean was subsequently appointed a Judge of the County Court, and in 1803 and 1809 served Oneida County in the Assembly. He died at his Residence in Westmoreland, July 3, 1814. Judge Dean was a good Scholar, and wrote in a chaste and beautiful Style.—  
*Jones's Oneida County.*

<sup>1</sup> PETER GANSEVOORT was appointed Major, July 19, 1775, and commanded

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General Schuyler, Judge Yates and Mr. Visscher were appointed a Committee to draft a Speech to the Indians on opening of the Treaty, agreeable to the Instructions to the Commissioners, &c. and report the same at the next Meeting.

The Commissioners then adjourned to meet Tomorrow Evening at 6 o'clock at the same Place.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs and their Associates, agreeable to Adjournment, Albany, 26th of August, 1784.

Present: His Excellency the Governor,  
Col. CUYLER, Judge YATES,  
General SCHUYLER, MATTHEW VISSCHER,  
Mr. A. YATES, PETER W. YATES and  
General TEN BROECK, JOHN J. BEEKMAN.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Commissioners, &c. a Letter from Arthur Lee and Rich<sup>d</sup> Butler, Esq<sup>rs</sup> Commissioners of the United States for Indian Affairs, dated the 19th of August, which was read and is as follows:

New York, August 19th, 1784.

Sir: The Engagements of the Indians to convene at Fort Stanwix this Month, and the advanced Season of the Year will impose a Necessity upon Us of meeting them there, in Order to conclude a Peace in the Name of the United States with such of those Nations as have been hostile. We have therefore sent a Message to announce this Intention to the Indians.

As the particular Nature of the Business your Excellency is to transact with the six Nations on the Part of this State, is not known to Us, We can not form a proper Judgment how far it is compatible with the Commission we have the honor to bear from the United States in Congress assembled. But

the 2d N. Y. Regiment; was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, March 19, 1776, and Colonel, Nov. 21 of the same Year. He assisted in the Defence of Fort Schuyler in 1779, and in Sullivan's Ex-

pedition in 1779; and remained in the Service till the Peace, and subsequently was appointed Brigadier General. He died at his Residence in Albany, July 2, 1812, aged 63.



We submit to your Excellency's Determination, whether that Business will not be more properly transacted at the same time with and in Subordination to the General Treaty.

Such Conduct on the Part of the State of Pennsylvania has been generally approved for its Wisdom and Confederal Policy. It is with a View that this State may have an Opportunity of shewing the same Respect for the Confederation and may avail itself of the same Advantages that We have the honor of communicating to your Excellency our Determination to meet the Indians of the six Nations at Fort Stanwix on the 20th of September next.

We have the honor to be with the greatest Esteem  
your Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

ARTHUR LEE,  
RICH<sup>d</sup> BUTLER.

His Excellency the Governor of the State of New York.

His Excellency also laid before the Board three letters written by him, addressed to Captain Brant, Henry Glen, Esq. and Mr. James Deane, dated the 25th Ins<sup>t</sup> which were read and approved of and are as follows :

Albany, August 25th, 1784.

Sir: Your Letter to Mr. Henry Glen of the 21st Instant was received by me Yesterday, and agreeable to your Request, I now inform You that I shall set out from this Place with the Commissioners appointed on Behalf of this State to treat with the six Nations on the 27th Inst. and immediately proceed to Fort Schuyler, where I hope to meet you (if the Weather proves favorable) in five days thereafter at farthest.

The long time I have already been detained here on this Business makes me anxious to bring it to as speedy a Close as possible. It shall therefore not meet with the least possible Delay on my Part.

I am Sir your obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

GEO. CLINTON.

To Capt. JOSEPH BRANT,  
at Canonoware.

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Albany, 25th August, 1784.

Sir: Some days ago I took the Liberty to write to You by Mr. Ryckman, and to inform You that in Consequence of a Letter from Capt. Brant to Henry Glen, Esq., signifying that Deputies from the six Nations were on their Way to the proposed Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and of your Letter to Mr. Colbrath<sup>1</sup> of the 20th, mentioning that they would be the next day at Kanonowahare, I propose setting out from this for Fort Schuyler with the Commissioners on the Part of this State on Friday next, so that in five days thereafter (the Weather being favorable) I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing You at Fort Schuyler; the long time I have been detained here on this Business and the Necessity I am under to be speedily in New York to meet the Legislature,<sup>2</sup> makes me anxious to bring it to as speedy a Close as possible and will prevent the least Delay on my Part for any Consideration whatever. I am Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

To Mr. JAMES DEANE.

GEO. CLINTON.

Albany, 25th August, 1784.

Sir: Owing to some Circumstances that have occurred since I wrote You this Morning, I have thought it advisable to address the enclosed Letter to Captain Brant which when You have read You will please to seal and forward without the least delay, as also the enclosed Letter to Mr. Deane.

I am Sir your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

HENRY GLEN, Esq.

GEO. CLINTON.

His Excellency also laid the following Letters before the Board, to wit:

Schenectady, 26th of August, 1784.

Sir: Yours of last Evening with Letters for Capt. Brant and Mr. Dean came safe. I have early this Morning dis-

<sup>1</sup>WILLIAM COLBRATH was subsequently the first Sheriff of Herkimer Co., and upon the erection of Oneida Co., of that County also.

<sup>2</sup>The Legislature of this Year assembled on the 18th of October.

patched an Express to Fort Schuyler with two Letters. But since the Express had gone, I received by Chance opportunity the enclosed Letter of Mr. Ryckman from Fort Schuyler. I have made the necessary Arrangements for our Departure from hence on Saturday Morning, and the different Stations between this and Fort Herkermen will be aware of our coming. I have made out a Route for our Journey. I shall be happy if your Excellency will take a Bed at my house Tomorrow Night.

I am with due Regard your

Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>l</sup>e Ser<sup>t</sup>

HENRY GLEN.

To His Excellency Governor CLINTON, Esq., &c., &c.

Fort Schuyler, 23d of August, 1784.

Sir: I met the Runners of Capt. Brant on Friday the 20th Inst. at Canasserago. Immediately opened the Letter they had and found his Proceedings. I then pursued to see if I could not meet him at the Cayuga Ferry,<sup>1</sup> or the Seneca Country, to upset his Scheme. I then met him the next day in the Morning in Onondago. If I had met him at the Cayuga Ferry or the Seneca Country, I would have endeavored to upset his Scheme and the whole of the six Nations would have come down; It seems that he is now something uneasy about it; I left him this Morning in Oneida with twenty-four in Number and expect him here tomorrow; he did not chuse to stay there. I would have come down myself this Morning, but thought best to stay here until Capt. Brant has received an Answer to his Letter from his Excellency or the Commissioners.

Brant advised me to stay here until he has received his Answer. He says he has not received the Answer of the Speech he has sent down by me to his Excellency, and on

<sup>1</sup>The Manhattan Company of New York City, in May, 1799, began the erection of a Bridge at Cayuga Ferry, and finished it in September of the next Year, at a Cost of \$150,000. Its Length was one Mile and eight Rods. A Bridge was maintained at this Place until 1857, when it was abandoned, and its Place is now again supplied by a Ferry.

that Account he thought it best to come down with some of the Chiefs of the Six Nations to see how he should act. He also says that he thinks he would be able with the Chiefs he has with him, to make Peace with this State, but not with the United States, as he has no Order to that Purpose. He also says that he has his Runners ready and all the six Nations are all waiting for the Word to come down. When I met Capt. Brant I persuaded very hard upon him to send some of his Runners for to fetch the whole of the six Nations down here. He then told me that foreign Nations could not come down farther than Onondago, as that had been always been their Fire Place and they are now at Niagara. I then told him that his Excellency could not come up that Length, as he was not very hearty at present; and it seems that he has now given up the Point. He further informs me, that the Rev. Mr. Catlin has informed the Oneida Indians, that this State is intending to settle the Oneidas more to the Westward; he also advised them not to give over a Foot of their Ground to this State. He was there the 22d and 23d of last June, the very time I came from Niagara. The same Oneida which came with me in Company from the Cayuga Ferry to Oneida, brought Capt. Brant the News; and that is my Opinion, that detains the whole of the six Nations. I would be very glad if You could send me two or three Head of Cattle to this Place and some Salt. I shall desire Mr. Colbreath to give no Provisions to any of the Indians, but to Capt. Brant and his Party. No more at present but remain  
Your hum<sup>l</sup>e Ser<sup>t</sup>

PETER RYCKMAN.

To HENRY GLEN, Esq., Schenectady.

The Commissioners gave it as their Opinion that no Answer be given by his Excellency the Governor to the Letter of Arthur Lee and Richard Butler of the 19th Instant, as an Answer, such as their Letter merits, might occasion Altercation.

Fort Schuyler, 30th Aug. 1784.

Sir: I arrived at this Place this Evening and shall be happy to see You here tomorrow, as early as You can make

E

it convenient. Capt. Brant would also wish to see You here, as he is informed that You are intrusted by the Commissioners of the United States to make certain Communications to the hostile Indian Nations, which he expresses a Desire of concurring with me to assist in giving them Dispatch.

I am Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

GEO. CLINTON.

Mr. JAMES DEANE.

Kananwarohare, August 30th, 1784.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive two Letters from your Excellency on the Subject of the Indian Treaty, previous to the one of this Date. In Consequence of the first by Mr. Ryckman, I made a Journey to Fort Schuyler, on receiving Information of your Arrival at that Place, which proved premature. On the Receipt of the other, dated 25<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I immediately set out from my Habitation on Wood Creek<sup>1</sup> to wait on your Excellency, but was met on the Way by Dispatches from the Commissioners of Congress, which prevent my having the honor to attend You and lay me under the necessity of setting out for the Country of the six Nations as expeditiously as possible. I have communicated Capt. Brant's Letter to the Oneidas, In Answer to which they propose Capt. Brandt's sending a Runner, who may overtake me on the Road, and beg the Proposal may be communicated through the Channel of your Excellency.

I am Sir with Sentiments of profound Respect

Your Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>le</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>,

JAMES DEANE.

His Excellency

GEORGE CLINTON, Esq.

<sup>1</sup> A Portage of eighty-one Chains, through level Grounds and Swamps, connected Batteau Navigation on the Mohawk with that of Wood Creek. The River was two Feet higher than the Creek. As constructed by the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company, a few Years after these Treaties, the Canal between the two Streams was one and three-fourths Miles long.

Fort Schuyler, 31st August, 1784.

Hon. Sir: I believe I have found out the Reverend Mr. Kirklands<sup>1</sup> hurry and Business he is after. It is to put the Oneida Indians on their Guard, not to exchange their Lands with You or any other Person for any other Lands. This is all I have learned yet. I think it my duty to inform You of it, as I will always do when I hear any thing worth while.  
I am Sir &c.

JELLIS FONDA.

P. S. He has some time ago sent a Message to Captain Brant something to the same Purport with this.

Fort Schuyler, 31st August, 1784.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners and their Associates.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.

ABRAHAM CUYLER,  
PETER SCHUYLER,<sup>2</sup>

HENRY GLEN &  
*Commissioners.*

ROBERT YATES,  
ABRAHAM TEN BROECK,  
ABRAHAM YATES, JUN.,  
PETER W. YATES,

MATTHEW VISSCHER,  
J. J. BEEKMAN,  
Genl. GANSEVOORT,  
*Associates.*

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. SAMUEL KIRKLAND was born at Norwich, Ct., Dec. 1, 1741; was a Student under the Rev. Dr. Wheelock, and received his Degree at Nassau Hall, N. J., in 1765. He had previously begun Missionary Labors, and in 1764, with the Approval of Sir Wm. Johnson, he had visited the Senecas, among whom he for some Time resided. He was finally induced to settle at Oneida in 1766, under the Patronage of a Society of Scotland, and he continued to labor with these People more than forty Years. During and subsequent to the Revolution, he rendered great Service to his Country through his Influence among the Oneidas and his Knowledge of their Language and Customs. He was a Chaplain to the Army, and much of the Time on Duty as an Interpreter.

His Exertions were especially earnest and successful in preventing the Indians of New York from joining the Western Tribes in the Hostilities that laid Waste the Ohio Settlements towards the Close of the last Century. In 1793 Hamilton Oneida Academy, the Germ of Hamilton College, was founded by Mr. Kirkland, partly for the Benefit of the Oneida Nation, and his Example and Influence secured it a liberal Endowment in Lands. His active and useful Life ended Feb. 28, 1808, and his Remains were interred at Clinton.

<sup>2</sup>Major PETER SCHUYLER of Albany, a relative of General Philip Schuyler, was in the Assembly in 1784, and in the Senate from 1787 to 1792. In 1787 and 1791 he was a Member of

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Commissioners the Draught of his Letter to Mr. James Deane of 30 August and Mr. Deane's Answer, which were read.

Deputies from the following Nations only, to wit, the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas, and Senecas attending, and this being contrary to the ancient and usual Custom, the Commissioners took into Consideration the Propriety and Manner of opening the Treaty and thereupon it was Resolved,

That an Introductory Speech be prepared, stating generally the Object of the present Treaty, in Order to extract from the said Deputies the Powers wherewith they are invested, that the Commissioners may be enabled to determine whether such Powers are adequate to the present Business.

September 1st, 1784.

The Commissioners met.

Present—as before.

Judge Yates, Judge Ten Broeck, Abraham Yates Jun., P. W. Yates and M. Visscher Esqrs. were appointed a Committee to prepare the Introductory Speech to the Deputies.

It having been suggested to this Board, that some Uneasiness and Jealousy prevails among the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, occasioned by the private Artifice of designing Persons who have endeavoured to persuade them into a Belief that this State have it in contemplation to deprive them of their Lands, by Reason whereof this Board apprehend that none of the Sachems or Chiefs of the said Indians have as yet appeared to attend on the present Treaty.

Resolved, That Mr. Henry Glen, one of the Members of this Board, accompanied by Colonel Wemple and Major Frey, be requested immediately to repair to the Oneida Village and invite the said Indians to attend the intended Treaty Tomorrow as early as possible, and at the same time to assure

the Council of Appointment. Although honored with a Commission for negotiating with the Indians at this Treaty, Major Schuyler became leagued with the Leasee Company, and at the Treaty of 1788 was, with John Livingston, warned not to appear within forty Miles of the Place, least his corrupting Influence should embarrass the Negotiation. He tendered to the Governor his Resignation of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Jan. 2, 1786.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 37

them of the friendly Disposition and Attachment of this State towards them, as We consider them as our Friends and Brethren, whose Exertions with Us in the late War have contributed to the Establishment of our Independence.<sup>1</sup>

The Remainder of the Day was spent in private Conferences with some of the Sachems and War Chiefs.

<sup>1</sup> The following Document embraces an official Statement of the Services of sundry Oneidas and Tuscaroras during the War :

War Office, Feb. 26, 1791.

The Secretary for the Department of War, to whom was referred the Petitions of several Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, by their Attorney, Cornelius Van Slyck, reports :

That on the 3d of April, 1779, Congress resolved, "That twelve blank Commissions be transmitted to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department, and that they, or any two of them, be empowered to fill them up, with the names of faithful Chiefs of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, giving them such Rank as the said Commissioners shall judge they merit; the Names and Ranks to be by the Commissioners reported to the Board of War."

That in pursuance of the said resolve, the following named Chiefs or Indians of said Nations were commissioned, and Returns transmitted to the Board of War, viz :

*Captains.*

Hansjurie Tewahongrahkon,  
Tewaghtahkotte,  
James, Wakarontharan,  
John Otaawighton.

*Lieutenants.*

Christian Thonigwengshoharie,  
John, Sagoharasie,  
Joseph Banaghsatirhon,  
Cornelius Okenyota,  
Cornelius Kakiktoton,  
Hansjoost Thaosgawat,

Totyaheahani,  
Nicholas Kayhnaatho.

That the Commissions granted as aforesaid, appear in the usual Form of Commissions granted to Officers of the Line of the Army, and specify that the Individuals before mentioned should take Rank from the 6th June, 1779.

That on the 5th of June, 1779, Congress resolved, "That one more blank Commission be sent to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs in the Northern Department, to be filled up with the Name of such faithful Chief as they shall deem worthy of that Honor."

In pursuance of this Act, it appears a like Commission of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States was granted to Louis Atayataroughta, giving the said Louis Rank from the 15 June, 1779.

That on the 11th of February, 1785, Congress resolved, "That it be, and it is hereby, recommended to the State of New York to settle with Captains Hansjurie Tewahangahtan, John Olaawighton, James Wakarantharaw and Lieutenants Nicholas Kayhnaatsho, Cornelius Kakiktoton, Cornelius Okenyota, Indians of the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, late Officers in the Service of the United States, and pay their Accounts in like Manner as other Officers in the Line of that State."

In pursuance of said Act the State of New York made good the Depreciation of the Pay of said Indians to the 1st of August, 1780, and settled with them for their Pay to the 1st January. 1782.



2nd September.

The Commissioners met as before.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Introductory Speech to the Deputies of the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senécas, reported a draft thereof, which being read and amended was agreed to.

Resolved, That the same Committee prepare a Speech to the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations.

That of the Indians who were commissioned by the Acts of Congress of the 3d April and 5th June, 1779, the following now appear by their Attorney, to claim the Benefits arising from the said Commissions, viz :

*Lieutenant Colonel.*

Louis Atayataronghta.

*Captains.*

Hansjurie Tewahongrahkon,  
James Wawakarontharan,  
John Otaawighton.

*Lieutenants.*

John Sagoharasic, by his Widow,  
Margaret Oginghtronte,  
Cornelius Hakikoton,  
Hansjost Thaosagwat, by his Widow.  
Elizabeth Shentijo.

It appears by the Evidence of Edward Johnson, that Hanjost Thaosagwat was killed on the Western Expedition under General Sullivan, and from verbal Information obtained from Captain Michael Connoly, of the late New York Line, it appears that John Sagoharasic died some Time in 1781, and that Lieutenants Christian Thonigwenghsoharie, Joseph Banaghsatirhon and Totyaneahani, deserted to and exchanged their Commissions with the British.

That Lieutenant Colonel Louis Atayaronghta, has been settled with for his Commutation *and for pay*, to the same Period that the State of New York set-

tled with those under the Act aforesaid.

On this Statement the Secretary of War remarks, that, however much it may have been the Intention of Congress that the aforesaid Indians should receive the Half Pay, and the same Rewards as the Officers of the late Army, that the Claim is now precluded by the Resolves of Limitation, excepting as to the Lands which it appears they are entitled, and which it is conceived they may receive without any Act of Congress.

All which is humbly submitted to the House of Representatives.

H. KNOX, *Secretary of War.*

—*Am. St. Papers, Ind. Treaties, i, 123.*

The Person named Nicholas Kaynotho was better known as Nicholas Cusick. He was born June 15, 1756, and educated by Sir William Johnson. Refusing a Commission in the British Service, he served five Years under the Orders of Congress, and is said to have once saved the Division of La Fayette from almost certain Destruction. He was pensioned by Government, and became a leading Chief of the Tuscaroras. In the War of 1812, he also rendered important Service. For half a Century he professed the Christian Faith, and was for several Years an Interpreter for the Mission among the Indians. He died at Tuscarora Village, October 29, 1840.—*Griswold's Biog. Annual, 1841.*

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 39

The Committee appointed to prepare a Speech to the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations reported the same, which being read and amended was agreed to. For Reasons which are obvious, it was agreed not to mention any thing to those Nations at present with Respect to the Purchase or Exchange of their Lands.

Sept. 3rd.

The Oneidas and Tuscaroras arrived in the Afternoon and the Remainder of the Day was spent in settling them and issuing Provisions to them.

Sep. 4th.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs & their Associates.

Present—as before, and

Mr. KIRKLAND,	Col. VAN DYKE,
Mr. PETER RYCKMAN, Interpreter,	Mr. JNO LIVINGSTON,
JACOB REED, Do.	Col. WEMPLE,
Major FONDA,	Col. MUNRO,
Major FREY,	Mr. MORRIS.

The Oneida & Tuscarora Nations; among whom were the following Chiefs and Warriors, to wit:

*Sachems.*

Peter or Otatshete,  
Cornelius or Isisterara,  
Peter or Atyatonneatha,  
William or Ataghhonghteayon,  
William or Dyoghghagweate,  
William or Ayeaghwatha,  
John or Canatsiagere.

*Chief Warriors.*

Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup> Louis or Atyatoghhanongwia,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Louis Cook, or *Atoyatogh-ronghta*, alias *Atyatoghhanongwea*, was born about 1740 at Saratoga, and is said to have been of half Negro Origin, his Mother belonging to the Caughnawaga Tribe near Montreal. He was employed with the French in the Campaigns on Lake Champlain, at Oswego and on the Monongahela; and in common with the Canadian Indians generally, yielded reluctant allegiance to the English in 1760. Hearing of the Disputes between the Colonies and the Mother Country, he made a Journey to Boston in the Summer of 1775, to learn the Merits of the Controversy. He evinced a deep Inter-

Capt. George or Thonwaghweakaragwea,  
 Cornelius or Aghnyonken,  
 Paulus or Anentshontye,  
 Jacob Reed or Atsiaktatye,  
 Jacob or Blacksmith,  
 Anthony or Shononghrigo,  
 John or Feghhatkaghtons,  
 Lodowick or Asharago,  
 William or Kayentarongwea,

being assembled, it was conceived proper by the Commissioners and the said Nations to send for the Deputies of the other four Nations that they might hear what the Commissioners had to say, and those Deputies attending and being seated, His Excellency the Governor delivered to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras the following Speech :

*Brethren, Sachems, and Warriors of the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations,*

We bid You welcome, and are very glad to see You, and by this String We wipe your Eyes, console your Breasts, and open your Ears, that You may hear what We have to say.

A String.

rest in the Cause of Liberty, and in the Winter following revisited the Camp with a dozen Companions, was kindly received by the Commander-in-Chief, and applied for a Commission, with the Assurance that he would raise four or five hundred Men for the Service. After some Hesitation his Request was granted, and he received a Commission to rank from June 15, 1779, appointing him a Lieutenant Colonel in the American Army. His residence in Canada becoming unsafe, he removed to Oneida, and remained usefully employed through the War, at the Head of a War Party of friendly Indians. In 1780, he visited, with others, his old Friends, the French Allies at Newport. After the Peace he removed to St. Regis, where he continued to reside till the War of

1812-15, when his martial Spirit again called him into active Service, and though Age had somewhat impaired his Vigor, the *Influence* which he had acquired among the Indian Tribes was very great, and always actively exercised in Favor of those to whom he had been so long and so faithfully attached. An Injury which he received in one of the Skirmishes on the Niagara Frontier led to his Death in October, 1814, near Buffalo. He was highly esteemed for his Integrity and moral Worth, and the State secured to him a small Reservation near St. Regis, besides granting Lots number 11, 34, 72 and 98 in Junius.—4th *Am. Archives*, iii, 301; *Spark's Washington*, iii, 245, 260, 262; vii, 183; *Hough's Hist. St. Law. & Frank. Cos.*, 182-198; *Balloting Book*, 140.

Brethren! At the Conclusion of the late War with Great Britain, which terminated in a glorious Peace, the Legislature of the State thought it right to re-establish the ancient Harmony and Friendship, which had so long subsisted between this State and the six Nations residing within its Limits, & which had been interrupted by the Part which some of the six Nations had taken against Us; For this and other Purposes We are authorized by a Law of this State to treat with them.

Brethren! The Part You have taken We remember with Gratitude. We have no Differences to adjust with You; We look on You as Brethren who have often in the Hour of Danger given indubitable Proofs of your inviolable Attachment to Us and of your Determination of living and dying with Us.

Brethren! We have been informed that some designing Persons have endeavoured to persuade You that We mean to take away your Lands. This is not true; You must not believe it. We have no Claim on your Lands: its just extent will ever remain secured to You; it is therefore an Object of our present Meeting to have the Metes and Bounds thereof precisely ascertained in all its Parts, in order to prevent any Intrusions thereupon.

Brethren! To convince You that We have been equally mindful of your Interest as of our own, and which We consider as inseperable, the Convention of this State in Order to preserve the Amity and Friendship which has always subsisted between Us and to prevent the Discontents and Animosities that might arise from Frauds in Contracts made for your Lands by Individuals, not sanctioned by the Legislature, in forming the Constitution of this Government, did ordain and declare, that no Purchases or Contracts for the Sale of Lands, made since the Year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, or which thereafter might be made with or of the Indians within this State should be binding on the said Indians or deemed valid, unless made under the Authority of the Legislature of this State; and in all our subsequent Transactions We have been equally attentive to the Preservation of your Property.

Brethren! We wish a Continuance of that Friendship which has so long subsisted between Us; and if at any time You should be disposed to sell any of your Lands, in that Case, in Order to prevent the Frauds which may be practiced towards You, We do expect and recommend to You earnestly, as Brothers and Guardians of your Rights, to observe the good old Rule, not to make any such Contracts or Sales, unless it be done under the Authority and with the Consent of the Government of this State; without which no Purchaser of your Land can, by our Constitution and Laws, be vested with a legal Title.

Brethren! When We invited the other four Nations to this Treaty, We intended You should be present. We know as You lived in the Neighbourhood of this Place, that We could give You an Invitation after We were assured that the other Nations would be here. We have now called You and are happy as Brothers to see You at this Council Fire and to give You fresh Assurances of our Friendship and Affection, which we do by this  
Belt.

To which the said two Nations returned the following Answer:

Brother and Brothers of the State of New York:

You observed that You expected Us at this Council Fire before the Arrival of the six Nations; but it would have been scandalous for Us to have been here before them, as We had not been invited.

Brothers! By this (taking up the String given them by the Commissioners) You have welcomed Us to this Council Fire, and opened our Eyes that We might rejoice together: You have also removed the Sorrow that laid on Us by the Misfortune of the War; You have also opened our Speech that We might speak and our Ears that We may hear your Voice. You have cleansed our Habitations from all the Stains of Blood.

Brothers! the Governor and Commissioners of the State of New York! We thank You for your introductory Address; We take for granted our Fate and Fortune during the late Troubles have been the same. You have now come up what has been an untrodden Path to You, for many Years, and this

Path which You have seen, as You have come along, has been strewed with Blood. We therefore in our Turn console your hearts from all your Losses and Sorrows during these troublesome Times. We rejoice that You have opened the Path of Peace to this Country. We now open your Speech and give a Spring to your Lungs that You may freely speak. A String.

Brothers! As we have now finished the smoking the Pipe of Introduction and You have spoken to Us. In this your Speech You have observed that there have been wicked Persons who have propagated Reports among Us, as tho' our Territory was in Danger, and as tho' if our Brothers would wrest it from Us.

You have said that this was far from your Disposition— Was ever such thing known, that one Brother should say to another, get away from your Habitation. We have utterly rejected and disbelieved these Reports.

Brothers! These evil Reports were mere Reports of the Bird,<sup>1</sup> therefore We thought it not worth our while to inform You of it nor has it affected Us or will it ever separate Us, for We do not fix on any thing until We have spoken and conversed together.

Brothers! These evil Reports We bury in Oblivion, let no such things create Jealousies in our Minds. In this let Us both be agreed.

Brothers! We have said, let this be forever blotted out, for should this be the Conduct of the Oneydas and Tuscaroras, or this their Situation, it would be strange indeed! and should this be our Situation We should become a Reproach to every Nation both far and near.

Brothers! We will now come to the Subject of our Meeting. This is, to revive the ancient Friendship, which subsisted between your Forefathers and ours, that We might continue to practise the same.

<sup>1</sup>This figurative Mode of Speech was a favorite one among the Indians. Mischievous, false and idle Rumors, Scandal and Gossip, especially if reported with evil Intention, were by them thus expressed, as carried by Birds. More than a Score of these Allusions to Birds occur in this Work.

Brothers! You have come to revive this ancient Friendship and to give Us fresh Testimonies of your Regard to Us and our Property; and to inform Us that our Land is our own, and that You have heretofore taken Measures that it should be secured to Us; that no Individual should come among Us to purchase our Lands, without your Presence; and if they purchased and paid Us Money, the Purchase would be void by the Resolution of the great Council of the State. You also desire Us to acquaint You, whenever We should be disposed to sell any of our Lands.

Brothers! We are glad to hear this, that no Individual may purchase from Us without your knowledge. This is agreeably to your frequent and repeated Declarations to Us. We would inform You, that a certain Man called Thaongweanagen, alias Colonel John Harper, has made Proposals to purchase Lands from Us South of the Unadilla. We replied it was contrary to the Minds of our Brethren the State of New York, and he replied they know it and have sent me for the Purpose, & he gave Us Fifty Dollars as an earnest to the Agreement.

Brothers! We have now informed You of this: it now lies with You whether he shall return again on this Business.

Brothers! This is all at present. We intended only to make a short Reply.

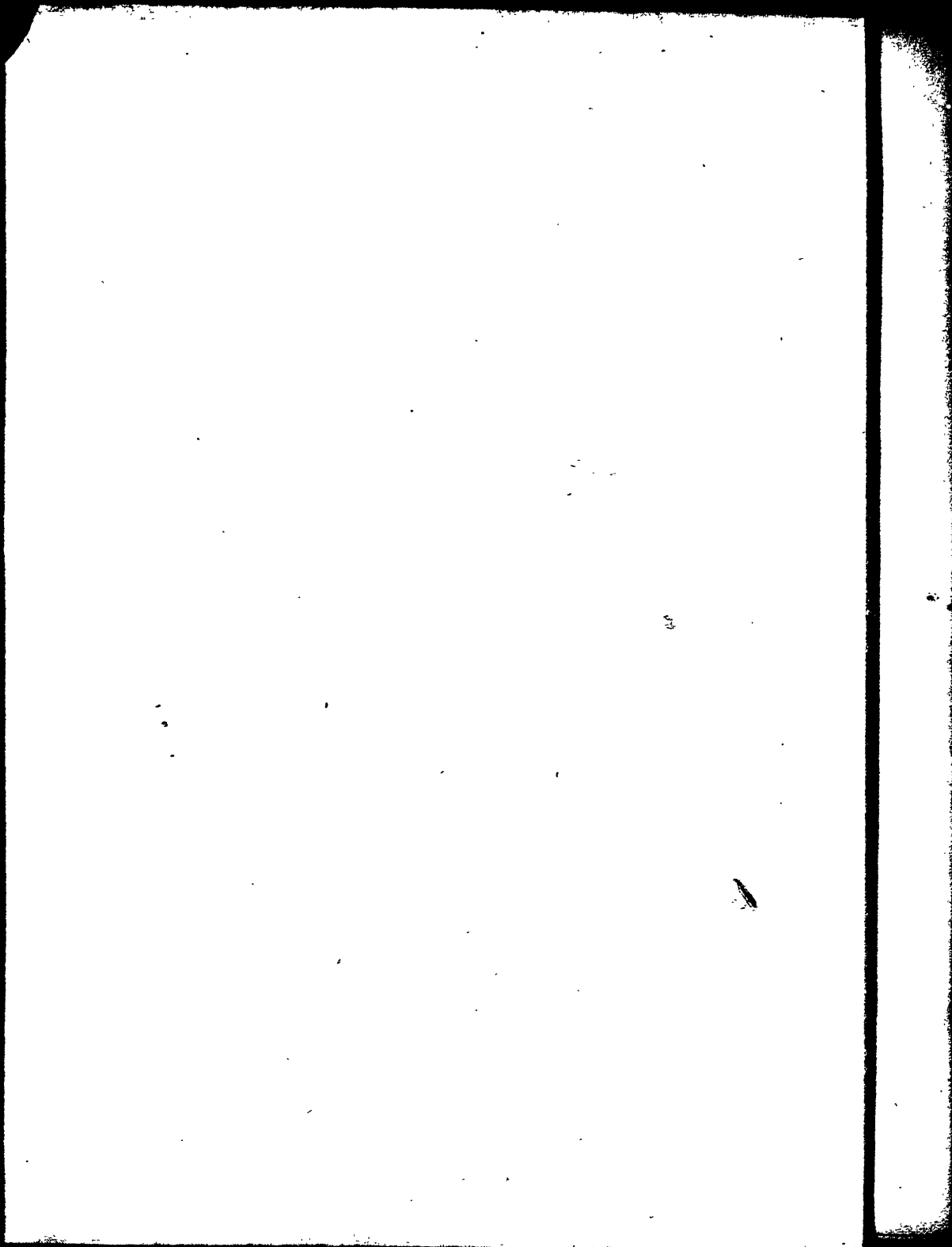
Brothers! You have repeatedly and frequently advised Us to love and regard our Property, and now afresh convinced Us of it. As You have loved your Property, You have also loved ours & now teach us how to preserve it.

Brothers! We thank You for reviving this Resolution from the Beginning of the late War, that our Property is safe and We will follow your Advice. Do You continue the same.

Brothers! We again thank You that You have again advised Us to keep a good look out that We do not lose our Property.

Brothers! We again thank You; there is nothing in your Address which is opposite or unfriendly to our Interest.

Brothers! We only renew our thanks for your Belt.







UPPER CANADA

WESTERN

L A K E O N T A R I O

L A K E E R I E

C H E N E S E O R I V E R

A L L E G A N Y R I V E R

F R E N C H C R E E K

A L L E G A N Y

M O U N T A I N S

S O U T H E R N N A

T Y O G A C O

Ft Oswego

Port Niagara

Tonawanda Fishing Bay

Great Sodus

Cato

Cicero

Brutus

Manlius

Junius

Aurelius

Pompey

Scipio

Tully

Ovid

Solor

Hector

Virgil

Clysses

Cincinnati

The above Townships are the New York Milit

Lake Geneva

Niagara falls 150 ft

Falls 75 ft

FALLS 40 FT

NOW SILVER LAKE

Fort la Beauif

Village of Nantua Old Major

Highest Land in Pennsylvania

New Town

Fothergill Farm

BOUND OF SIX NATI

ELLICOTT'S ROAD

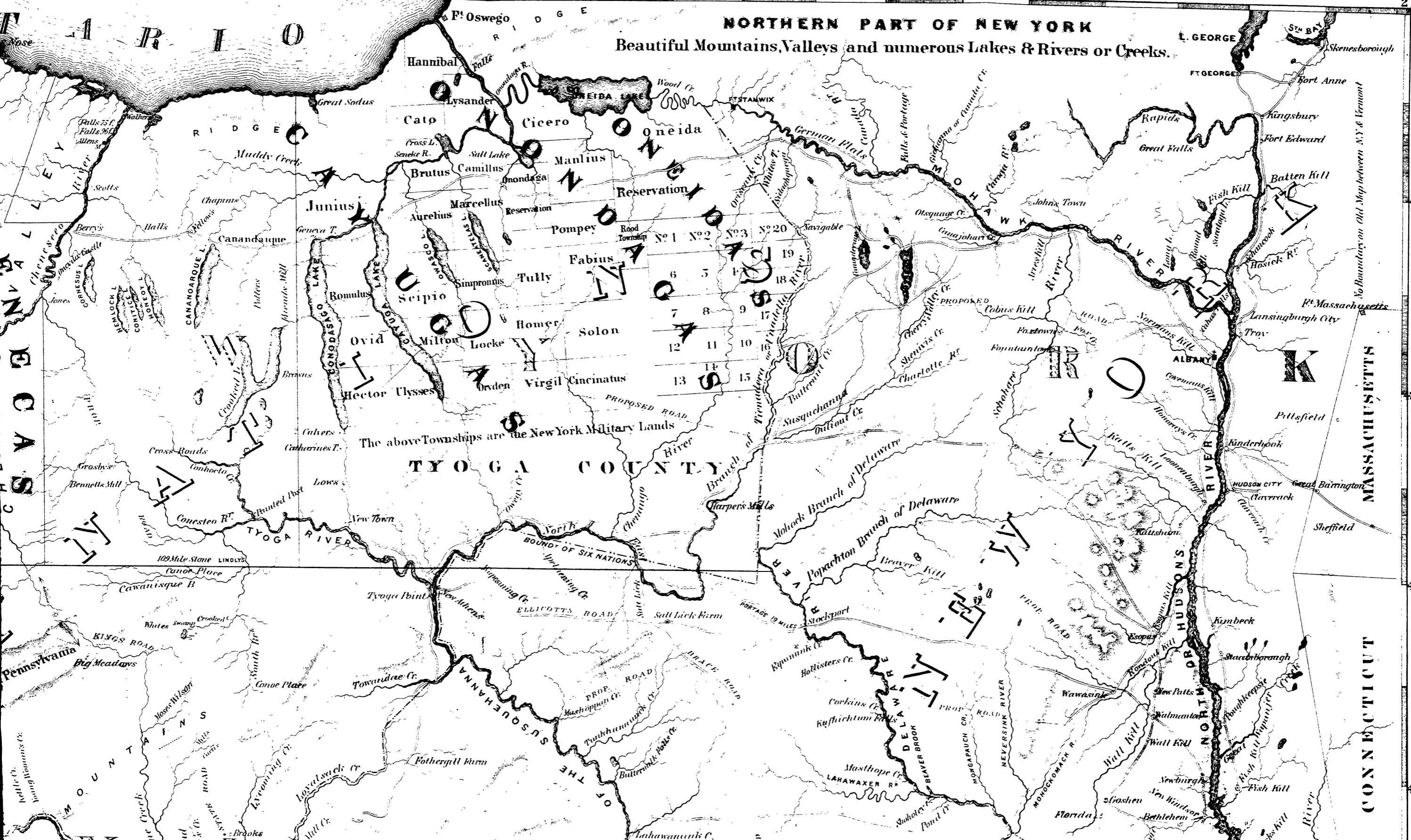
PROP

Truth

of the

# NORTHERN PART OF NEW YORK

Beautiful Mountains, Valleys and numerous Lakes & Rivers or Creeks.



The above Townships are the New York Military Lands

TYOGA COUNTY

North

BOUNDY OF SIX NATIONS

ELLICOTT'S ROAD

SALT LICK FARM

PORTAGE 19 MILES

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

PROP. ROAD

No Boundary on Old Map between N.Y. & Vermont

MASSACHUSETTS

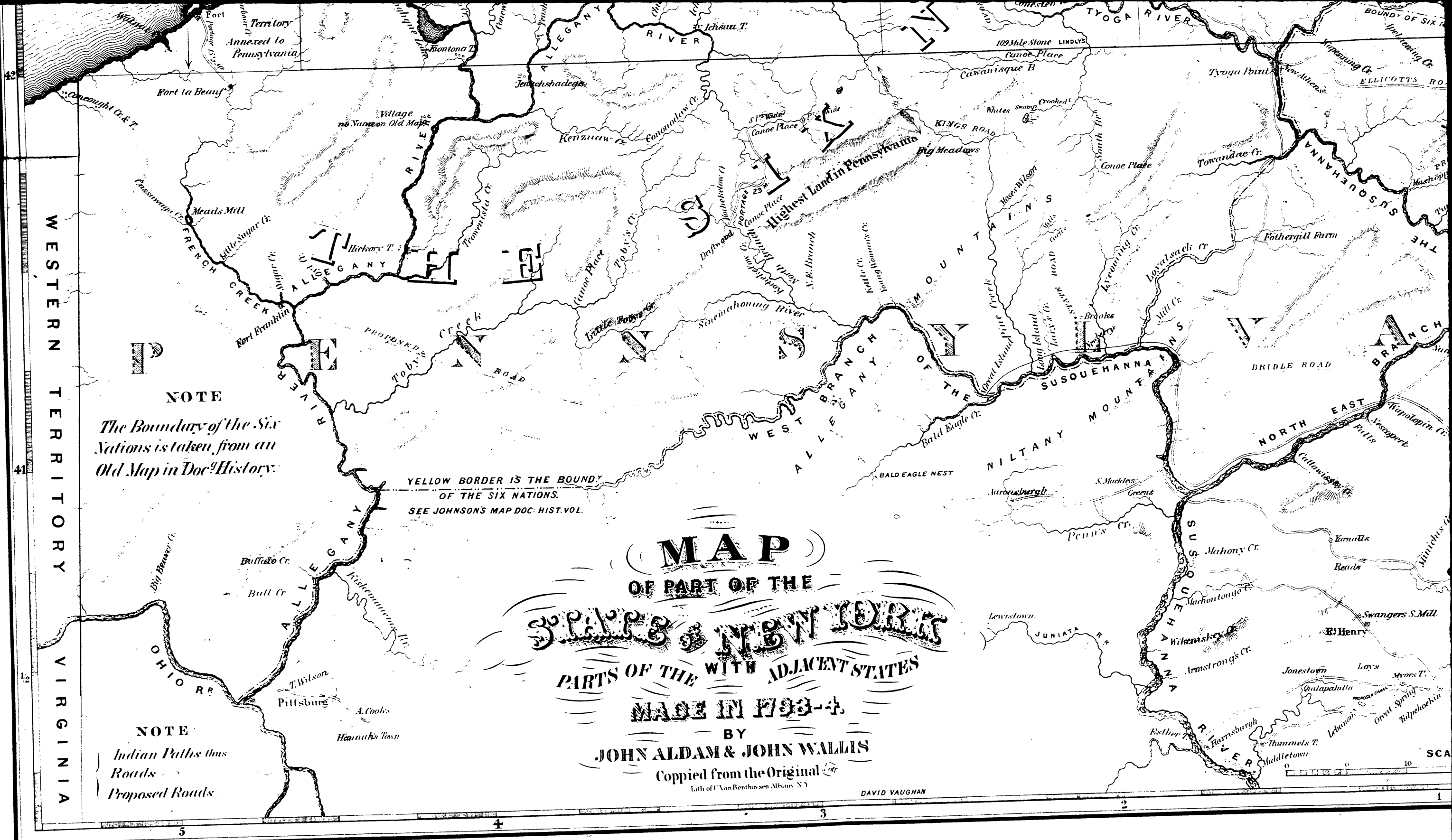
CONNECTICUT

43

42

41

40



WESTERN TERRITORY  
VIRGINIA

**NOTE**

The Boundary of the Six Nations is taken from an Old Map in Doc<sup>o</sup> History.

YELLOW BORDER IS THE BOUNDARY OF THE SIX NATIONS.  
SEE JOHNSON'S MAP DOC. HIST. VOL.

**NOTE**

Indian Paths thus  
Roads  
Proposed Roads

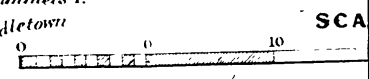
**MAP**  
OF PART OF THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA & NEW YORK**  
PARTS OF THE WITH ADJACENT STATES  
MADE IN 1793-4

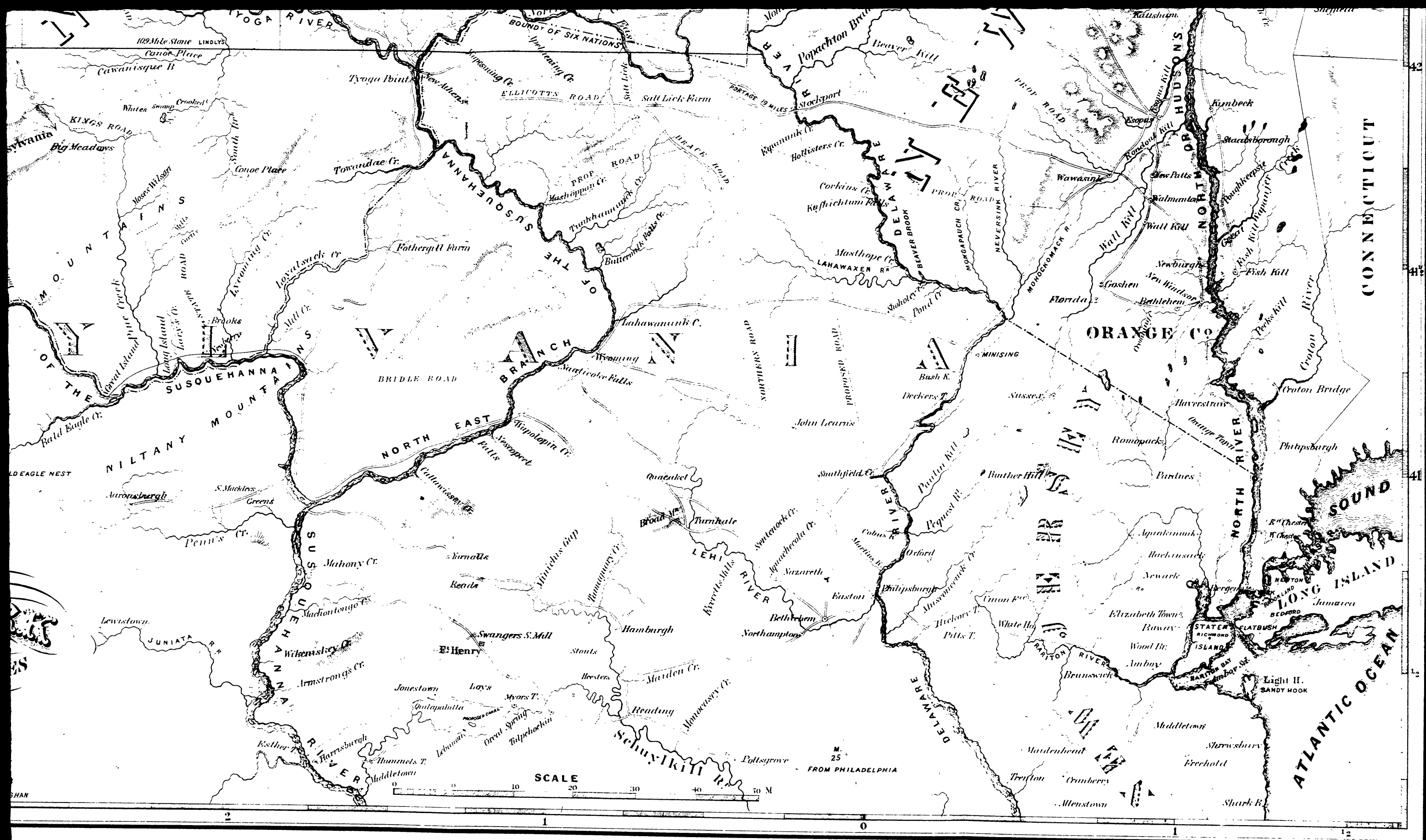
BY  
**JOHN ALDAM & JOHN WALLIS**

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DAVID VAUGHAN



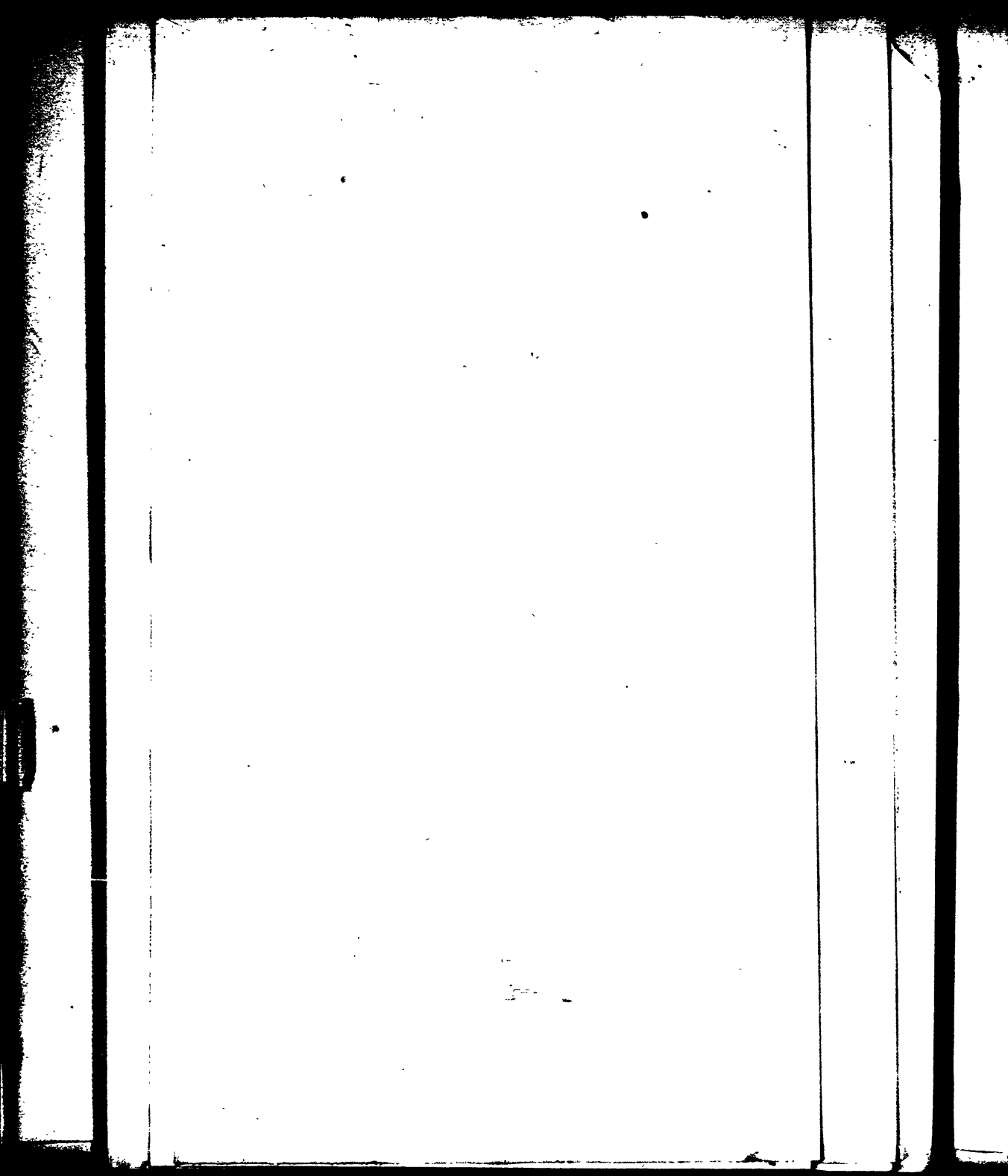


CONNECTICUT

ATLANTIC OCEAN

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FROM PHILADELPHIA



Brothers! There is another important Message with which You came to Us, that is to know our Boundaries:

Brother the Governor! You shall know what our Territory was previous to the late War.

Brother! You have a writing and We have another, that shews the Boundary Line run before the War on this Side.

I have only one Side to describe.

\*The Line of Property<sup>1</sup> reversed and continued from the Canada Creek<sup>2</sup> till it comes to a certain Mountain called Esoiade or Ice Mountain, under which Mountain that Canada Creek opposite to old Fort Hendricks heads;<sup>3</sup> from

\*The Oneidas and Tuscaroras in their Speech gave the West Bounds only, but afterwards gave the Boundaries as now inserted. [*Note by Secretary.*]

<sup>1</sup> The *Line of Property* was a Boundary agreed upon at a Treaty held by Sir William Johnson with the six Nations at Fort Stanwix, November 5, 1768, and was declared a Limit beyond which neither Party would claim Title to the Soil. This Line began at the Mouth of the Tennessee River, extended up the South Bank of the Ohio to Kittaning above Fort Pitt (now Pittsburgh), thence to the West Branch of the Susquchannah, and across the Mountains to the East Branch of the Susquchannah, and thence up that Branch to the Owego; thence to the Delaware, and up that River to a Point opposite where the Tianaderha (Unadilla) falls into the Susquchannah, thence along the Eastern Boundary of Broome County, Northward, across to and up the West Branch of the Unadilla to the Head of the same, and thence in a straight Line to the Junction of Canada Creek and Wood Creek, about seven Miles West of Fort Stanwix. The Line from the Unadilla to Wood Creek was more particularly specified as the Line of Property in these Treaties. It extended North 27° West, twenty-two

Miles and forty-six Chains, across the present Towns of Bridgewater, Marshall, Kirkland, Westmoreland and Rome, and formed a Part of the present Line between the Towns of Marshall and Paris. One of the largest of Colonial Grants made in the Interior of the State, was that known as Coxe's Patent, issued May 30, 1770, which was bounded by this Line on the West. The South Part of this Tract was known as Carolina, and the North Part as Coxeborough, Oriskany Creek being the dividing Line. It embraced 47,000 Acres, and was a Part of 100,000 Acres granted by George III to William Coxe, Rebecca Coxe, John Tabor Kempe and Grace his Wife, descendants of Daniel Coxe, in consideration of a Release to the Crown of Title to the Province of Carolina and Islands as described in a Patent to Sir Robert Heath.—*Jones's Oneida County.*

<sup>2</sup> The Canada Creek here mentioned is still known by the same Name. It is a small Stream flowing into Wood Creek from the North on the Western Border of the Town of Rome, at the Northeast Corner of Verona, Oneida County.

<sup>3</sup> The Editor was informed by the Rev. Eleazer Williams of St. Regis, that *Esoiade* signified *Upright Ice*, and that

thence running Westerly to an old Fort which stood on the Creek called Weteringhra Guentire,<sup>1</sup> and which empties into the River St. Lawrence about twelve Miles below Carleton's or Buck's Island,<sup>2</sup> & which Fort the Oneidas took from their Enemies a long time ago; from thence running Southerly to a Rift upon the Onondaga River called Ogontenayea or Aquegontenayea (a Place remarkable for Eels)<sup>3</sup> about five Miles from where the River empties out of the Oneida Lake<sup>4</sup> and from thence runs to the Creek called Cogshunto, to that part or Point of the said Creek which lays about six Miles East of Onondago and where the Water runs over a Ledge of Rocks and from thence runs up the said Creek to a Lake out of which it empties called Anagwolas<sup>5</sup> and from

it was probably applied to the Mountain from the Rock having at a Distance the Appearance of Ice. This Mountain being only a traditional Landmark, was of course never located by actual Survey, and there may be some Doubt as to its present Name or actual Location. It must have been in Hamilton County, and is probably in the Town of Arictta.

<sup>1</sup> Now the Site of the Village of Clayton, upon the St. Lawrence River. The first Settlers knew nothing of the Ruins of this Fort, and the Time of the Occurrence is lost. The Term is said to signify *Fallen Fort*.

<sup>2</sup> Carleton Island was fortified by the French, and commanded the South Channel of the St. Lawrence. The Ruins of this Fort, still in excellent Preservation, are an Object of Interest to the Visitor. At the Time of this Treaty it was held by a small Party of British Troops, nor was it surrendered until demanded by a few spirited Americans soon after the Declaration of War in 1812.

<sup>3</sup> This Eel Place has been ruined by the Oneida River Improvement. The

Point five Miles down from the Outlet, now called Caughdenoy, is a small Village. This River Improvement has two Steamboat Locks of three and three and a half Feet lift, affording a Navigation from the Lake to Three River Point.

<sup>4</sup> The Onondagas call Oneida Lake, *Seugbka*, "striped with Blue and White Lines (Waves), diverging and coming together again." It was also called *Techiroguen*, *Techiroguen*, *Kanoaloka*, *Onidbogo* or *Tsiroqui* Lake, but it is believed the Indians never call it Oneida Lake.—*Jones's Oneida County*, 871.

<sup>5</sup> The Chittenango Creek is the only one arising in a Lake of any considerable Size in this Region, but the Distance of Chittenango Falls from Oneida is much greater than stated in the Text. The Stream at this Place falls over a nearly vertical Ledge of Limestone 136 Feet, forming a Cascade of singular Beauty. The East Branch of Limestone Creek, a few Miles further West, has a Cascade of 100 Feet, near the South Line of Manlius, Onondaga Co. The Former being assumed as the *Cogshunto*, its present Name would be Chittenango Creek, and *Anagwolas* would be Cazenovia Lake.



thence to the head of the Owego River which heads in a Swamp nearly at the same Place where the said Cogshunto River heads, and from thence down the said Owego River to where it empties into the Susquehannah.

Brothers! By this Belt I have shewn You our West Boundary and You have Maps & Papers which will more precisely shew You.

Brothers! I will take this Opportunity to mention another Matter of great Importance that respects the Oriskee Tribe. General Washington assured them during the late Troubles, that they should possess and keep their Lands. It is a pleasant Place for Us to rest at and refresh ourselves when We are travelling and would wish You would confirm it.

Peter and other Oneyda & Tuscarora Chiefs informed his Excellency the Governor, that they had received a Letter from Arthur Lee and Richard Butler, which they were desirous he should see, but they had left it with their other Papers at Oneida; they therefore proffered to send a Runner for it, which they accordingly did, and it being produced to the Commissioners the following Copy was taken from it:

*To the Sacbems and Warriors &c. of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras,  
Allies of the United States and Tribes of the six Nations.*

Brethren! The late Troubles which We have been mutually involved, being happily ended, Congress have thought proper to appoint Us Commissioners to transact all kind of public Business between the United States and our Brethren the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, and to settle a general Peace with all the Indian Nations from the Ohio to the Great Lake.

We now inform You by the hand of our Messenger and Brother Samuel Kirkland and Mr. James Deane the Interpreter and Servant of Congress, that We are making every Preparation and Exertion to expedite a Meeting with You.

We have lately heard that You are called to a Treaty by the Governor of New York. We know nothing of his Intention or Meaning, he not being authorized by Congress.

This Lake was also called the *Owabgena*, long, about nine hundred Feet above signifying Yellow Perch. It is four Miles Tide, and surrounded by sloping Hills.



Yet should You be set out to attend that Treaty, it would be hard to give the Fatigue of another Journey; and altho' it was our Intention the Great Council Fire of Congress with the six Nations should be held at Niagara, We will, in Order to accommodate You, meet You at Fort Stanwix on the twentieth day of September next, where we expect You will certainly attend.

We are your Friends and Brothers.

ARTHUR LEE,  
RICH<sup>d</sup> BUTLER.

Indorsed, Message to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, August 18th, 1784. New York.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the State of New York, Sep. 5th, 1784.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.

ABRAHAM CUYLER, HENRY GLEN &  
PETER SCHUYLER, Esqrs., *Commissioners.*

ROBERT YATES, JNO. J. BEEKMAN,  
ABRAHAM YATES, Jun., Genl. GANSEVOORT,  
PETER W. YATES, MATTHEW VISSCHER, Esqrs.,  
ABRAHAM TEN BROECK, *Associates.*

Colonel MUNRO, Mr. P. RYCKMAN, Interpreter,  
Colonel VAN DYKE, Colonel WEMPLE,  
Major FONDA, JNO. J. B. V. EPS,  
JNO. MORRIS. Mr. JNO. LIVINGSTON.

The Deputies from the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas, to wit.

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attending, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras being sent for, His Excellency the Governor delivered the following Speech to the said Deputies.

Brethren, Sachems and Warriors of the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas!

With this String We open your Eyes and your Ears, that You may hear and fully comprehend what We have to say.

Brothers! The Council Fire which was lighted both at Albany and Onondago by our Ancestors and those of the six Nations, and which burnt so bright and shone with so friendly a Light over our Common Country, has unhappily been almost extinguished by the late War with Great Britain.

I now gather together at this Place the remaining Brands, add fresh Fuel, and with the true Spirit of Reconciliation and returning Friendship, rekindle the Fire, in hopes that no future Events may ever arise to extinguish it; but that You and We and the offspring of Us both, may enjoy its benign Influence, as long as the Sun shall shine or the Waters flow.

A String.

Brethren! The Paths which lead to and from our respective Habitations have already been opened and every Obstacle removed; We have therefore now the Satisfaction of taking each other by the hand as Brethren residing within the same State, and congratulate You on your Arrival at this Meeting expressly called for the Purpose of settling those Differences and Animositities which have arisen between us, by Reason of your Conduct during the late War; to establish Boundary Lines between You & Us, on such just and equitable Terms as will be satisfactory, and prevent all future Animositities; to promote Trade and Commerce and renew that former Friendship and Compact anciently made between the six Nations and our Dutch Ancestors and afterwards frequently renewed by the late Colony now State of New York. These things We conceive to be of great Importance, especially as We are now become a free and independent State and so acknowledged by Great Britain and other foreign Nations. It therefore behoves You and Us to have them speedily determined, as it is essentially necessary to advance and promote our mutual Interest and happiness. In token whereof We present you with this

Belt.

Brethren! We wish that a Treaty to bring about such salutary and important Purposes may be conducted with a true Spirit of Friendship and Reconciliation.

Brethren! We hope that You will not suffer yourselves to be led astray or deceived, by Persons, who under specious

Pretexts or from Motives of private Interest, will pretend to be your Advocates and Friends ; offer You their Counsel and Advice, but at the same time will throw in the Way all the Difficulties and Embarrassments in their Power.

Brethren ! We recommend You to embrace the present Opportunity, lest, if this be lost or neglected, some unavoidable Accident or unforeseen Event may render a future one precarious and possibly less favorable to your Interest.

Brethren ! ~~The Right~~ and Power of managing all Affairs with the Indians, not Members of any of the States, is vested in Congress, who have, as We are informed, appointed Commissioners for the Purpose. We are appointed by a Law of the Legislature of this State, to superintend Indian Affairs within the same, by Virtue of which We are authorized and required to enter into Compacts and Agreements with any Indians residing within this State. It is in Consequence of this Law and these Powers that We appear now to treat with You our Brethren, with whom, when our present Differences are adjusted, We are inclined to live as heretofore, on Terms of the most sincere Friendship : in Testimony whereof we give You this

Belt.

Brethren ! By your Letter of the 11th Day of August last which We received from Captain Brandt, You inform Us that You are sent by the six Nations in Alliance with You to settle some Points necessary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting ; what those Points are, We shall be glad to know. We on our Part attend agreeable to the ancient Custom in which Treaties have been conducted between You and Us and our Ancestors ; but your being thus sent, is out of the ancient Mode. We would therefore desire to know the Reason of this new Way of proceeding on a Business of this Nature, and whether You have sufficient Powers delegated to You on this Occasion, so that when We see that You have competent Powers for these Purposes, We may proceed farther upon the Business.

To which the Deputies made Answer :

Brothers ! Now You have finished this Day, at this Council which You have called here, and We have heard what You

had to say and fully comprehend it : We would now observe to You that it is the Custom of the six Nations to consult and consider before We answer, and wish You to keep an open Ear, in Expectation to hear what We have to say.

Sept. 6th, 1784.

Was a rainy Day and the Deputies not ready to deliver their Answer until Tomorrow.

September 7th, 1784.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs ;  
The Governor being indisposed.

Present:

Abraham Cuyler,  
Peter Schuyler,

Henry Glen, Esqrs.,  
*Commissioners.*

Abraham Yates,  
Robert Yates,  
Abraham Ten Broeck,  
P. W. Yates,

Mat: Visscher,  
Genl. Gansevoort,  
John Livingston, Esqrs.,  
*Associates.*

Col<sup>o</sup> Munro,  
Col<sup>o</sup> Wemple,  
Col<sup>o</sup> Van Dyck,  
Mr. Morris,

Mr. Vaughan,  
Mr. Van Eps,  
Mr. Kirkland,  
Mr. Peter Ryckman, *Interpreter.*

The Commissioners informed the four Nations by their Deputies, to wit,

*Mohawks*—David Hill, Karongyote ; Cap. Jos: Brant, Thayendanega.

*Onondagos*—Kashightoghare ; Hatheghserarun.

*Cayugas*—Oghniogueenton ; Karonghyageten.

*Senecas*—Kayentwaghgegh or Capt. Abeel ; Kaweaweatinen.

*Ogbwagas or Oneidas*—Atoghseronge ; Kanaweadon.

*Tuscarora*—Jayhahipen.

War Chiefs and several other Indians accompanying them ; that the Sachems and Warriors of the Oneidas & Tuscaroras were to be present and were sent for & they soon appearing and being seated, Captain Abeel, a Seneca Chief, spoke as follows :

Brothers ! You will acquaint Us when You are ready.

And being answered by the Commissioners that they were ready, Capt. Brant delivered the following Answer to the Commissioners' Introductory Speech.

Brothers attend! We are now assembled at this Place where You have called a Council on this day. We are equally with You unhappy at the Absence of the Governor; but what shall We say? We are not the Preservers of our Lives, and therefore mutually sympathize with You on Account of his Illness and We trust You possess your Minds in Peace and attribute our not speaking Yesterday to the Badness of the Weather.

Now Brothers attend! When You spoke to Us and addressed Us as four Nations, Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas, You said with this String We open your Eyes and your Ears that We might comprehend what You had to say. We thank You Brothers for this Introductory Address. We comply with your Request. We therefore now in our Turn brighten up your Eyes and Understanding, that You may hear what We have to say.

Brothers! In your Speech to Us, You observed that the Council Fire which was long ago kindled by our Ancestors at Albany and Onondago and which burnt bright and shone with a friendly Light over this Country, has been almost extinguished by the late War with the King of Great Britain.

Brothers! It is true; it is fresh in our Minds. We remember the happy days that our Ancestors enjoyed.

Again: You said You gathered the remaining Brands and rekindled this Fire, that the ancient Friendship might revive and that our Offspring mutually might enjoy its Interest and benign Influence.

Brothers! We thank You for this; it exactly meets our Disposition and Feelings of our Minds; We therefore by this String confirm your Declarations. This Brethren We receive and confirm, because our Voice will be heard to all our Brethren to the Westward; for which Reason We trust it will remain sure. Again You said that as the Path which lead to our respective Habitations was again opened, We had the Satisfaction of taking each other by the Hand as Brothers.

Brothers ! This is true what You have said. We are surrounded with Evidences of your friendly Dispositions, for We are happy while We are here at this Council Fire and the Design of Meeting at this Council Fire was for the Purpose of settling those Differences and Animosities, which had arisen between Us during the late War occasioned by our Conduct as well as yours. You farther said that your Purpose was to settle Boundary Lines between You and Us, on such equitable Terms as will give mutual Satisfaction.

This Brothers meets with our entire Approbation, for surely We have a love for our Country or Territory.

It is our Wish that this Matter may be now attended to and accomplished to our mutual Satisfaction. This seems necessary to be fixed, for then a free and generous Trade will be carried through our Country. Then will revive the ancient Friendship which subsisted between the six Nations and your Dutch Ancestors.

Again ; You observed that this was a Matter of great Importance, especially as You had become a free and independent State, and so acknowledged by Great Britain and other foreign States. This, Brothers, We know and are fully sensible that You are a free and an Independent State, and therefore wish to reestablish Friendship and Peace between Us, and as a Token that We receive your Speech and confirm it, We give You this Belt. Belt of seven Rows with 3 Blocks.

And as a farther Testimony of our Approbation of your rekindling this Council Fire, We present You with this Pipe of Peace, there to remain as a Token of Peace from Us, agreeable to the Custom of our Ancestors.

Brothers ! You again spoke and expressed your Wish, that this Treaty which was to bring about important Matters might be conducted with a Spirit of sincere Friendship.

This is our disposition. We mean in every Respect to conduct accordingly.

You again spoke and warned Us not to be led astray by evil minded Persons.

Brothers ! We thank You for this Advice, & Warning. We take it for granted that You know We are exposed to

Deception, otherwise You would not have warned Us. This We shall observe. We will be on our Guard and We suppose it is necessary, as our Lands will be an Object of Jealousy.

Brothers! You again spoke and recommended to Us to embrace the present Opportunity, lest it should be lost by Negligence. This We embrace; for this very Purpose came We to this Place; because We are left to treat for ourselves and have a free and independent power for that Purpose.

Brothers! You again spoke and made Us acquainted that the powers of managing Indian Affairs at large belonged to Congress, and that they had appointed Commissioners for this Purpose, and that You were appointed by this particular State, to manage Indian Affairs with Indians residing within the Bounds thereof, in Consequence of which You appear here at this Place.

Here lies some Difficulty in our Minds, that there should be two separate Bodies to manage these Affairs, for this does not agree with our ancient Customs. This was the Reason why We made such a Reply when your Messenger Mr. Ryckman came to our Country: it was the Voice of our Chiefs and their Confederates, that We should first meet Commissioners of the whole thirteen States and after that if any Matters should remain between Us and any particular State, that We should then attend to them: At the same Time We are fully determined notwithstanding all this to make a final Settlement with You & do all We can for that Purpose, and to confirm the Truth of our Words We give You this Belt.

Belt of seven Rows & ten Blocks.

Brothers! You again spoke mentioning the Letter You received of the 11th August last from Capt. Brandt by which We informed You that We were sent by the six Nations and their Confederates, to settle some Points necessary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting; what those Points were You desired Us to let You know, for You on your Part now attended according to ancient Custom between your Ancestors and ours, and that the Mode or Manner of our coming was not according to ancient Custom, and

desired Us also to let You know the Reason of this, and desired Us to inform You whether We had sufficient Powers for the Purpose mentioned in your Speech.

We now reply and fully explain to You the Manner and Mode of our coming down.

In the first Place We assign this Reason. When your Messenger Mr. Ryckman came to Us with your Message, in our Answer We told him We should first send to our Confederates, and as soon as We had a Return from them, You should hear from Us; and We also then requested to hear from You in Answer to what We sent by him. A second Reason We assign is this. You appointed the German Flatts for the Place of the Council Fire; in our Reply We requested that it might be at Fort Stanwix and that the Commissioners from Congress might be acquainted therewith, and be there, that We might have the Voice of the whole. When your Messenger left Us, We enjoined it on him to let Us have an Answer on these two Points.

On our Part, as soon as We had an Answer from our Confederates, We informed You and We were then in constant Expectation to hear from You. At this Time came Chiefs from four Nations of our Confederates & they then told Us that Sachems of two other Nations were yet behind and were daily expected. Upon our informing them of the Place of Meeting, which was this very Place, they refused coming down so far, and said that Niagara was the most central Place for Meeting, and that it was their ancient Place of Meeting; and because they would not agree to come down, is the Reason why We did not send a Runner as We had promised, and as We had not received an Account from You of the Alteration in the Place of Meeting.

We are sent by our Nations in the Manner We now appear to treat with You & have Powers for that Purpose; had your last Message come in Time the whole of our Nations would have been here, and in Testimony that We have Powers to treat with You, We present You with this String.

Four Strings.

And wish You would let us know what You have farther to say to Us.



8th and 9th September spent preparing Speeches and in private Conferences.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs for the State of New York.

Fort Schuyler, 10th September, 1784.

Present:	His Excellency the Governor.
Abraham Cuyler,	Peter Schuyler, Esqrs.
Henry Glen,	<i>Commissioners.</i>
Robert Yates,	J. J. Beekman,
Abraham Ten Broeck,	Matthew Visscher,
Abraham Yates,	<i>Associates.</i>
Col <sup>o</sup> Wemple,	Mr. Ryckman and
Mr. Morris,	Mr. Jacob Reed,
Mr. Vaughan,	<i>Interpreters.</i>

And the Chiefs of the Oneida & Tuscarora Nations.

The Deputies from the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas, and Senecas attending and being asked whether they were ready to receive our Reply, and answering they were, His Excellency the Governor delivered the following Speech to them :

Brothers! We have heard your Answer to our Introductory Speech and considered it attentively. We are happy to find that You correspond in Sentiment with Us with Respect to the important Matters We proposed to You and that You discover a Disposition to adopt just and equitable Measures for reviving and confirming that Friendship which formerly subsisted between Us, & which was unhappily interrupted by the War with Great Britain; and We receive with Satisfaction the Assurances You have given to Us that You have Powers to treat with Us upon these Different Matters necessary to bring about this salutary Object.

Brethren! The Pipe of Peace which, agreeable to the Custom of your Ancestors, You have presented to Us as a Testimony of your Approbation of rekindling the Council Fire, shall be carefully preserved as a solemn Token of the Sincerity of your Profession.

In all our Communications with You to effect the proposed Meeting, We have endeavoured to be as explicit as possible, so that You might fully comprehend & understand the Grounds and Principles upon which We meant to treat with You, and the Powers under which We acted; and to remove all Difficulty and Doubts from your Minds on this Subject, and as a further Evidence of that Candour and Sincerity which We have recommended to be observed and which We expect on your Part, We have laid before You the Confederation of the United States, the Constitution of this State and the particular Law under which We act, that You might see and judge for yourselves before We proceeded farther on the Business.

Brothers! We trust that the Difficulties You expressed about different Commissioners are now fully removed from your Minds, and that You are clearly convinced that We have a proper Right to negociate and settle all the Matters between Us which We proposed to You; We shall therefore now proceed.

Brothers! To remove the Animosities which have arisen during the late War, We told You it would be necessary to establish Boundary Lines between You and Us on just and equitable Terms, in doing of which, considering our Losses, the Debts We have incurred, and our former Friendship, it is reasonable that You make to Us such a Cession of your Lands as will aid Us in repairing and discharging the same.

Brothers! We will not in the first Instance mention any Quantity or describe any particular Tract: This can be better done hereafter when We are more fully informed of your Sentiments on this Subject. We would only observe that in the Settlement of this Business We wish to be governed by Equity and mutual Conveniency, and that We expect Part of the Lands to be ceded will be in the Vicinity of Niagara and Oswego, to accommodate our ancient Settlements at those Places.

Brothers! This is the principal Point to be adjusted. If this can be satisfactorily accomplished, and our People in Captivity with You liberated and returned to their Friends, all Differences and Animosities will subside and We propose

in this Case, on our Part, to extend to You all those Assurances for securing You in the Possession of your Lands and to prevent Frauds and Impositions which might be committed against You, which You will find provided for by our Constitution and Laws and which You have lately heard Us give to our Brethren the Oneidas and Tuscaroras.

Brothers! We think it proper also to mention to You that if a Settlement should be happily effected, and these Assurances be on our Part given to You, that You will on your Part faithfully continue to observe the ancient Rule established between Us while We were a Colony and renewed by the Constitution of this State, not to dispose of any of your Lands lying within its Limits without the Consent and Approbation of our Government; and that You will expressly stipulate, that if at any time hereafter You should dispose of any of your Lands within our Bounds, that in that Case You will always give Us the Right of Preemption, so that the State by any act of yours may not be injured in its Rights.

Captain Abeel then informed the Commissioners that according to Custom they would take Time to consider and give an Answer, and they having retired, His Excellency delivered the following Speech to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras.

Brothers! We are very well satisfied with Your Answer to our Speech and for which We now return You our Thanks.

You have informed Us that Thaoughweanjawegen, alias John Harper, has made Proposals to purchase Lands of You South of the Unadilla, and that he told You that the Council of this State knew it and had sent him for the Purpose, upon which You desire our Opinion. Brothers! What this Man has told You is not true. He has done this without our Knowledge and We have not sent him.

Brothers! That You may no more be deceived or imposed upon in such Cases, We advise You not to make any Bargain or Agreement for the Sale of any of your Lands, unless those who want to buy do previously obtain and shew You a Licence from the Government of this State properly authenticated.

Brothers! You also, agreeable to our Request, have mentioned to Us the Boundaries of your Lands and We have accordingly set them down as You described them. You observed that You had one Paper and We another, that would give the Boundary on one Side. This is true, but the Bounds on the other Side are not so well known to us.

Brothers! We have also observed what You have said relative to the Lands on the Mohawk River now occupied by the Oriskee Indians. These Lands are not comprehended within the Boundaries You mentioned to Us, and it is therefore probable they have been heretofore sold to the Persons who obtained a Patent for them under the late Colony of New York. Should this appear to be the Case, and that those Persons have honestly paid for them, We have too good an Opinion of your Honesty and Understanding to believe You would wish Us to take away their Property and thereby commit an Act of Injustice; for if We was to do so, how could You ever after trust Us yourselves.

Brothers! We have now fully opened our Minds to each other, and We are happy that Your Sentiments and ours do so well agree.

Brothers! We now conclude with the fullest Confidence that our Chain of Friendship will not contract any Rust, but that it will always remain so bright throughout every Part of the State, that our Posterity may see their Faces in it, and that it will be their Object, as it has been ours, to promote each others Happiness and as a Pledge thereof We now give You this  
Belt.

The Deputies of the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas being returned and seated, Capt. Abeel spoke and said:

Brothers! Agreeable to what We before said, We have taken Time to consider your Speech and are now ready to make an Answer if You are ready to receive it; and being told by the Governor that We were;

Capt. Brant arose & spoke as follows:

Brothers! We have received your Speech and considered

it well, and are happy to find that You and We so well agree in Sentiment and that there is the greatest Prospect of settling the Differences which have arisen between Us.

Brothers! We are exceedingly happy and return You thanks for the Candour and Explicitness with which You have conducted the Business on your Part. We have considered the Confederation of the United States, the Constitution of this State and the Law under which You act and are fully sensible of your Right, as Commissioners of this State, in treating with Us the six Nations who live and reside within its Limits.

Brothers! You have already experienced Candour and Explicitness on our Part, and You may be assured of a Continuation of that Candour and Explicitness which ought always to be observed in a Business of this Nature, and especially among Brethren who live and reside in one State.

Brothers! You have told Us that in Order to remove the Animosities which have arisen between Us during the late War; that Boundary Lines between Us should be settled and that in Consideration of your Losses, the Debts You had incurred and the former Friendship which subsisted between You & Us: it was reasonable that We should make to You such a Cession of our Lands as would aid You in repairing and discharging the same.

Brothers! We have already told You that We were ready to settle with You Boundary Lines upon just and equitable Terms and We now repeat it, and as You have now called upon Us to know what Territory We would cede, and as You express a Wish to have Part of the Lands to be ceded to lie in the Vicinity of Niagara & Oswego to accommodate your ancient Settlements at those Places.

Brothers! We now reply that the Request You make for Lands for the above Purposes in general and the Manner in which You have made it, We as Deputies think reasonable, but We must observe to You that We are sent in Order to make Peace and that We are not authorized to stipulate any particular Cession of Lands. We shall however recommend it to our respective Nations, and We believe they will meet

your Wishes to specify to You the Lands they are willing to grant to You. This Business We expect they will treat with You about as soon as the Treaty with the Commissioners of Congress is ended.

Brothers! You have particularly expressed your Wish to have Lands at Niagara and Oswego, for the Accommodation of your ancient Settlement at those Places. We have formerly ceded some Lands to the Government of the late Colony of New York for the Use of the King. This already belongs to You by the Treaty with Great Britain, and as to Oswego, We think it reasonable that You should have Lands there; but as to the Quantity We cannot determine for the Reasons before mentioned. We will also in Respect to this earnestly recommend it to our respective Nations and We have every Reason to suppose it will be granted.

Brothers! You told Us that this was the principal Point to be settled between Us, and if this could be adjusted and your People in Captivity with Us liberated, all Differences and Animosities would subside. We have already determined that when a General Peace takes Place, all the Prisoners should be liberated and returned, and We have sent Yesterday to our Nations for that Purpose.

Brothers! You farther informed Us that if a Settlement should take Place and the Assurances on your Part given of securing Us in all our Lands, agreeably to the old Custom, that We would faithfully continue to observe the ancient Rule established between You and Us while We were a Colony, and renewed by your Constitution, not to dispose of any of our Lands being within your State, without your Consent and Approbation. This We agree to, and assure You that We shall abide by the ancient Rule & Custom. These were good, and We as a People derived our mutual Advantage from it.

In Testimony of the Truth of all what We have said, We deliver You this Belt. A Belt of seven Rows & five Blocks.

His Excellency the Governor, in Behalf of the Commissioners, then informed the Indians that they intended to set

out early in the Morning on their Return home, and therefore now adjourned the Council Fire. He also mentioned to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, that as their Lands must have grown over with Bushes during the War, and consequently their Subsistence be more difficult to be got; the Commissioners would give them the Provisions which remained on Hand, as the most acceptable Present they could make them in their Situation.

And to the Deputies of the other four Nations he mentioned the Intention of the Commissioners to leave them a Sufficiency of Provisions for their Use, until the Time fixed for their Meeting with the Commissioners of the United States.

In the Course of this Day several Caghnawaga Chiefs and Warriors and about forty of that Tribe arrived, having previously sent the Governor a String as an Evidence of their Friendship and to announce their Approach. These being present at the Delivery of the last two Speeches, the Commissioners, through the Governor, informed them that their Business at this Council Fire was confined to the six Nations; but that they were happy to see them there: that they considered them now as Friends; that such of them as lived in the Village of St. Regis or other Parts within the Limits of this State might return to their Habitations without the least Apprehension of Injury, as the State had made ample Provision against any Frauds or Impositions being committed against Indians residing within its Limits; that it would at the same Time be expected that they would strictly observe the good old Rule which was revived by the Constitution of the State not to dispose or part with any of their Lands without the Consent and Approbation of this Government.

The Deputies of the four Nations by Captain Abeel, then made a Speech, returning the Commissioners their thanks for the Candour, Civility and Attention with which they had been treated, as did also the Caghnawagas, the latter promising at the same Time to observe what had been enjoined on them by the Commissioners.

It having been agreed by the Commissioners, as necessary for the Interest of the State, to leave Major P. Schuyler, one of their Board, and Mr. P. Ryckman, their Interpreter, at the Place to attend the Treaty proposed to be held by the Commissioners of Congress, the following Instructions for the Government of their Conduct, were prepared and agreed to.

*Instructions for Major Peter Schuyler.*

You are to remain at this Place with Mr. Peter Ryckman, who is to attend You, to observe the Conduct of the Commissioners of Congress in their proposed Treaty, and take Notes of their daily Proceedings. You will attend their public Speeches & Answers and find out the Objects they have in View; and where You find they have in View any thing that may eventually prove detrimental to the State, You are to use your best Endeavours to counteract and frustrate it.

By the Returns made by Mr. Glen, one of the Commissioners, it appears that there remained on hand this Morning,

40 blls. Flour,	6 Blls. Rum,
5 Do. Beef,	76 Kegs Do.
3 Do. Pork,	10 Blls. Corn,
5 Do. Tobacco,	$\frac{1}{2}$ Bll. Biscuit,
2 Do. Salt,	$1\frac{1}{2}$ Box Pipes.
4 Head Cattle,	

Of these Articles You will deliver to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, as a Present, 8 Barrels Corn, 3 Blls. Beef, 2 Blls. Pork, 3 Blls. Tobacco, 1 Bl. Salt, 2 Head of Cattle, 30 Kegs Rum, 28 Blls Flour, for which You will take their Receipt. You will then have on Hand 2 Blls. Beef, 1 Bll. Pork, 2 Blls. Tobacco, 1 Bll. Salt, 1 Head Cattle, 6 Blls. Rum, 40 Kegs Rum, 2 Blls Corn,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Bll. Biscuits,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Box Pipes and 12 Blls Flour. You will out of this, supply the Deputies from the four Nations until the 20th Instant, the Day fixed by the Continental Commissioners for their Treaty, and whatever You can spare from that use and your own, especially the Rum, of which You have a large Quantity, convert into Cash for the Benefit of the State. You will in-



form the Oneidas and Tuscaroras that You have given them all the Provision on hand and that can be possibly spared.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the State of New York, Sep. 14th, 1784.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.  
 Gen<sup>l</sup> Schuyler, Abraham Yates, Esq.,  
 Gen<sup>l</sup> Gansevoort, Mr. Mayor,<sup>1</sup>  
 Gen<sup>l</sup> Ten Broeck, P. W. Yates, Esq.,  
 Judge Yates, Matthew Visscher, Esq.,  
*Associates.*

His Excellency the Governor, as President of the Board, laid before them the Speeches that had been delivered to the Indian Tribes and their Answers at the late Treaty, and also informed the Board of the Steps that had been taken and which were to be pursued on the Part of the State at the intended Treaty by the Commissioners of the United States with the six Nations, which were approved.<sup>2</sup>

The Board taking into Consideration that Exigencies might arise which would render further Measures proper to be taken to promote the Interest of the State, and that Meetings for this Purpose of the Commissioners and their Associates, in the Absence of the Governor who is obliged to attend to the

<sup>1</sup> JOHN J. BEEKMAN, then Mayor of Albany.

<sup>2</sup> The following Treaty was executed after the Adjournment of this Board:

Articles of a Treaty concluded at Fort Stanwix on the twenty-second Day of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, between Oliver Wolcott, Richard Butler and Arthur Lee, Commissioners Plenipotentiary from the United States, in Congress assembled, on the one Part, and the Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations of the other.

The United States of America give Peace to the Senecas, Mohawks, Onon-

dagos and Cayugas, and receive them into their Protection upon the following Conditions:

ART. 1. Six Hostages shall be immediately delivered to the Commissioners by the said Nations to remain in Possession of the United States, till the Prisoners White and Black, which were taken by the Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagos, and Cayugas, or by any of them in the late War, from among the People of the United States, shall be delivered up.

ART. 2. The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations shall be secured in the Possession of the Lands on which they are settled.

ART. 3. A Line shall be drawn, be-

other Concerns of the State at New York, may be absolutely necessary, Therefore

Resolved, That Abraham Cuyler, Esq., one of the Commissioners be requested to call Meetings of the Commissioners and their Associates whenever the same shall appear to be proper and necessary, and that they make Arrangements for carrying into Execution what shall be agreed upon in any such Meetings as promotive of the Rights and Interest of the State, and that they advise the Governor thereof that he may attend in Case the same be necessary.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to examine and

ginning at the Mouth of a Creek, about four Miles East of Niagara, called Oyonwayea, or Johnson's Landing Place, upon the Lake, named by the Indians Oswego, and by us Ontario; from thence South-erly, in a Direction always four Miles East of the Carrying Path, between Lake Erie and Ontario, to the Mouth of Tehosoron, or Buffalo Creek, on Lake Erie; thence South, to the North Boundary of the State of Pennsylvania; thence West, to the End of said North Boundary; thence South, along the West Boundary of the said State to the River Ohio; the said Line, from the Mouth of the Oyonwayea to the Ohio shall be the Western Boundary of the Lands of the Six Nations; so that the Six Nations shall and do yield to the United States, all Claims to the Country West of the said Boundary; and then they shall be secured in the peaceful Possession of the Lands they inhabit, East and North of the same, reserving only six Miles Square, round the Fort of Oswego, to the United States to the Support of the Same.

ART. 4. The Commissioners of the United States, in consideration of the present Circumstances of the Six Nations, and in Execution of the humane and liberal Views of the United States, upon the Signing of the above Articles, will

order Goods to be delivered to the said Six Nations, for their Use and Comfort.

OLIVER WOLCOTT,  
RICHARD BUTLER,  
ARTHUR LEE.

Mohawks,	{	ONOGWENDAHOJJI,
		TIOUGHNATOGON,
Onondagos,	{	OHEADARIGHTON,
		KENDARINDGON,
Senecas,	{	TAYAGONENDAGIGHTI,
		TEHONWAEAGHRIGAGI,
Oneidas,	{	OTYADONENGHTI,
		DAGAHEARI,
Cayuga,	{	ORAGHGOANENDAGEN,
Tuscaroras,	{	ONONGSAWENGHTI,
		THARONDAWAGON,
Seneka Abeal.	{	KAYENTHOHKE.

Witnesses,

SAM. JO. ATLEE,	}	Pennsylvania Com- missioners.
WM. MACLAY,		
FRAS JOHNSTON,		
AARON HILL,		
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,		
SAMUEL KIRKLAND, <i>Missionary,</i>		
JAMES DEAN,		
SAML. MONTGOMERY,		
DERICK LANE, <i>capt.</i>		
JOHN MERCER, <i>lieut.</i>		
WILLIAM PENNINGTON, <i>lieut.</i>		
MAHLON HORD, <i>ensign.</i>		
HUGH PEEBLES.		

—*Amer. State Papers, Indian Affairs,*  
i, 10 (B. D. 3 W., i, 307).

liquidate the Accounts of the Commissioners attending the late Treaty and that they report the State thereof to his Excellency the Governor.

Resolved, That the Committee for the Purpose mentioned in the preceding Resolution consist of Genl. Gansevoort, P. W. Yates, Esq., and his Worship the Mayor.

Resolved, That Judge Yates be requested to get as many Silver Breast Plates or Gorgets, with the Arms of the State thereon engraved, as the Commissioners and their Associates, in the Absence of the Governor shall deem proper, and to be presented to such of the Sachems and Warriors as shall be named by the Commissioners. The Expence not to exceed Fifty Pounds.





# PROCEEDINGS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

AND THE

COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

*In Pursuance of the Directions of an Act, Entitled An Act to facilitate the Settlement of the Waste and Unappropriated Lands within this State, and for Repealing the Act therein mentioned. Passed the 11th of April, 1785;*

INCLUDING THE

*Correspondence between the Governor and Commissioners preparatory to the present Treaty, and Copies of some Letters respecting the Treaty of last Year.*

Schenectady, 20th April, 1785.

Sir :

**W**E are under the Necessity of acquainting your Excellency, that We are frequently threatened to be sued for Debts contracted by Us at the Indian Treaty at Fort Schuyler. We have been informed that the Honorable Legislature, have, the Session before this last, passed an Act to allow the sum of five hundred Pounds; which sum We stand in Need of to discharge the Debts as above. We have as early as possible, transmitted our Accounts to the Legislature to have them examined, and have been long waiting the Event; but to our Surprize, when Mr. Matthew Visscher came up, We were informed that the Accounts had not been examined when he came away, & that there was very little Prospect of their being examined this Session, through the Multiplicity of Business before the House. We stand much in need of your Excellency's Assistance, and request, if in your Power, that You

will issue your Warrant on the Treasury for the above Sum, and should it exceed, the Commissioners will always be accountable for the Overplus.

We wish, should your Excellency think proper, to give the Warrant to Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, whom We have requested to receive the Warrant and forward the Cash to Us p. safe Opportunity.

We have the Honor to be, &c.

ABRAHAM CUYLER,  
HENRY GLEN.

His Excellency

GEORGE CLINTON, Esq.

New York, 1st May, 1785.

Sir: The Legislature having by Act passed at their late Meeting directed the Governor and Commissioners for Indian Affairs, on or before the first Day of October next, to obtain a Cession or Grant to the Use of the State of such Lands within the same, now holden or claimed by the Native Indians as they shall be willing to dispose of on reasonable Terms. It is necessary that preparatory Measures should be immediately taken for opening a Treaty with them for this Purpose, and to this End I have now to request that You will, as soon as conveniently may be after the Receipt hereof, convene the Gentlemen associated with the Commissioners and confer with them on this Subject; And such Measures as they shall advise, You will please to carry into Effect, giving me seasonable Notice of your Transactions, particularly of the Time and Place agreed upon for the Treaty; the fixing of which, as well as determining on the Nations or Tribes to be invited, are among those Matters intended to be submitted to your Determination. The sooner the Business can be entered upon and accomplished, the more agreeable it will be to me, as least interfering with other public Duties with which I am charged, and which will call for my Presence at this Place the beginning of July, and necessarily detain me here the remaining Part of the Season. I need not mention the very small Sum of Money allowed for this

Service will render the strictest Economy necessary, and I presume it would not be prudent to make any Provision for the Treaty before the Time and Place of holding it can be ascertained, as in the Course of the Negotiations for this Purpose We may acquire such Information as will enable Us to form an Estimate of the Numbers We may expect to meet Us and so to calculate our Supplies as not to expend the smallest Proportion of Money in that Way, beyond what shall be absolutely necessary. I submit it to You also whether it would not be most adviseable to have the Supplies furnished by Contract; It would remove every Cause of Jealousy and Suspicion which I have discovered, however ill founded, to prevail, from the Commissioners having had an immediate Agency in that Part of the Business; besides it would divest the Commissioners of much Care, Vexation and Trouble, & enable them to bestow their whole Attention to the more important Objects of their Commission.

I will only add that the Person charged with your Message to the Indians, should in my Opinion be instructed to endeavor to discover their Sentiments with Respect to the Business of the Treaty, as by this Means We may be able to form some Judgment of the Issue of it, and I would recommend as much Secrecy in all your Transactions as their Nature will admit of, thereby to frustrate, as far as possible, any Measures which may be attempted to embarrass Us.

I am with great Respect, &c. &c.

GEO. CLINTON.

P. S. I take it for granted You have been informed by the Members of your County, of the Measures adopted by the Legislature respecting your Accounts, which I laid before them as soon as I received them.

New York, 4th May, 1785.

Gentlemen: I did myself the Honor of writing to You on the 1st Instant before I opened your Letter of the 20th Ulto. It is unfortunate that your Accounts had not been immediately made out as ordered at the last Meeting of the Commissioners before I left Albany, so as that they might

have been forwarded and laid before the Legislature last Fall; for had that been the Case, I have Reason to believe they would long since have been audited & the Balance paid, which would have prevented the Embarrassments You now experience from the Want of Cash.

It is true, the Legislature last Fall provided for the Payment of five hundred Pounds to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs on my Warrant, but this Sum is expressly appropriated to defray the Expence of a future Treaty, and can not therefore be applied to any other Purpose. As I am informed Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer does not leave Town for some Time yet, and least the Business recommended in my last Letter might meet with delay for Want of Cash, I shall forward to You by Simeon De Witt Esquire, Surveyor General, who proposes to set out at an earlier Day, the above sum, deducting therefrom forty Pounds paid Mr. Ryckman on Account last Fall, for which You will please to sign the Receipt accompanying it, to be transmitted by him to the Treasurer.

I enclose You an Extract of a Law passed last Session, directing the auditing of your Accounts and have requested the Auditor to write You on the Subject, that You may be enabled to pursue such Measures as may be judged necessary to effect the Settlement without farther Delay, so that You may have an Opportunity of drawing for the Balance while the Treasury is in Cash to discharge it.

I shall be happy to be informed of the Measures You may have taken in Consequence of my last, as early as convenient.

I am Gentlemen, &c.

GEO. CLINTON.

To the Commissioners of Indian Affairs.

Albany, 14th May, 1785.

Sir: Yours of the 1st did not reach me until the 11th Instant, relative to the proposed Treaty with the Indians. We have had several Meetings on the Subject and intend to send off Mr. Ryckman to the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations, in two or three Days hence, with a Letter, Copy whereof is enclosed.

As the Money allowed to make the Purchase is a small Sum and We suppose the Oneidas and Tuscaroras have more Land for Sale than We have Money to purchase, and their Lands will be of the most Service, to answer the present Purposes of the State, We have concluded to hold a Treaty with them only, and not the other Nations, whose Lands lie more remote. We were the more readily induced to adopt this Measure as it will be attended with a much less Expence, since by those Means the Number of Indians will not only be much smaller, but the Oneidas and Tuscaroras can be easily persuaded to come down into the Interior Parts of the State, and of Course save Us the great Trouble and Expence of a Treaty at a Distance and leave Us a much larger Sum to make a valuable purchase. Besides which, We are confident that it would be impossible to have the other Nations who reside so far off to attend so soon as the Beginning of July, before which Time your Excellency requests the Treaty to be held.

As Purchases of this Nature are usually made in Indian Goods, as well as Money, We propose to buy for Part of the Money, such Articles as We suppose will best please them and which We are confident can be bought at a reasonable Rate in this City. In Order to Purchase the Goods, as well as the Provisions necessary, your Excellency will be pleased to send up a sufficient Sum of Money for the Purpose by the first safe Conveyance. We shall soon have another Meeting, in Order to prepare and concert a Plan for carrying our Measures into farther Effect, and of which We shall give your Excellency from Time to Time a particular Account, hoping it will meet with your Approbation.

The Moment Mr. Ryckman returns or aprizes Us of the Time of holding the Treaty, We shall give You the earliest Notice.

I am with the greatest  
Respect and Esteem, &c.,  
ABRAHAM CUYLER.

His Excellency  
Governor CLINTON.



At a meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs  
at the City of Albany, 11th May, 1785.

Present:

Abraham Cuyler, *Presidt,*      Henry Glen,  
*Commissioners.*

Abraham Yates, Junr.,      Genl. Gansevoort,  
Abraham Ten Broeck,      Peter W. Yates.

Mr. Cuyler laid before the Board a Letter from his Excellency the Governor, on the Subject of holding a Treaty with the Indians for the Purpose of purchasing Lands for the Use of the State, which Letter is dated the 1st of May, 1785, and is in the Words following, to wit: (See Copy of this Letter, Page the 68th.)

The Board took the same into Consideration, and thereupon:

Resolved, That the intended Treaty be held on the Subject aforesaid with the Oneydas and Tuscaroras, and that Mr. P. W. Yates prepare a Speech accordingly.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs,  
held in the City of Albany, 13th May, 1785.

Present:

Abraham Cuyler,      Henry Glen,  
*Commissioners.*

Abraham Yates, Jun'r,      Peter W. Yates,  
Volkert P. Douw,      Matthew Visscher,  
General Gansevoort,      Peter Ryckman, *Interpreter.*

Mr. Peter W. Yates laid before the Board the Speech he had prepared agreeable to the Resolution of last Meeting, which being read and amended was agreed to, and is in the Words following, to wit:

*Brotbers of the Oneida & Tuscarora Nations:*

The Governor of this State (at the Meeting of the Legislature last Winter) laid before them a Message from the

Grasshopper delivered by Colonel Lewis, in Presence of Capt David and Captain Hendrick, from which it appears that John Harper has lately been in the Oneida Country, and by Misrepresentations and other unjust and unlawful Means obtained a Writing for a large Tract of Land in the Neighbourhood of Onaguaga and extending on both Sides of the Susquehannah River: That the Grasshopper and other Chiefs desired that the said Writing might be destroyed, that the White People might be prevented from coming among You to cheat You out of your Lands: That it might be made known through the Country that Harper has no Right to the said Lands, so that the People might not be deceived and that You looked up to this Government to take Care of your Rights. Of all these Things the Legislature were informed last Winter. We are very much surprized at Harper's Conduct. We informed You at the Treaty last Summer that he had deceived You, and We then gave You a Caution against attempting to sell Lands to any Person, who had not an Authority and Licence from the Government, and yet We find that some of You have notwithstanding have suffered yourselves to be again imposed upon by Harper, who has obtained a Writing for a large Tract of Land without the Authority or Knowledge of the Government, and therefore the Sale and Writing are void and good for nothing, and although Application was made to the Legislature last Winter to have this Purchase of Harper's confirmed, it was refused because it was made without Authority from the State and against the Constitution.<sup>1</sup> We hope You will be more cautious

<sup>1</sup> A Petition signed by John Harper, Gould Baron, William Bradley, John Renalls, John Kelly, Gamaliel Terry, Roger and Roderick Moor, Judson Bushnell(?), Stephen Soyell, Noadiah Moor, Noah Wadhams, Reuben Stone, Nathaniel Benton, Reuben Murry, Philip Frisbee, James Jones, Isaac Foot, Nathan Thompson, Abijah Merrills and Seth Andres, in behalf of themselves and Associates to the Number of one hundred and fifty, was drawn up under

Date of December 20, 1784, and presented to the Governor in support of this informal Purchase.

The Date of the Purchase was November 20, 1784, and its Boundaries as follows:

“Beginning at the River Unadilla where it unites with the Susquehannah, thence down two Miles West from the West Branch on the West Side and four Miles on the East Side from the said East Branch to a Place called by the

for the future and not make any Sales or Writings of Lands to any Persons who cannot show You a good lawful Authority from the State to make a Purchase from You. As We understand that You are disposed to sell some of your Lands, We now inform You that You have an Opportunity to do it to the Governor and Commissioners who were with him at Fort Stanwix last Summer. The Legislature have passed a Law last Winter giving the Governor and Commissioners Authority & Licence to purchase Lands from You. And We have received a Letter from the Governor a few Days ago on that Subject, who hath requested Us to inform You that he and the Commissioners will hold a Treaty with You at the German Flatts, in Order to buy Lands from You. And We now send Mr. Ryckman to You to deliver You this Letter and to bring back your Answer, that We may inform the Governor at what Time he and the Commissioners may meet You. We have requested Mr. Ryckman to agree with You about the Time. The Governor has Business of Importance to transact the Beginning of July, which will require his constant Attendance, the remaining Part of the Season. It will therefore be necessary to hold the Treaty as soon as possible. We mean to hold a Treaty for this Purpose only with You, and not with the Onondagos, Cayugas and Seneca Nations: they have in the late War done us much Injury, for which We expect they will hereafter give us a proper compensation in Lands.

ABRAHAM CUYLER,  
HENRY GLEN,  
PETER SCHUYLER.

Albany.

Resolved, That the said Speech be forwarded immediately to the Indians by Mr. Ryckman, the Interpreter.

Indians Kenyagarating, including the Islands lying within the same, sufficient in Extent and Quantity, as is supposed, for four Townships of six Square Miles each."

They solicited a Confirmation of Title and offered Pledges of immediate Settle-

ment. Their Application was supported by a Paper signed by Peter Oneyanha, Cornelius Ogeanyota, William Thaghtaguison, Cornelius Statshete, William Kayentaronghiquah, and Jacob Reed. The Purchase Money was £126.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 75

Resolved, That a Letter be prepared to his Excellency the Governor in Answer to his Letter and informing him of the Proceedings of this Board.

Albany, 20th May, 1785.

Sir: On Monday last I received a Letter from Joseph Brant, which I do myself the Honor to enclose to your Excellency. In Answer to this Letter I have informed him that he might rely that the Engagements made by the Commissioners of this State would be punctually complied with; that I would communicate the Purport of his Letter to your Excellency & other Commissioners and that I expected to have it in my Power to advise him of their Sentiments on the Subject Matter of his Letter in a short Time. From the Situation in which I am placed by the State as a Commissioner, and my Vicinity to the Indians, I am subjected to the Inconveniency of daily Visits from them; a Circumstance which is attended with infinite Trouble, and a considerable Expence. They imagine that as a Commissioner I ought to provide for their Subsistence, & furnish them occasionally with Liquor whenever they come down. I shall be happy to hear from You on the Subject of Brant's Letter and beg You will communicate your Sentiments to me as early as possible.

Remain your Excellency's &ca.

PETER SCHUYLER.

His Excellency  
Governor CLINTON.

Cataraqui,<sup>1</sup> March 23rd, 1785.

Dear Sir: I take the Liberty to acquaint You that I am entirely at a Loss to know how to act and behave towards You New York State, concerning what passed between You and ourselves at our last Meeting at Fort Stanwix. I have wrote several Letters among You according to Promise, but I never got an Answer to none of them. I thought it would be a serious Matter of what passed between Us & every thing

<sup>1</sup> Now Kingston, Canada.

was to be performed, so I think if that Engagement which was made should come to nothing, it will be your Faults. I am sorry to think your Minds are changed since the mighty Commissioners of Congress has been up also at Fort Stanwix. I therefore would be much obliged to You, if You would let me hear from You at this time and let me know your Intentions and Determination concerning our Transactions as above mentioned. Please to let me know which concerns me and my Sister's Children. I mean Land Matters; let be what it will; let me understand right. I will leave this Place in a few days. I shall be among the five Nations about the Middle of April next. I understand that Captain Aaron Hill is kept as Hostage for Negroes, which I am exceeding sorry for it.<sup>1</sup> The Commissioners should compare our first

<sup>1</sup> The following is some of the Correspondence in reference to the Detention of Captain Hill:

Dear Sir: The enclosed Letter from Capt. Brandt I did not receive till a few Days ago, owing to its being conveyed by a Tory Scoundrel whose Fears of being discovered did not it to me until the Day of his Departure. It is evident to me that Brandt ought to be made our Friend, and I am inclined to think it will be no difficult Matter to effect it.

I have at length obtained the Certificates of the Value of the Property the Indians have forfeited, and which I shall retain for Authenticity until your Excellency's Arrival here. I was last Night with the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> and Associates and in the Course of their Deliberations, the Propriety of paying Part of the Consideration Money for the Lands which may be purchased was unanimously agreed to and recommended.

If this Measure should be agreed to by your Excellency, I would wish that Coll. Cuyler who has an excellent Assortment of Goods for the Purpose, who will sell them as Cheap as can be purchased in New York, and whose Zeal

entitles him to the Notice of Government, may be indulged with furnishing this Supply.

The Negro Bill, the Report of the Legislature allowing themselves three Dollars per Day and their Opposition to providing for the Payment of the Public Securities, with many other false Reports, has thrown the Election for this Year in Favor of the General and his Party.

With my most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Clinton, believe that I am,

Yours sincerely,

MAT VISSCHER.

P. S. The Commiss<sup>rs</sup> will write you this day; the Time for meeting the Indians is fixed for the 16th June.

Albany, 27th May, 1785.

His Excellency Governor CLINTON.

Cataraqui, Jan. 15th, 1785.

Sir. Mindfull of my Promise to you I now take the Opportunity to enquire after your Health which I hope this Letter will find you in good State of Health, and hope you will be able to Answer me of this without Delay & be Agreeable to your Promise to me likewise. I have nothing any Particular to

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Chief to a Slave, because We did not keep any Prisoners since Peace, so that they must keep our Chief in Room of a Slave, which is too hard to be complied with.

I am, &ca,

JOS: BRANT.

To Major PETER SCHUYLER.

I will always be very happy to see You, no matter for Times.

Albany, 27th May, 1785.

Sir: Mr. Ryckman, who was charged with our Message to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras and who returned Yesterday, reports that the Sachems and Chief Warriors expressed their Readiness to treat with Us on the Subject of our Message, and he has every Reason to suppose, from their peculiar Situa-

inform you concerning the Public Matters, because I live alone here. I have been away from the five Nation very near three Months. Shortly after I parted with you at Fort Stanwix I was as far as to Quebec my Way to England, but hearing there that Capt Aaron Hill a Mohawk Chief was detain'd & kept as Hostage by the Commissioners of Congress which Thing it did alarm me and made me turn back from there to this Place and will Winter here. I have wrote Letters to His Excellency Governor Clinton and to Major Peter Schuyler the Time I left Niagara but I had no Answers neither of them since, so in short I am in the Dark at present to many Points both Private & Publick Affairs. Even I had no true Account the Manner Capt. Hill is kept & for why and where the poor Man is kept. As I above mention that I have been away so long from the Indians especially the Conclusion that Meeting at Fort Stanwix of those Commissioners of Congress which I hope you will please now to release me of this my Darkness, for I am sure you know the all Particulars

of that Council. I hope those Commissioners did not over sett all what you and we did at our Meeting at Fort Stanwix. I intend to be at Montreal the 10th of February next, for I think it could not be of a Miss if one of your Commissioners should meet me there and to talk over of those Agreements which was made at our Meeting if it was to be so, I think it would be for the Good of both Parties, at least it would not shew Child's Work of our Meeting at Fort Stanwix, and it would likewise shew that our Minds are not easily changed. I hope you will write me every thing you think worth Notice let it be Good or Bad for it will be Equal to me.

I remain your most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOS BRANT.

N. B. Please to remember me to Fisherman Abram Yates Esq<sup>r</sup> and all the Gentlemen I have acquainted with at our late Meeting. Excuse my Indian Writing.

J. B.

To MATTHEW VISSCHER Esq<sup>r</sup>

tion as to Provisions and other Necessaries, that the Treaty is well timed for the Advantage of the State.

In the Evening We convened the Associates and who upon hearing Mr. Ryckman's Report and considering the Time necessary to purchase and convey the Provisions to the German Flatts, were of Opinion:

1st. That the Treaty could not be held before the 16th of June next.

2nd. That the Supplies of Provisions could be purchased with as little, if not less Expence to the State by the Commissioners than by Contract, and that when purchased, to prevent Impositions the same be put in the Care of a discreet Person and he to be accountable for the Expenditures.

3rd. That at least 8,000 Rations of Provisions be purchased, besides the Necessaries for the Commissioners and such Gentlemen as may accompany them. In Consequence of which Determination We shall instantly set about purchasing the Provisions and forward them to German Flatts, the Place appointed for holding the Treaty. We should be happy to be favoured with your Excellency's Directions respecting the purchasing of Goods for the Indians as soon as possible. The Associates have again expressed their Sentiments that this Article is absolutely necessary.

The Troops in this Tōwn and under whose Care the Indian Hostages are, will leave this in a Day or two, and the Continental Commissioners have directed the Officer to forward Provisions to Fort Schuyler for the Prisoners who are expected at that Place. The Commanding Officer has requested Us to take Charge of this Business and as We are at a Loss to determine what to do, We should be happy in receiving your Excellency's Advice and Direction on this Head as soon as possible.

We are, &c,

ABRAHAM CUYLER,  
HENRY GLEN.

His Excellency,  
Governor CLINTON.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 79

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs,  
held at the City of Albany, 26th May, 1785.

Present:

Abraham Cuyler,

Henry Glen,

*Commissioners.*

Abraham Ten Broeck,

Genl. Gansevoort,

Abraham Yates, Junr.,

Matthew Visscher,

John Ja: Beekman,

Mr. Ryckman, *Interpreter.*

Mr. Ryckman reported that agreeable to the Directions of this Board, he had delivered the Message to the Indians, and that in Answer thereto, the Sachems and Chief Warriors had informed him that they would be ready to meet the Commissioners at the Place appointed at such Time as the Commissioners shall appoint, of which they expressed a Desire to be informed as early as possible. That the sooner the Meeting could be held, the better. They also informed him that they expected some of their Indians from Niagara and wished that some Provisions might be sent to Fort Schuyler for them. They also expressed their Readiness to treat on the Subject of the Meeting.

New York, 28th May, 1785.

Gentlemen: Being from Home when your Letter of the 14th Instant was left at my Office, I did not receive it until the 24th. On the 4th I had the Honor of writing You by Simeon De Witt, Esquire, and transmitted You by him £460:0:0, being the full Balance of the Sum allowed by the Legislature for defraying the Expences of the Treaty. The Sum for making the Purchase yet remains in the Treasury, and I will bring it myself to Albany or forward it earlier, if a safe Opportunity offers, without the States incurring an extraordinary Charge of a Commission for its Conveyance. The Sum already sent I presume will be sufficient to enable You to make the necessary preparatory Arrangements as to Provision, &ca. With Respect to the procuring of Goods to be employed at the Treaty, I cannot think it would be



prudent to do any thing more than to ascertain where they can be had at the cheapest Rate, until We can be informed whether the Indians are disposed to meet Us on the Invitation You have made them, least if We make any absolute Bargain for Goods, they might be left on our hands, with a Loss to the State, should We be disappointed in making the intended Purchase, or if the Indians should prefer Money to Goods; of which Particulars We shall be able to form a better Judgment on the Return of Mr. Ryckman. I am persuaded We can meet with no Disappointment in procuring whatever Quantity We may want on a very short Notice. The Reasons You assign for treating with two Tribes only, have certainly great Weight and unless We might expect that the other Nations would if present be disposed to make a voluntary Cession of Part of their Lands to the State agreeable to their Promises at our last Treaty, Their Attendance would only be an Incumbrance and Waste of Public Money, and I presume that neglecting to invite them on this Occasion can afford no reasonable Cause of Umbrage, or it would have had its due Weight with the Commissioners in their determining on this Subject. I perfectly approve of your having employed Mr. Ryckman, as I have great Confidence in his Integrity and Zeal; and I am sensible his Services, as well from these Considerations, as from the good Opinion entertained of him by the Indians, will be useful to the State throughout the Treaty; yet it appears to me in making the Contract where the Parties ought to be explicitly understood. It would be highly necessary to have the Assistance of some Person, who is not only so well acquainted with the Indian Tongue, but also with the English, as to give a perfect Translation of what passes into either. How far Mr. Ryckman is competent to this, You will be best able to judge. If he is not; in this Case I submit to You whether We ought not to look out in Time for some Person qualified to assist him. I know of none except Mr. Deane and from the Part he acted last Summer, Doubts may arise as to the Propriety of employing him supposing him willing now to serve Us. For my own Part, considering his former Engagements with Congress,

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 81

I do not view his Conduct in so reprehensible a Light as to prevent our availing ourselves of his Services in the present Instance. This I mention lest he might be passed by under an Idea that if they are really necessary, an Application to him might be disagreeable to me. Wishing to leave the Commissioners and Associates to determine on this Point, as shall appear to them, all Circumstances considered, most likely to promote the Interest of the State by facilitating the Business of the Treaty.

I am with great Respect, &c,

GEO. CLINTON.

To the Commissioners  
for Indian Affairs, Albany.

New York, 28th May, 1785.

Sir: Yesterday I received your Letter of the 20th Instant enclosing one from Capt. Brant to You. In Answer to it I can only say that the Commissioners of this State for Indian Affairs at their Treaty last Summer with the five Indian Nations, acted with Candour & Sincerity, of which You are equally sensible; and I may venture to affirm that whenever these Indians discover a Disposition to fulfil the Promises made by them at that Treaty, they will find the State equally disposed to fulfil the Engagements made by their Commissioners. It is unnecessary to mention to You, that some Part of the Conduct of those Indians in their Treaty with the Commissioners of Congress was totally repugnant to their Professions to the Commissioners of the State, and unless some satisfactory Explanation can be given of their Conduct, it is We that have Reason to complain. I am sensible from your Situation You must be exposed to extraordinary Trouble and Expence, and I regret that it is not in my Power to compensate without Legislative Provision for the Purpose.

I am with great, &c,

GEO. CLINTON.

P. S. With Respect to the private Affairs of Capt. Brant and Family, I have long since directed the necessary Measures to be taken for obtaining the Information he required; but

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which owing to some unaccountable Delay or Accident, I have not yet received. The Moment I do, it shall be forwarded to him.

I am &ca,

GEO. CLINTON.

Major PETER SCHUYLER.

New York, 2nd June, 1785.

Gentlemen: Yesterday I received your Letter of the 27th of May. On the 28th I wrote You in Answer to yours of the 14th of that Month. I shall set out from this the Beginning of next Week, so as to be able to spend a few Days in Albany and reach the Place for holding the Treaty on the day appointed. Part of the Cash I propose to forward by Peter W. Yates, Esquire, taking Charge of the Remainder myself. In my last I have fully expressed my Sentiments respecting the Purchase of Goods to be employed in the Treaty, and I am still of Opinion that the Matter should be managed as that, should the Indians prefer treating with Us for Money, or should the Treaty prove abortive, We may not be obliged to pay the Public Money for Goods, which in the former Case cannot be employed to the Advantage of the State, and in the latter will be totally useless. To guard against this, a conditional Bargain ought to be made, & I presume there will be no Difficulty in getting whatever Quantity may be necessary on these Terms, to wit, To pay for such Part as We may have occasion to use and the Cost of Transportation for what may be returned, and Care ought to be taken not to engage even on these Terms a Surplus.

With Respect to forwarding Provisions to Fort Schuyler, as mentioned in your Letter, I am not authorized to give any Advice concerning it, being altogether foreign to our Duty as Commissioners, nor do I find myself disposed to interfere in the smallest Degree in any Matter whatsoever under the Direction of the Continental Commissioners.

I am with great Respect, &ca,

GEO. CLINTON.

To the Commissioners  
of Indian Affairs, Albany.

On the 7th of June the Governor left New York, accompanied by Colo. Floyd & arrived at Albany Sunday Morning the 12th, where he discovered that an Answer was to have been sent to the Indians on the Return of Mr. Ryckman, if it was agreed by Us that the Treaty should commence the 16th as mentioned in the Commissioners' Letter of the 27th of May, otherwise they were not to be expected at Fort Herkimer before the 20th. Whereupon (this not having been done) Mr. Ryckman was dispatched to Oneida, to inform them of the Governor's Arrival and to request their Attendance with all possible Dispatch.

At a Meeting of Commissioners for Indian Affairs held in the City of Albany, the 14th June, 1785.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
Abraham Cuyler, Henry Glen, Esqrs.,  
*Commissioners.*

General Schuyler, Abraham Ten Broeck,  
Volkert P. Douw, John Ja. Beekman,  
Abraham Yates, Junr., Matthew Visscher.

Resolved, That William Floyd and John Tayler, Esqrs., be and hereby are associated Commissioners.

Resolved unanimously, That it is the Opinion of this Board, that it would conduce to the Interest and Advantage of the State, in making the Purchase of Lands, that £1500, of the Money granted by the State, be laid out in Goods agreed to and according to an Invoice prepared, and that Colo. Cuyler, Mr. Tayler,<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Visscher be a Commit-

<sup>1</sup> JOHN TAYLER was born in New York, July 4, 1742, and at the Age of 17 removed to Albany. In the last two Years of the French War he was with the Army at Lake George and Oswego as a Trader, and at the latter Place acquired the Indian Language. He continued in this Employment until 1771, when he settled on a small Farm at Stillwater, where he resided two Years, and returned to Albany. He engaged in Trade, and early in the Revolution was intrusted by General Schuyler with an important Service in Canada. He was subsequently elected a Member of the Provincial Congress and State Convention; in 1777-9, '80, '81, '86, '87, he served in the Assembly, and in 1802 and 1804-14 in the Senate. Upon the Death of Lieut. Gov. Broome, he was chosen President of the Senate, Jan., 1811, and from 1814 to 1822 he held the Office of Lieutenant Governor by Election; and from Feb. 24 to July 1,

tee to purchase the said Goods on the best Terms possible, on Condition that if the Purchase should not be made or the Goods not wanted for the Purpose, that the Owners take them back, the State being at the Expence of Transportation only.

The Committee accordingly purchased the same on the Condition aforesaid from Colo. Cuyler, Abraham Schuyler, Cuyler, Gansevoort & Co., and Robison & Hale.

Wednesday, 15th June: every Thing being prepared, the Governor and Colo. Floyd left Albany and arrived at Schenectady that Evening. The other Commissioners and Associates followed the next Day and the whole arrived at Fort Herkimer on Saturday the 18th in the Forenoon. Few of the Indians assembled at that Place before the 22nd in the Evening. In the intermediate Time the Commissioners were employed in adjusting the Manner of conducting the Business, preparing a Speech to open the Treaty and conversing with the Indians that arrived, on the Subject of the intended Negotiations.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs  
at Fort Herkimer the 23rd of June, 1785.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
 Peter Cuyler, Henry Glen, Esqrs.,  
 Peter Schuyler, Commissioners.  
 Abraham Yates, Junr., William Floyd,  
 Abraham Ten Broeck, John Tayler,  
 John Ja. Beekman, Matthew Visscher, Esqrs.,  
 Associates.  
 Peter Ryckman, James Dean, Interpreters.  
 William Harper, Colo. Wemple,  
 Christopher P. Yates,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Van Ingen,  
 John Harper, Samuel Clyde.

1817, he acted as Governor in Place of Board. He died at his Residence in Tompkins elected to the Vice Presidency. In 1802 he was elected a Regent, and in 1814 as Chancellor of that Albany, March 19, 1829.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. YATES resided at Frey's Bush,

Among whom were the following Sachems and Chief Warriors, to wit :

[Names omitted in MS.]

The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations being convened and seated, the Mohegans or Stock Bridge,<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island, and Long Island Tribes, residing in the Neighbourhood of Oneida, at the Request of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras being also present ; His Excellency the Governor requested them to inform the Board whether they were ready to proceed on Business, and the *Grasshopper* answered they were. His Excellency thereupon delivered, by the Advice and Approbation of the Board, the following Speech, to wit :

*Brothers of the Oneidas & Tuscaroras !*

We are happy to see you. We thank the Great Spirit for having preserved You & Us through another Year and given Us Health to meet again at this Council Fire, and with these Strings We open your Ears that You may distinctly hear our Voice, wipe away Your Tears that You may clearly see your Brethren and cleanse your Seats from Blood, that on your Return Home You may possess your Minds in Peace and find nothing to excite your Grief.

Brothers ! We have already, in our Message delivered to You by Mr. Peter Ryckman, explained the Business to be transacted with You at our present Meeting. This We thought proper to do, that You might have Time to consider

now Canajoharie. He had served in the Provincial Congress, and was at this Period a Member of Assembly from Montgomery County. He was the first County Clerk of Tryon County, under the State Government.

<sup>1</sup> The Stockbridge Indians, a remnant of the Mohegans, settled near the Oneidas in 1783-8, under the Rev. John Sargent, who came to reside here permanently in 1796, and died Sept. 7, 1824. They received a Tract six Miles square in Augusta, Oneida County, and Stockbridge, Madison County. They ceded

Portions of this Tract at twelve separate Treaties, held in 1818; 1822, 1823, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1829 and 1830. A Portion removed in 1818 to White River in Indiana, and in 1821, a great Number settled on the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. There are now none of these People residing on this Tract, which has been entirely sold and settled by Whites. The Stockbridge Tribe numbered 420 in 1785, and 438 in 1818. They have made great Advances in Civilization, and many of them are respectable and enterprising Farmers of Wealth.

the Subject well and make up your Minds upon it before You left home, which We trust You have done.

Brothers! As well from what You mentioned to Us, when We met You in Council last Year at Fort Schuyler, as by your Message last Winter to the Governor, We find Attempts have been made by some White People to purchase Lands from You, South of the Unadilla, whereby much Uneasiness has arisen among You.

Brothers! You will remember We told You last Summer that no Individual had a Right to purchase Lands from You and cautioned You against making any Bargain or Agreement for the Sale of any of your Lands, unless the Person applying to purchase could produce a Licence in Writing from the Government of this State properly authenticated.

Brothers! We wish You to observe this Rule, it is a good one: it has subsisted long between your Ancestors and ours, who lived in Harmony and Friendship and it was reëstablished in forming our present Government, in Order to perpetuate that Harmony and Friendship between You and Us, by preventing Frauds or Impositions which might be attempted to be committed on You by our White People.

Brothers! From what We have heard, We have Reason to conclude that You are disposed to sell some of your Lands, if You had an Opportunity of doing it agreeable to ancient Custom and the Constitution of the State, and We believe it would be your Interest so to do, especially that Part that borders on the State of Pennsylvania, which being contiguous to the Settlements of the White People, will soon be of little Value for hunting, and the Price of it would enable You to purchase Cattle and Utensils of Husbandry and improve your Lands at Home to greater Advantage.

Brothers! We now give You this Opportunity. We are duly authorized by Law and We now offer, agreeable to ancient Custom, to purchase such Lands from You as You conceive it your Interest to sell, for which We are willing to give You a reasonable Price. This We hope will be the Means of healing the Animosities which have arisen amongst You, by the Attempts of Individuals to purchase from You without Authority.

Brothers! We informed You, by our Message inviting You to this Council, that the Governor was under indispensable Engagements to be in the City of New York the Beginning of next Month. It is therefore necessary that the Business meet with Dispatch, and to this End We expect your Answer on the Subject as soon as possible.

After his Excellency the Governor had delivered the Introductory Part of the Speech, being the first Clause, The *Grasshopper* rose, recapitulated the Substance of it, returned Thanks for it and reëchoed the Congratulatory Part of the Clause to the Commissioners, and after the Governor had concluded his Speech and a short Pause for Consideration, The *Grasshopper* rose again and spoke as follows, to wit:

Brothers! The Matters You have laid before Us are of such Importance, that it requires the utmost Deliberation. One of our Chiefs is Yet absent and who has considerable Influence. We expect him down this Evening and in the Course of Tomorrow We will give You an Answer. That as his Excellency the Governor must return to New York, we will use all Dispatch, but request your Patience.

Then Peter rose and spoke:

Brothers! We address ourselves to the Governor and Brethren of New York, whilst We are here in Council. We have desired You to keep your Seats, and will call to your Minds what was mentioned the Beginning of last War.

Brothers! The Commissioners of the United States at the Beginning of last War, in their several Interviews with Us, requested Us not to intermeddle in the War, but mind our Hunting and remain at Home in Peace. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras followed this Advice and a few of the Mohawks. Thus Matters stood until the American Army went to the Westward. That the Winter following, himself, Sconnondo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SCONONDOA was born about 1706, but of his early History we know as little as of the wild Beasts of the Forest. He is said to have been a Native of the Northwestern Country, and to have been adopted among the Oneidas. In his Prime he had been drunken and

brutal, but soon after Mr. Kirkland's Settlement at Oneida he embraced the Christian Religion, and his Influence through the War was in Behalf of the Colonies. He retained his intellectual Faculties, so that although he became Blind from extreme old Age, his Com-



and Joh<sup>s</sup> Cryne were sent to Niagara: upon their Arrival they were close confined and that the Mohawk shared the same Fate with him and Sconnondo. The Distresses of a Prison are great; these We have undergone, and had We succeeded, it would have been an Advantage to Us all, as it would have brought our Nations together; and although our Confinement was long and rigourous, We stood it, trusting in the Great Spirit for his Assistance. That altho' they were at Liberty, they were kept as it were Prisoners. That three of them are alive still. One of the Mohawks is dead. As they had always remained inflexible to the Cause of America, it gave them great Joy when they heard of the News of Peace and were happy on returning to their Country, but were chagrined at the Reception of the Mohawk, who expected to seat himself in the Possession of his Farm, and instead thereof he found others in Possession. That their Comrade who died in Captivity was equally attached to the Cause of America, and would have continued in Confinement had their Liberty been offered, unless the same Liberty had been offered to the Oneidas. He requested the Governor and Commissioners to take this Matter into Consideration.

24th June, 1785.

The Indians not being ready to deliver their Answer; This Day was spent in endeavouring to discover their Sentiments, and it appearing from what could be collected, that many of the Principal Indians were opposed to selling any

pany was sought by many Persons anxious to listen to his Conversation.

To a Friend who called upon him a short Time before his Decease, he expressed himself thus by an Interpreter: "I am an aged Hemlock; the Winds of an hundred Winters have whistled thro' my Branches; I am dead at the Top. The Generation to which I have belonged have run away and left me; why I live, the Great Good Spirit only knows: pray to my Jesus that I may have Patience to wait my appointed Time to die." He died March 11, 1816, aged

about 110 Years, and according to a Promise made by the Family, he was buried at Clinton by the Side of his beloved Friend, Mr. Kirkland.

A Village of some twenty Houses, with a Post Office named Sconnondo, has been located upon a Creek of the same Name in the Southwest Corner of the Town of Verona, Oncida County, near its Confluence with Oneida Creek. Upon this Stream the Chief from whom it was named caused a Saw Mill and Grist Mill to be built for the Use of his People.—*Jones's Oneida County.*

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but a small Tract of Mountainous Land lying East of the Susquehannah, and between that River and the Delaware, not worth purchasing. A private Conference was held in the Evening with Peter and some other of the principal Chiefs, at which the Extent of the Tract We wished to purchase was described, the Reasons which induced the State to apply to purchase it fully explained; the Money and Goods brought for the Purpose shown to them, and every Reason offered that appeared likely to induce them to a Compliance.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs  
at Fort Herkimer, 25th June, 1785.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler, Henry Glen, Esqrs.,  
Peter Schuyler, Commissioners.

Abraham Ten Broeck, John Ja. Beekman,  
Abraham Yates, Junr., John Tayler,  
William Floyd, Matthew Visscher, Esqrs.,  
Associates.

Simeon De Witt Esquire, *Surveyor General.*

Alexander Clinton,<sup>1</sup>

Peter Ryckman, James Dean, *Interpreters.*

Petrus the Minister spoke as follows:

Brothers! You have informed Us that You are ready, and We now desire your Attention.

Brothers of the State of New York! We are now met again in Council. It is some considerable Time since We met at this Council Fire that You have kindled here at Fort Herkimer.

Brothers! You have thought proper to call Us, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, together to settle our Internal Affairs.

Brothers! I will in the first Place give You some Hints how Matters were conducted between our Ancestors; to give You the whole would require much Time.

Brothers! When our Forefathers met, they entered in

<sup>1</sup> A Son of Brig. Gen. James Clinton. Vessel by a Boom.  
He was killed by-being knocked off a

Covenants of Friendship, to wit, they should have one Head, one Heart, and one Blood; this they cemented by a Silver Chain to prevent its contracting Rust.

Brothers! They were continually to keep it from Rust and prevent its breaking either by Tempest or Storm. By this Manner of Expression it was meant that the Covenant should not be broken but remain inviolate and Peace was always to be the first Object. Your Brothers, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras have met here to settle the Internal Matters between them and You. They remember all the Commissioners told them, which was wonderfully good.

Brothers! You have sent for Us to call Us down, by our Friend, Mr. Ryckman, and opened the Business, which gave Us an Opportunity to consider of the Subject. We are convinced of the Impropriety of the Conduct of our Ancestors by selling here and there, by which Uneasiness and Inconvenience have arisen. We had Reason to think that this Meeting was called to settle our Matters.

Brothers! We remember all the good Words You have told Us. You have frequently told Us to take Care of our Property, and had We been wise We had followed your Advice. Our Forefathers conveyed to every one who only put a few Dollars in their Bosom. Several Individuals had applied to Us to purchase Lands.

Brothers! I look to Futurity. We are pretty well acquainted with Your Civil Affairs & altho' You have instructed Us respecting Religion, all We have of your Civil Affairs is by observation and We will unburthen our Minds in hopes of your farther Assistance.

Brothers! Our Forefathers, in their Agreements together, stipulated that no light Matters or concerning Trade should break their Friendship, and it is often the Case that the most particular Friends cannot agree in a Bargain.

Brothers! Brethren ought to have a true Love to each other which cannot be broken.

Brothers! We desire your Attention. We now speak to You concerning the Conversation We had Yesterday, when You expressed your Minds and Wishes fully and what You

intended, with your Reasons at Length, which was very agreeable. It appears to Us that You apprehend Danger arising from that Quarter, on Account of your People settling there and making Encroachments, by Means whereof Difficulties and Disputes might arise. We had already been making up our Minds on the Subject and our great Men had told You of the Result; but You answered it was by no Means an Object. We thought, Brothers, that We dealt honorably with You, and that We had agreed to dispose of a large Tract.

Brothers! You conversed with me in a private Manner. You told me the Proposals that We had made to You and that it was not an Object with You; I then desired to be informed what You wanted to purchase, which You readily complied with and shewed me the Map, on which was marked out the Tract You wanted to purchase, beginning at the Mouth of the Unadilla, following up that Stream 20 Miles; then across to the Chenango River, following that Stream to the Junction of the Susquehannah River, and thence to the Place of Beginning. This You told me was what You wanted to purchase, and that You would take in all the Lands lying to the East.

Brothers! We beg of You not to be uneasy when We tell You what Effect it had upon our young Men to sell such a large Tract, which would destroy their Hunting.

Brothers! We hope You will possess your Minds in Peace, when We tell You We cannot part with so much of our Hunting Lands, which are very dear to Us; as from thence We derive the Rags which cover our Bodies.

Brothers! Since the Winter past, when We had heard your Minds on the Subject, several Individuals wanted to purchase Lands, but some of Us Resolved not to sell any, on the Principle that they did not know what to do with our Offspring. Were We to listen to all the Overtures that are made to Us for the Purchase of our Lands (and altho' some who are fond of Liquor are inclined to it), We should have none for our Posterity, who would have Reason to blame Us. Since last Winter We had determined not to sell any of our

Lands, and that the Boundaries fixed should remain. *The United States have informed Us that the Soil of our Lands was our own*, and we wish your Assistance to prevent your People from coming among Us for that Purpose. We accept of your wise and salutary Advice, and if We are not foolish We will follow it. We look to the Eastward. The Indians who lived there are now settled among Us and We have been obliged to give them Lands. This will be our Case should We sell our Lands as they have done.

Brothers! While the Indians had all their Lands, they were important; when they met their Friends they could entertain them; but since they have parted with their Lands, the Case is altered.

Brothers! This will be our Fate when We part with our Lands. The German Flatts People, when they were poor, applied to Us for Lands and they were Friends, but now they are rich they do not use Us kindly. These People do not mind Us and at Times say they have paid Us, which is not the Case, and at other Times say they have not. We know very well that there are very large Tracts of Land within the Line of Property, that have not been paid for, and We wish You to take Notice of it, and if any Person will pay for them, he may have them.

Brothers! We had an Interview with our Brothers at the German Flatts, and altho' there were only two Points in Question, We debated a whole Night and nothing was done. This We wish You to take into Consideration, for a new Power has arisen since the War, and We also request You to take into Consideration all the Lands lying within the Line of Property which have not been paid for.

Brothers! You have assured Us of your Assistance in the Protection and Enjoyment of our Lands, and our Sachems thank You for it and wish You would continue to protect Us therein. As You did not accept of the Proposals We made, if We would not dispose of more of our Country, than had been offered, it was no Object for You to purchase. We are however willing and ready to lease one Tier of Farms in the Manner they are done by the White People, along

the Boundary Line throughout the Extent of our Country, and that People of Influence might be settled on these Farms to prevent Encroachments, and that a Person might be appointed to collect our Rents annually.

Brothers! We shall be happy to find that the Proposals We now make will be accepted, as We cannot sell any more of our Lands and this Leasing may be an Income to our Children.

Brothers! If You think proper to accept of this Proposal We have made, We wish that a Paper may be lodged with You and one with Us, that no Disputes may arise.

Brothers! This is the Voice of the Oneidas in three Clans and of the Tuscaroras in three Clans.

Brothers! You have now heard our Proposals: We have many Friends at Albany and Schenectady, who are poor, and have applied to Us for Lands. We wish to gratify them and request they may settle on the Lands along the Line, as We have mentioned.

Brothers! We wish to say something to You respecting the Stockbridge Indians, who are our younger Brethren and as such they are dear to Us. They have Claims to the Eastward, altho' their Lands are all gone, & they know not how.

Brother the Governor! We ask your Assistance respecting their Lands; there are thirteen Governors and they have now every Reason to suppose they will obtain Redress, and hope that the Governor will see that Justice is done to these our younger Brethren; and it is unjust that one Brother should take the Property of another. For these Reasons We address the Governor with this Belt and hope that We will receive every Assistance in Order that these our younger Brethren may receive Satisfaction for their Lands.

Brothers! We would now say something to You: when the Boundary Line was fixed at Fort Stanwix, a great Number of the great Men were there. That Line was long disputed and at last settled. Sir William told Us, that wherever there was an Indian Settlement, one Mile should remain round it for its Use, as long as such Settlement should con-

tinue. The Oriske Indians are in that Situation; they are still in Possession and ought to have a Mile Square; also the Settlement of Unadilla. Sir William also told Us, that if there were any Lands within the Boundary Line which had been contracted for, that the Contract should stand and the White People should pay the Money, and if in running this Line, any Lands that had then already been sold, should not be comprehended in it, the Lands which might remain without, altho' paid for, should revert to Us. That no Lands which had been sold were beyond that Line, but a Number within it, which has not been paid for. One at the Mouth of the Unadilla, of a Mile square; the other between two Branches of the Susquehannah, the one called Charlotte and the other Aurawit; part of this last has not been paid for and was purchased by Colonel Harper. One other Tract which begins at Aurawit and from thence down the Susquehannah to Unadilla, and then along the Line of Property to the Delaware, being all the Lands lying North of that Line and South of the second Tract. This was purchased by Colonel Bradstreet and not paid for. One other Tract lying on the Delaware and on the East Side of the Mohawk Branch at the Cook House. This Tract, altho' within the Line of Property, was reserved with one Mile around it. 5 Tract beginning near the German Flatts and extending up to Susquehannah. and so Northward; Part of this Tract has not been paid for.—Here the Governor, finding that much time would be taken up in giving a Description of Claims, informed them, that it would not be in his Power to do any thing but hear what they had to say respecting this Matter, before the Meeting of the Legislature; and therefore advised them when the Council Fire was covered up, to make out the Remainder of their Claims in Writing, and he would receive and lay them before the Legislature, with which they were contented and promised so to do, and Peter proceeded:

Brothers! We want to know why the Lands We proposed to sell are not an Object worthy of Purchase, as it is a pretty large Tract.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 95

26th June, 1785. At a Meeting of the Commissioners  
of Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer.

Present His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler, Henry Glen, Esqrs.,  
Peter Schuyler, Commissioners.

Abraham Yates, Junr., John Ja: Beekman,  
William Floyd, John Tayler,  
Abraham Ten Broeck, Matthew Visscher, Esqrs.  
Associates.

Peter Ryckman, James Dean, *Interpreters.*  
Colo. Yates, William Harper, Esqr.  
Mr. Surveyor General, Alexander Clinton.

The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations being convened and ready to proceed on Business, his Excellency the Governor delivered to them the following Speech, to wit:

Brothers! We have at length received your Answer to our Speech and have considered it very attentively.

Brothers! You have reminded Us how Business was conducted between your Ancestors and ours, and the Means that were used to strengthen the Chain of Friendship between them and to prevent its contracting Rust. It is our sincere Desire to follow their good Example, so that the ancient Covenant subsisting between them may be inviolably preserved between You and Us.

Brothers! We had Business to transact with You, in which We conceived our mutual Interest and future Peace and Happiness was concerned. It is unnecessary now particularly to repeat it; We fully explained it in our first Message by Mr. Peter Ryckman inviting You to this Council Fire. We mentioned it to You again in our Public Speech at this Place, and lest We might not have been clearly understood by You, We afterwards gave a more full and particular Explanation of the whole Matter and the Reasons which influenced Us to meet You, to several of your Sachems and Warriors, who promised to inform You of it, and which We trust has been done.



Brothers! Our Friendship is of an old date; it has gained Strength by Time, and it is not to be affected by any trivial Matter respecting Trade; but to preserve this Friendship even among Brothers, whenever Business is to be transacted or Bargains to be made, it is necessary that Candour and Truth should be observed, which on our Part We have carefully done.

Brothers! It would be unreasonable in Us to harbour any Displeasure or Resentment against You for declining to sell your Lands, if You think it your Interest not to part with them; but your Bargaining for the Sale of your Lands with Individuals, who had no Right to buy, and thereby introducing Confusion in our Government and laying the Foundation of future Discord between Us, were among the Reasons which induced the State to propose a Treaty with You to purchase them. We came not to ask them as a Favour; We came prepared to pay a generous Price for them, and for that Purpose We brought a large Sum of Money and a great Quantity of suitable Goods with Us.

Brothers! We acquainted You with our Business, when We invited You to meet Us, and thereby gave You Time to make up your Minds on the Subject. We had a Right therefore to expect You would have dealt candidly and openly with Us, and if You did not incline to sell any of your Lands, that You would have told Us so by the Return of a Messenger, and saved Us the Trouble and Fatigue of so long a Journey; this would have been acting a friendly and open Part. It is true You have offered to sell Us a small Tract of Land; but from your knowledge of the Country, You must be sensible that a great Part of it is mountainous, unfit for Cultivation, and therefore cannot be an Object with Us; and when We reflect that it is even less in Quantity and far inferior in Quality, than what You had been about to sell to an Individual, We can hardly believe You were serious when You made the offer of this Tract to Government, especially as We explained our Reasons for wishing to have Land in that Quarter, and that so small a Tract could not answer any good Purpose.

Brothers! We told You We came to buy Lands for Government; that We were able and had Money to pay for it. We are sorry that You made an Offer to lease our Lands. We fear You have lost your good Opinion of Us, by making a Proposal which, if accepted, would make the Government of the State tributary to You; had You been as open as Us in our private Interviews as We were with You, We would have told You that this Offer would have been highly disagreeable and that your Brothers would reject it with Disdain. This We believe would have prevented those things coming from your Lips.

Brothers! We must now dismiss this Subject with only repeating that We are sorry We cannot agree, and We are the more so because your Conduct in bargaining with some of our White People has put in their Minds, to look for Settlements in that Quarter, and as it is remote from our old Settlements and where We have too little Lands to form new ones, large enough to give Force and Energy to our Government, We are afraid it may be productive of Disorder and Mischief which it may be difficult to prevent and that Uneasiness may thereby be created between You and Us. Should any thing of this Kind happen, which We sincerely wish however may not be the Case, We now entreat You Brothers to remember that We aprize You of our Apprehensions, and to obviate them We propose to purchase those Lands from You, which from your own Conduct might occasion Disputes, and that if this is not now done it is your Fault and not ours, for We now again repeat our offer to You.

Brothers! We shall now proceed to answer that Part of your Speech which respects the Line of Property established at Fort Stanwix, and your Claims to certain Parcels of Land lying on our Side of it.

Brothers! We always considered that Line as a Line established to prevent all Disputes, and this is the first Intimation We have ever received that You considered it in any other Point of View. In your Address to the Legislature during the War to take Measures for securing your Property, You described your Western and Northern Boundary, and

mentioned that there could be no Dispute with Respect to the Southern & Eastern Boundary ; That You had one Paper and We another which ascertained them. In your Answer to our Speech in Council last Year at Fort Schuyler, You again repeated this Idea to Us, without mentioning any Claims You had on Lands on our Side of that Line, except that You had not been paid for some Part of the Oriskee Patent, which We then informed You was claimed by some of our White People, who alleged that they had long since honestly purchased and paid for it.

Brothers ! You say that in the Agreement made between Us at Fort Stanwix, to establish a Boundary Line, it was stipulated that wherever there was an Indian Settlement on our Side of that Line, You were to continue to hold the same to the Extent of one Mile square. That if there were any Lands on our Side of the said Line that had been contracted for and the Price not paid, that You were to have the Money ; but if any of our People had purchased Lands from You, which might fall on your Side of the Line, such Lands were to revert to You, altho' the Price had been paid. Now Brothers ; tho' this does not appear to be very reasonable, yet as We have not the Papers signed at Fort Stanwix with Us, We cannot contradict it. We are willing to stand to that agreement in all its Parts, for We consider it binding upon Us, and are determined in all things to be governed by the Rules of Justice.

Brothers ! You have now mentioned to Us Claims You have to several other Tracts of Land on our Side of this Line ; some of which You say have been paid for, only in Part, and others that You had not sold : these are new Matters to Us ; We never before heard of them : had You informed Us before We left home with the Nature of your Business, as We did You of ours, We would have come prepared to have given You a satisfactory Answer ; but as our Papers relative to these Matters are at New York, We can now only hear what You have to say on this Subject, and on our Return home We will, as soon as the Legislature convenes, lay your Claims before them, that they may be pro-

perly investigated; at the same Time We assure You of our Disposition to do whatever is just and right respecting them.

Brothers! With Respect to the Business of the Stockbridge Indians recommended by You to our Consideration, It is not new to Us; long after that Part of the Country, which they inhabited and which lies within our State was settled and improved by our White People, These Indians claimed Part of it, alleging that they not sold or been paid for the whole. This brought on Enquiries under our former Government, but We cannot learn that they were able to support any of their Claims. Since the late War our Brethren the Stockbridge Indians again applied to Us, in Consequence of which (We being desirous to do them the most perfect Justice) their Claims were very fully inquired into, when it appeared that every Part of the Country formerly possessed by them and lying within this State had been purchased and paid for by our White People; and some of it, to avoid Dispute with them, a second and even a third Time. And farther, that some of these Lands, to which they now lay claim, were formerly relinquished by their Ancestors in a public and open Treaty in the Presence of the Mohawk Nation; at which Treaty they also acknowledged that they had no Titles to any Lands within this State on the East Side of Hudson's River. It is unfortunate that your younger Brethren have so soon forgot what their Ancestors have done, and that they are so easily led astray, by the Stories of some designing White People, who profess to be their Friends only with a View to serve their own private Interest.

Brothers! We have duly attended to the Case of your Father the Mohawk and our Brothers Sconnondo and Peter, who were employed in the Course of the War by the Continental Commissioners in the Service of the United States. This Business appears to have been transacted under the Direction of the Servants of Congress, and does not come properly before Us. We can therefore only say that it is our sincere Desire that they may receive a generous Compensation for whatever Services they may have performed, or Sufferings they may have sustained. That this State will

most cheerfully contribute to it, whenever We are furnished with a Certificate from the Commissioners of Congress, stating the Facts respecting this Matter. We shall readily as your Friends and immediate Brethren, afford them our Assistance in obtaining the most ample Justice, and will also pay due Attention to the particular Case of your Father the Mohawk when the Facts respecting it can be ascertained.

The Governor having concluded; after some Consultation, Petrus the Minister, an Oneida Chief, rose & spoke as follows, to wit:

Brothers! After our Speech of yesterday, You informed Us that You would speak today. We have several Speakers among Us and they speak alternately, but for this Time they have fixed on me.

Brothers! In your Speech, You answer that Part of ours which respects the ancient Mode of proceeding and express your Wish to follow the good Example of our Forefathers, which is very agreeable to Us. You then mention that if no Bargains can be effected among Brothers, that it ought not to break their Friendship. This is right and We are happy that You have taken the Matter in that Light. It is true that no trivial Matters should break our Friendship, for the Eyes of the World are upon Us, and their Ears are open and they would cry Shame, if We broke our Friendship.

Brothers! The Message which was sent by Mr. Ryckman was well delivered, except one Word which We did not comprehend, which was, that You wanted to purchase Lands, and We only understood that no Person had a Right to purchase without a Licence from Government, and then left to Us whether We would meet You on the Subject of settling Matters respecting Lands, and We were happy on the Occasion, as We supposed that every Matter should be settled. That as to this Fact, which You marked out to buy, You will excuse Us from parting with it, as it is our hunting Ground. We suppose however it will be sold by the next Generation, and wish that We may be suffered to breath a little upon it.

Brothers! Respecting the Lands which our Friend John

Harper had been about purchasing, this was in the Course of the War, and Part of the Tribe had only consented to it. The Property is joint and all must consent; as the whole of the Tribe did not consent and disagreed about it, a Message was sent to New York. I was abroad when the Message was sent; I do not particularly know the Purport of it, but agreed to the Substance of it. Colonel Lewis carried it and he will tomorrow relate it, and We wish that Colonel Harper may be present to point out the Persons who have received Money from him. When Colonel Lewis returned from New York, he reported that the Contract with Colonel Harper was disapproved of by the Legislature, and thereupon We were glad to hear the Report that Colonel Lewis brought from New York, that the Bargain was null and void, and We now take this Opportunity to declare that the Bargain is null and void. Reports have informed Us that Colonel Harper sold Part of these Lands and that People settle on them, which We conceive is very unusual for People to sell, until they have first paid and the Property secured to them. It is true We may have Trouble on Account of not selling these Lands, but if We have done no Hurt, nor any Act of Violence, and our having a large Tract of Land will draw Us into Difficulties, We must submit to our Fate. It is sometimes usual that People break through their Bargains, and Colonel Harper can pay these People he has sold to, by giving them of his Lands he purchased long ago, and if Colonel Harper has paid any Money We will meet Tomorrow and Colonel Harper must point out these People to whom he has paid any Money.

Brothers! You have yet a large Tract of Country unsettled. Was that settled it would be an Act of Kindness in Us to part with some to our Brethren. The Land that You apply for is our Deer-hunting Country, and the Northern our Beaver-hunting Country. Therefore wish You to possess your Minds in Peace and not to be offended at Us for not parting with our Lands. Last Fall in the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, the Commissioners borrowed two Belts of Wampum from Us which have not been returned. We now take the Liberty to ask for them.

Then the Council Fire was covered until Tomorrow; and the Evening spent in private Conference with several Chiefs and Warriors and in preparing a Speech, which however from the favourable Turn the Business took, it became unnecessary to deliver.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs,  
27th June, 1785.

Present as Yesterday.

The Indians being assembled and the Governor and Commissioners seated; Peter the Minister rose and spoke as follows:

Brothers! You have now brought our Pipes together to enter into some farther Conversation. We have several times spoke, and sometimes near each other. It often happens that in the Course of a Night People's Minds get altered. I have been informed the Governor expressed his Astonishment that I who had been with the Enemy should speak so often. My Character is well known, and if I did not stand well with this State I may with another, and I will for the future no more speak in transacting Business with the Commissioners, but I will attend their Council and assist and should continue until the Commissioners of the United States express the same Sentiment.

Whereupon Peter the Quarter Master spoke as follows:

Brothers! We ask your Attention and the Attention of the Warriors. We have several Days been busy on the Subject of Lands. We have all of Us been considering the Matter, and our Women has also considered it, and We have all agreed to sell as follows: To draw a Line from the Mouth of the Unadilla River with a direct Course to the Chenango River and so down the same.

Brothers! We have again met on the Subject of Lands. We have agreed to give You such a Tract as will satisfy You. The Tract is large and We understand You have brought Money and Goods with You which We expect will be produced and laid down for Us, and this will be a final Treaty for Lands; and as this is done by the unanimous Consent

of our Tribe, and as We wish to have no future Contention We wish when You run the Line, You will let Us know, that some of our People may attend and be present.

Brothers! You will make the Agreement in Writing and leave one with Us, that our Future Generations may not dispute about it, as others have done before.—Here Peter delivered the Governor a large Belt, and took his Seat.

Whereupon his Excellency the Governor observed to the Indians that the Land which they now proposed to sell, was not above half the Quantity We had asked for, and altho' We would agree to accept of it at a reasonable Price, We could by no Means think of giving all the Goods and Money We had brought with Us for it, as We had brought sufficient to buy the whole at a generous Price, and more than they had ever before received for a like Quantity.

Whereupon Peter rose again and replied that the Land they had now agreed to sell, was more out of Friendship, than out of a pecuniary Reward, and that they could not part with any more.

The Governor then proposed that the Matter should be referred for farther Consideration till Tomorrow.

The Grasshopper then rose and spoke as follows:

Brothers! As We are now met on Matters of great Importance respecting Lands, it is a Matter that requires great Deliberation, and as our Ancestors have always forbid Us to transact Business of this Nature at the Close of the Day, We are happy to find that You have referred it till the Morning: We have however something to communicate of another Nature.

Brothers! At the Commencement of the late War, it is well known that the Oneidas & Tuscaroras took an active Part in it with the State of New York: And altho' the Emissaries of Great Britain attempted to seduce them from the Cause of America by asserting that by joining the Americans they would get Lice, as they were only a lousy People; but however altho' they expressed the Americans were lousy they have, although lousy, overcome their Enemies, who boasted of their own Prowess.



Brothers! You are well acquainted with our Fidelity and that We retreated to Schenectady and our Friend James Dean accompanied Us. During our Stay there We sustained many Losses and great Inconveniences. We wish therefore to say something respecting him.

Brothers! When We considered the Situation of our Friend at Schenectady, without Money, and altho' our Enemies told Us the Americans were lousy, yet We trusted that the Congress had Money, but none came. We then considered his Situation and promised him a Piece of Land. Accordingly when Peace came, We gave him a Piece of Land at the Oneida Lake, but in the last Spring We saw his Situation and by the Overflow of the Water, We were apprehensive he would get drowned, and Resolved, considering his Importance to Us, to remove him from there and fix him between Fort Schuyler & Oneida, on or near the Line of Property, that he may farther assist Us. We have also considered the Friendship We have received from our Friend Colonel Wemple, who turned out an Ox for Us and gave Us Bread when We were hungry, Drink when We were dry, and his House was our own. We therefore have agreed to give him Lands to the Extent of a Mile square, next to Mr. Dean.

Brothers! You have assured Us that our Lands were our own. This Act is voluntary and out of pure Regard, and We request our Brothers to give them a Title for the same, according to the Laws of the State. In Confirmation whereof We give You this Belt.

The Governor did not think proper to interrupt the Business, by any immediate Reply to what was said by Peter the Minister, especially as he was much opposed to sell any of their Lands, and his Speeches appeared to have great Weight with the Indians, so that his Silence was considered rather advantageous than otherwise. But when the Business of the Day was over, the Governor desired Mr. Dean, the Interpreter, to inform Peter, that he was much surprized at what he had said. That if he had heard the Reports he had mentioned, it would have been his Duty and more Honorable

to have communicated them to the Governor in the first Instance privately, and in that Way been ascertained of their Truth, than to have mentioned them, as he did, in Public Council. That from the Governor's Conduct & Behavior towards him from his first meeting with him at that Place, he had Reason to believe those Reports were false, and that the Governor entertained a favorable Opinion of him. That the Governor wished to see him at his Lodgings in the Evening to have an Explanation of this Matter. In the Evening Peter, with several other Chiefs, waited on the Governor, and without waiting for the Governor to introduce the Subject, confessed his Error, declared that he had discovered the Report came from some of their own People; that it was false: It was the Report of the Birds; that he was happy the Disgrace was removed from him, and that he possessed the Governor's good Opinion, and that he would reassume his Place at the Council Fire, and do Business there as usual, and after taking a Drink and smoaking a Pipe, parted in great good Humour.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners, &ca., 28th June, 1785.

Present as before.

His Excellency the Governor informed the Oneidas and Tuscaroras that when We parted Yesterday, altho' We had accepted their Proposal to purchase Lands from them as far as the Mouth of Unadilla, We had not agreed concerning the Price, as they asked the whole of our Money for it, and We conceived the Money was amply sufficient to pay for the whole Extent of Country We asked, to wit, 20 Miles; but that if they came ten Miles farther than what they offered, which would be splitting the Difference, they should have the whole Money and Goods; and in Order that the Matter might be considered, the Council Fire was covered over till this Morning, and now requested their Answer, informing them at the same time, that if Matters could be compromised between Us, that a Line should be run and marked in the Presence of our People and theirs, and every other Matter satisfactorily adjusted.

Thereupon the Grasshopper rose and spoke as follows :

Brothers ! We have now brought our Pipes together, as You proposed We should meet the succeeding Day. Had Providence not approved of our Business, some of our Chiefs would not have been able to meet to proceed on Business, and thereby We might have been prevented from finishing.

Brothers ! We are convened again today upon the Matters deliberated upon Yesterday and on which We were farther to deliberate till today. This being a Matter of a Civil Nature, cannot be deliberated or considered on in the Night. You proposed to purchase from the Mouth of the Unadilla, twenty Miles up it, and so West, and We had agreed to sell as far as the Mouth of the Unadilla. Yesterday You proposed We should sell You, to the Extent of ten Miles from the Mouth of the Unadilla. We have taken your Request into Consideration and have agreed to grant your Request. We expect this will be the last Application for Lands. We have Papers in our Pockets, & We suppose You have the same, if You have not lost them, in which You have recommended to Us to love our Country, and We are sure this News about selling our Lands will make a great Noise in the six Nations, when they hear that they have sold so much of our Lands, and therefore We hope We shall never be applied to any more for any of our Country.

Brothers ! We are now going on with the Business of the Treaty; that which relates to the Governor of the State of New York is completed. That which now is before Us respects ourselves and one of our Brothers. Our Country is like a Loaf of Bread : it is true We can cut off a little more. That We speak of now, is our Friend Mr. Dean. We wished to have him near Us to assist Us and be near our Council Fire. We had chosen a Spot for him, and some time after We found him surrounded with Water. We have taken him out and now give him two Miles square, but least We may put him in the Water again, We allow him to choose for himself. This We give him in Consequence of his long and faithful Services. We likewise give our Brother Colo. Wemple a Tract of one Mile square adjoining this Tract, so that they

may look at each other, and request that You may confirm this according to the Laws and Constitution of this State, and that our Friend Mr. Peter Schuyler may be present when the Lines are run. This Matter We mentioned to You Yesterday.

The Governor then informed them that whenever it would suit them, the Deed was ready for them to execute, and the Money and Goods, and also all the Provisions which remained on hand, should be delivered them. That the Provisions was to be considered as a present in Testimony of the Friendship of the State for them, who considered it was a Season when Victuals was scarce among them. That it gave Us Pleasure that the Business We met upon was accomplished. That with Respect to their Application in Behalf of their Friends Mr. Dean and Colonel Wemple, We had every Reason to believe it would readily be complied with by our great Council, and at the same applauded their Conduct for this Act of Generosity and Gratitude; that the sooner this was done the better.

The Deed having been previously prepared with a Blank for the Boundaries, they were now inserted, the Substance of the Deed explained by the Interpreters and the Goods brought into the Barn where the Council was held, and the Money laid upon the Table. The Deed was then executed by the following Indians, who were appointed for the Purpose by the whole, to wit.<sup>1</sup>

The Indians took immediate Charge of the Goods; but requested the Commissioners to lock up the Money for them in their Chest until Morning. To which Time the Governor

<sup>1</sup> A Blank here occurs in the Record. The Deed of Cession is recorded in Indian Treaties, ii, 147, Secretary's Office. It is dated June 28, 1785, and for a Consideration of \$11,500 in Goods and Money it conveys to the State the Territory within the following Boundaries: Beginning at the Mouth of the Unadilla, thence up the said River ten Miles, thence West to the Chenango River and down the same to its Conflu-

ence with the Susquehannah and to the Line of Property, and along the same to the Place of Beginning. It included in this State the present Towns of Guilford, Bainbridge, Coventry, Afton, Port Crane, Colesville, Sanford, Windsor, Conklin, Vestal, and Nichols, and Parts of Owego, Binghamton, Greene and Oxford, in Chenango, Broome and Tioga Counties.

informed them the Council would be adjourned, and that he would then meet them to return them their Money and cause the Provision which was promised them to be delivered, and then take his Leave of them, and the Council was then adjourned accordingly.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer the 29th June, 1785.

Present as Yesterday, except the Mayor, Mr. Yates and Colo. Cuyler, who had set out in the Morning for Albany.

The Commissioners returned the Money to the Indians and also the following Articles of Provisions which remained on hand, to wit, 10 Barrels of Pork, 12 Do. Flour, 13 Do. Corn, 300 Wt. Bread, 4 Barrels Rum, 30 Kegs of Do., 5 Bushels of Salt, 2 fat Cattle. The Governor then recommended to them, as Money was scarce and of great Value, to take Care and not spend it idly, but to lay it out for Cattle and farming Utensils, which would be of Use to them, and not part with any of their Goods, as they were cheap and very valuable, but take them home and lay them up against cold Weather.

The Governor then, in Behalf of the Commissioners, with the usual Ceremonies and mutual Congratulations took Leave and extinguished the Council Fire, and thereupon immediately commenced his Journey for Albany, where he arrived the 30th of June in the Evening.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners of Indian Affairs and Associates at Albany the 1st July, 1785.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler, *Commissioner.*

General Schuyler,

General Ten Broeck,

Abraham Yates, Junr.,

John Ja. Beekman,

William Floyd,

Peter W. Yates,

John Tayler,

Matthew Visscher, Esqrs.,

*Associates.*

Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor give a Certificate to the Commissioners for the Amount of the Sum of Money expended in Gratuities (the whole of which amounting as pr. Account exhibited to £168:8:8), which was given accordingly:

Resolved, that a Committee of three be appointed to examine and liquidate the Accounts of the Expenditures of the Commissioners in the late Treaty, and certify the same.

The Commissioners of Indian Affairs having represented to his Excellency the Governor and Associates for transacting Indian Affairs, that Indians of the six Nations residing within this State, sometimes came down on public Business and require to be supported with Provisions during their Stay and on their Return home, and requested to know what Line of Conduct to hold with such Indians. His Excellency and the Associates answered, that as they are permanent Commissioners and the Governor and Associates only appointed for a particular Purpose, they cannot give any positive Directions on that Head. They are however of Opinion, that under the Law by which the permanent Commissioners are appointed, they are to conduct in such Manner towards the Indians as will best promote the Interest of the State and keep up a good Understanding with them, and that it appears to his Excellency & Associates it would be prudent to supply such Indians as came down to the said Commissioners on public Business, with Provisions, having a due Regard that the Expenditures be with Economy, and doubt not but their Disbursements on such Occasions will be allowed of and paid by Order of the Legislature.

The Deeds for the Lands purchased was proved by two of the subscribing Witnesses in Albany, before the proper Officer, and is since lodged with the Secretary of the State to be recorded.

The Surveyor General has run the Out Lines in the Presence of Indians appointed by the Tribes to attend, and a rough Sketch of the Survey is with the Commissioners of the Land Office. The Governor advanced to the Surveyor General out of the Monies allowed for Contingencies £ towards defraying the Expence of the Survey, &c.

[The following Minutes of a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, March 25, 1787, does not appear in the official Record from which this Work is printed. It is taken from the *Clinton Papers*, No. 5842, State Library.]

At a Meeting of Abraham Cuyler, Esqr., one of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, and Robert Yates, Abraham Ten Broeck and Matthew Visscher, Esqrs, Associates, and Peter Ryckman, Interpreter, at the house of Robert Lewis, of the City of Albany, on the 26th day of March, 1787, with the following Seneca Indians, to wit :

Kaondewana or Big Tree,  
Tanawaneas or Chief Warrior,  
Tewagkewassa,  
Kanushawego,  
Naduadeekha.

The Indians introduced their Business by expressing their Happiness to see their Friends at Albany, their Attachment to the State, and to find that the Business was conducted in the usual way, and that the Council Fire still burnt at this Place, so that they might smoke the Pipe of Friendship together as heretofore.

After which, Tanawaneas spoke as follows :

Brothers ! When the Commissioners of Albany held the Council Fire at Fort Schuyler, they told us that we should take care of our Lands, that it was our own. This was good, and what we conceived to be our Interest and our Right ; but when the Commissioners of the United States came up, they said they could not make Peace with us unless we gave them first an extent of Land of seven Miles in Breadth, from the Line established by the late Sir William Johnson to Fort Pitt. This the few of our Nation who attended the Treaty granted, altho' they were particularly instructed not to grant any Lands, and therefore had no Right to do it, and what they did in granting the lands is void.

Brothers ! Our Land is our Money. It is on that we hunt, and by hunting we maintain and support ourselves and Fami-

lies. If our Lands are thus taken from us, what will become of our Wives and Children? It hurts our Feelings much that our Land should be torn from us in the Manner these seven Miles before mentioned have been done. But we trust that our good old Friends of Albany, who have always given us good Advice, will interest and exert themselves in our behalf, that our Lands may be restored to us again, and we wish and pray, that the Line now running between Pennsylvania and this State, may go farther South than the Commissioners run it last Summer. A String.

Brothers! We are exceedingly happy to meet you, and that we are so kindly treated. We rejoice on the Occasion. We and all the Indians are also exceedingly well treated by the Troops of the United States, and also by the Inhabitants. This makes us happy.

Brothers! The United States have sent Word to us, that they expect soon to get Possession of Oswego and Niagara, and that they will take no more Land around each than the King of England had, and that they then would open the Trade to every Part of our Country.

Brothers! Whenever the United States take Possession of Oswego and Niagara, we request that the Troops may go up the Mohawk River and by the Lakes, and not through our Country, as it may disturb our Wives and Children, and we request that no more Lands round each may be taken Possession of than what the King of England had, which was four Miles square at Oswego, and at Niagara, from Johnson's Landing four Miles along the River till it reaches Lake Erie. A String.

Brothers! We are happy to have it in our Power to inform you, that all the Indian Nations are at Peace, and firmly resolved to remain so, and not intermeddle in any disputes which may arise between the White People, and to strengthen their Determination, there is now a Council held of all the Indian Nations at Buffalo Creek.

Brothers! Some of us attended the Survey last Summer, and were requested by General Clinton and the other Gentlemen on the Part of this State, to meet them here in this City,



on the Subject of the further Survey, and we are sorry that they are absent. You will send on to him the Letter we brought with us from Genesee, and remind him of the Promise he made us last Year.

The foregoing Proceedings were forwarded to Governor Clinton, with the following Letter :

Albany, 27th March, 1787.

Sir : On Friday last, five Seneca Chiefs arrived in Town, and on consulting with the Gentlemen who were by your Excellency and the Commissioners of Indian Affairs appointed Assistants, it was thought proper to hear from them their Business.

After the strongest Expressions of their Attachment to this State, and their wish for its Continuance, they informed us of their Apprehensions that their Lands would be too much encroached upon by the People to the Southward. They complained that the Commissioners of Congress at Fort Schuyler had extorted from them Concessions which the Deputies they had sent had no right to make. They however declared that the Extent of four Miles round the Posts of Oswego and Niagara, and the Road from the latter Place to Lake Erie were proper, and they would abide by it. On this they presented a String of Wampum.

After the customary Congratulations on their safe Arrival, and thanking them for their friendly Attachment to the State, which it would be always our sincere Desire to promote, we informed them, that in the Absence of your Excellency and two of the Commissioners, it was not in our Power to answer any part of their Speech ; that we would take it down in writing, and send it, together with the Strings of Wampum and their Letter to General Clinton to your Excellency, who would immediately acquaint the Genl and Surveyor of their Arrival, and advise as soon as possible what Answer to give them.

✧ In this Situation the Business stands, and they have concluded to stay in Town until we receive an Answer from your

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 113

Excellency, as they say they cannot return to their Nation without one, which we have promised them in nine or twelve days. In the mean while they cannot be without Support, and at their Departure, it is always expected by them to receive some presents, which is more particularly necessary in the present Case, as they are the leading People of their Nation, and are in our Interest, and in Opposition to that of our late Enemy, and your Excellency knows we are not vested with the Means of doing it.

We need not mention to your Excellency, in our present critical Situation, the Necessity of preserving a good Understanding with the most formidable Tribe of the six Nations, and of which these five are Chiefs.

We have the honor to be,

very respectfully,

Your Excellency's

most obedt Servts,

ABRAHAM CUYLER, *Commissioner.*

ROBERT YATES,

ABM. TEN BROECK,

MAT. VISSCHER.

His Excellency

Governor CLINTON.

New York, 6th April, 1787.

Gentlemen: Immediately on the Receipt of your Letter relative to the Seneca Indians now in Albany, I communicated the Contents to the Legislature, and I have now the Honor of transmitting you, enclosed Concurrent Resolutions of the Senate and Assembly, expressive of their Sense on the different Matters contained in the Indian's Speech. The Communication directed by the Resolutions, I must take the Liberty of requesting you to make to the Indians in my Name, in such Manner as you shall judge most acceptable and likely to conduce to the End proposed. Mr. Lansing, who has had an Opportunity of knowing on this Subject, is so obliging as to promise to give his Assistance. It is unnecessary to enlarge. The Surveyor General I presume will be in Albany

P

before you receive this and is directed to give you the necessary Information respecting the running of the Line, between this and the State of Pennsylvania. To save me the Trouble of transmitting the Cash to Albany, to be advanced in Consequence of the Resolutions, Mr. Lansing has undertaken to raise it there, and draw upon me for the Amount.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, &c.

GEORGE CLINTON.

The Honorable

ROBERT YATES, ABRAHAM TEN BROECK,  
ABRAHAM CUYLER and MATTHEW VISSCHER.

At a Meeting of Abraham Cuyler, Esqr., one of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, and Robert Yates, Philip Schuyler, Volkert P. Douw, Abraham Ten Broeck and Matthew Visscher, Esqrs., Associates, and Peter Ryckman, Interpreter, James Fairlie and Peter W. Douw, Esqrs., Citizens, on the 11th day of April, 1787, with the Big Tree and four other Chiefs of the Seneca Nation.

The Commissioners and Associates informed the Indians, that they were pleased they had so willingly staid, while the Commissioners might have an Opportunity to send to New York, and, that in Consequence thereof, they presented the Indians the Goods which laid on the Table, and then delivered the following Speech, to wit:

Brothers! What we are now to inform you of is for ourselves.

When during the last War, we found ourselves under the Necessity of separating from Great Britain, we then were obliged to agree on the Method by which our Business should be conducted. We therefore met in a great Council, and agreed how we should be governed. One of the Councilors in this great Council, got up and spoke as follows: "The Indians of the Five Nations have taken up the Hatchet against us; we must do with them as we intend to do with the English; we must drive them out of the Country. They are our Enemies." But an old Man made this Answer:

“You that have spoken last, have spoken wrong, for although this is true that some of the Five Nations have struck us, yet it is not their natural Inclination to be at War with us. They have been misled by the English and they will repent of it. We must therefore not drive them from their Country. On the contrary, we must now agree that they shall keep their Country. We must do more. We must agree that if any Person shall by Fraud or by making the Indians drunk, persuade them to sell their Lands, the Sale shall be void. We must agree that no person shall purchase Lands from them unless with the Consent of our great Council, for we must keep the Indians within the Limits of our Government. Their Fathers were kind to our Fathers when they came to this Country. We must be kind to them, and treat them as Brothers.” The old Man’s Advice was attended to, and the whole Council said, let us come to such an Agreement, and it was done.

But the King of England by Treaty long ago, had given all the Lands to the Westward to the thirteen United States, and since the Peace, the Great Council of the Bostonians claimed the Country of the Five Nations. But our Great Council said the Five Nations must never be under the Government of the Bostonians. They are our Brothers. But we will send Deputies to meet Deputies from them to settle the Matter in a friendly way. The Deputies met last Fall, and it was agreed that the Five Nations should remain with and be considered as living within the Limits of the State of New York, but that whenever the Senecas and Cayugas wanted to sell any Lands, that our Great Council should permit the Bostonians to buy, that the Indians might not be deceived and cheated.

Brothers! The Particulars of this Agreement, and in what Part of your Country the Bostonians may buy will, as we are informed, be communicated to you by the Governors of New York and Boston, in the Course of the next Summer.

Brothers! You see how attentive we have been to your Interest, and how anxious we are that you should never quit the Country in which the Bones of your Ancestors lay buried.

We forget what passed during the War, and we wish to cultivate the most perfect Friendship with you.

We give you this Information of the Fact, least wicked and designing Men may impress your Minds with wrong Information and may make you uneasy.

To which the Indians made the following Answer :

Brothers ! We had before this received a Hint of the Agreement you have mentioned, and are very happy that you, our Brothers of Albany, have been so kind as to communicate to us your Settlement with the Bostonians, and thank you for the Presents you have made.





# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Commissioners Appointed by the Statute

ENTITLED

*An Act for appointing Commissioners to hold Treaties with the Indians within this State, passed the first Day of March, 1788.<sup>1</sup>*



At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the Court House in Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess the third Day of March, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
William Floyd, Samuel Jones  
Ezra L'Hommedieu, &  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson,

Resolved, That a Treaty be held with the Six Nations of Indians at Fort Schuyler on the tenth Day of July next;

<sup>1</sup> This Act appointed the Governor, William Floyd, Ezra L'Hommedieu, John Lawrence, Richard Varičk, Samuel Jones, Egbert Benson, and Peter Gansevoort, Jr., as Commissioners with Power by themselves, or conjointly with Persons appointed by Massachusetts, to treat with every or any Tribe of Indians in the State for preserving their Friendship and purchasing their Lands, "and with further Power, to enquire touching all Leases, or other Purchases of or Contracts for the Sale of Lands, suggested

to have been obtained or made without the Authority or Consent of the Legislature." They were directed to report from Time to Time to the Legislature, and were empowered to send for Persons; to stipulate with Commissioners from Massachusetts for preventing Intrusions upon Lands reciprocally ceded by the two States; to call into Service such of the Militia as might be necessary to protect their Negotiations, and to compel the Removal of obnoxious Persons beyond the Reach of their

That a Message for this Purpose be sent to the Six Nations, and that Mr. Varick and Mr. Benson prepare a Draft thereof and Report the same to this Board at their next Meeting.

Resolved, That John Tayler of the City of Albany, Esquire, be appointed Agent to this Board at Albany, to manage such Business in Relation to the Commission as shall from time to time become necessary; That a Letter be written to him informing him of his Appointment, and that Mr. Varick and Mr. Benson prepare a Draft thereof and report the same to this Board at their next Meeting.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the Court House in Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess, the tenth Day of March, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
 William Floyd,<sup>1</sup> Samuel Jones,  
 Ezra L'Hommedieu,<sup>2</sup> &  
 Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.<sup>3</sup>

Influence while Treaties were being held. The Expenses to be incurred were left discretionary with the Commissioners whose Offices were to continue until thirty Days after the first Meeting of both Houses of the Legislature after the first Monday of July following.

<sup>1</sup> General WILLIAM FLOYD was born in Brookhaven, Suffolk County, in 1734. In 1774 he was sent as a Delegate to the first Continental Congress, and was one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was elected to the first Session of the State Senate, was appointed Delegate to the old Congress, and a few Weeks after this Treaty he was elected a Member of the first Federal Congress. In 1784 he purchased a Tract of wild Land in Western Oneida County, and in 1803 removed thither. He died in that Town, August 4, 1821, aged 87 Years.

<sup>2</sup> EZRA L'HOMMEDIEU was a Lawyer

of Distinction, residing in Suffolk Co. He served throughout the Provincial Congress and Convention, as a Delegate in the old and a Member in the new Congress; six Years in the Assembly, and twenty-four Years in the State Senate. At the Time of these Treaties he was one of the most influential of our State Senators, and his extensive Experience in Public Affairs rendered him particularly Useful upon this Occasion. He died in 1812.

<sup>3</sup> EGBERT BENSON was at this Period a Delegate in Congress, in which Office he remained several Years. In 1794 he was appointed a Justice in the Supreme Court, and in 1802 he was appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. He died at Jamaica, Queens Co., August 22, 1833, aged 87 Years. He was the Author of a Memoir upon the Origin of Names of Places in New York.

Mr. Benson reported to the Board a Draft of the Message to the Six Nations of Indians, which being read was amended and agreed to by the Board and is in the Words following:

*Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations!* Open your Ears to the Voice of the great Council of the State of New York; for in their Name We now speak to You.

Altho' the late War has for a Time interrupted that brotherly Intercourse which was so pleasing to your and our Ancestors, yet we have never been unmindful of the Friendship which was between them and which it is our earnest Desire should forever remain between You and Us. With this good Disposition, which has been given us by the great Spirit above, we met you in a Treaty at Fort Schuyler shortly after the general Peace, and with the same Disposition we now wish to meet you again in a Treaty at Fort Schuyler on the tenth Day of July next, as well to brighten the Chain and renew the Covenant which has so long bound us together, as to confer with you on Matters of very great Importance to our mutual Happiness and Welfare.

Brethren: We have heard that some of our People have been among you to purchase by taking a Lease of your Lands from you without the Consent of our great Council and contrary to the good old Rule and Custom which has always been between your Forefathers and ours and between you and us.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The frequent Allusion to the Leasee Company and its Operations, in this Work, requires a somewhat detailed Notice of its Organization. In 1787, an Association of influential Men chiefly living in Columbia County, was formed to secure a Lease of all the Indian Lands in the State for 999 Years, doubtless relying upon their Political Influence in securing Legislative Sanction to the Measure. Among the Foremost of this Company were John Livingston of Livingston Manor, Maj. Peter Schuyler, Dr. Caleb Benton, Ezekiel Gilbert, and others. The better to effect their Purpose they gave an Interest to certain

Persons residing in the Indian Country as Traders, and organized a Branch in Canada, called the Niagara Genesee Land Company, thus enlisting the Influence of Col. John Butler, Samuel Street, John Powel, Johnson, and Murphy, Subjects of Great Britain, and of Benjamin Barton, a Citizen of the United States at Niagara. The Constitution of New York of 1777, expressly forbade the Purchase of Lands from the Indians by Individuals, and hence this Scheme was devised to evade the Letter of the fundamental Law, while it defeated its Spirit. The Company, known in this State as the New York Genesee Company of



Listen to our Advice. This is one of the principal Matters about which we wish to talk with you, and we advise you

Adventurers, was composed of eighty Persons, of whom ten owned half Shares and the Remainder single Shares. The following is a List of these Adventurers, of whom those owning half Shares are indicated by a *Star*.

*New York Genesee Company of Adventurers.*

Benjamin Allen, Joseph Barnard, John Bartle, Peter Bartle, John Bay, Caleb Benton, Benjamin Birdsall, Peter Bishop, Henry Blatner, Benjamin Brown, James Bryant, Prince Bryant, Benjamin Chace, William Colbrath, David Collins, John Collins, Ananias Cooper, \* Abraham Cuyler, James Dean, Dominico De Barge, John D. P. Douw, Ezekiel Gilbert, Obadiah Gore, John Graham, Morris Graham, Joseph Hamilton, Stephen Hogeboom, William Hopkins, Ebenezer Husted, Seth Jenkins, Lark Jennings, Thomas Jones, \* Ambrose Latin, Eleazer Lindsley, Henry Livingston, Henry B. Livingston, Henry G. Livingston, John Livingston, Peter R. Livingston, Peter Loup, Peter Ludlow, \* William Ludlow, \* Charles McKinstry, John McKinstry, John Maley, Daniel Niven, Hezekiah Olcott, James Parker, Isaac Paris, William Pearce, William Potter, William Radclift, Ezra Reed, Sarah Reed, Garret Ryckman, Peter Ryckman, Jeremiah Sabin, Abraham Schuyler, Peter Schuyler, Nathaniel Scribner, Bazeliel Sealy, Jacob F. Shaver, Nathaniel Shaw, \* John Shepard, \* Cotton M. Smith, Simon Spalding, William Stewart, Henry Tremper, Laurence Tremper, Robert Troup, Henry J. Van Rensselaer, Robert Van Rensselaer, Matthew Visscher, William Wall, Hugh Welsh, Walter V. Wempel, Jacob Henry Wendel, Andrew White, \* John White, \* William Whiting.

In this List we find a former Commissioner for holding Indian Treaties, an acting State Senator, the Clerks of Albany and Columbia Counties, a future Sheriff of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, eleven past, seven present and fourteen future Members of Assembly, and others who had undeservedly shared the Public Confidence. It is but just to infer that some of these were misled by Falsehoods, or induced to lend Countenance to the Transaction through the Influence of bad Men; but to the greater Number History will attach a Stain of Dishonor, for which no Apologies can atone.

Two separate Leases were procured, Copies of which are here annexed.

*Livingston's Lease for 999 Years.*

THIS INDENTURE made the thirtieth Day of November in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, between the Chiefs or Sachems of the Six Nations of Indians on the one Part, and John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, and Ezekiel Gilbert, for themselves and their Associates, of the County of Columbia and State of New York, Esquires, of the other Part, Witnesseth, that the said Chiefs or Sachems of the six Nations, for and in Consideration of the Yearly Rent and Covenants hereinafter reserved, mentioned and contained, which on the Part and Behalf of the said John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, and Ezekiel Gilbert, and their Associates, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns are or ought to be paid, kept, done or performed, hath demised, granted, and to Farm let, and by these Presents doth demise, set and to Farm let, unto the

as well for the Sake of yourselves and your Children and Children's Children as for our own Sakes, that you will not suffer any of these People to come and settle on your Lands.

said John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, and Ezekiel Gilbert, and their Associates, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, all that certain Tract or Parcel of Land, commonly called and known by the Name of the Lands of the six Nations of Indians, situate, lying and being in the State of New York, and now in the actual Possession of the said Chiefs or Sachems of the six Nations :

Beginning at a Place commonly called and known by the Name of Canada Creek, about seven Miles West of Fort Stanwix now Fort Schuyler; thence Northeasterly to the Province of Quebec; thence along the said Line to the Pennsylvania Line; thence East on the said Line or Pennsylvania Line to the Line of Property so called by the State of New York; thence along the said Line of Property to Canada Creek aforesaid, together with all and singular the Houses, Barns, Out Houses, Closes, Grounds, Lands, Meadows, Pastures, Feedings, Commons, Profits, Ways and Paths, Passages, Waters, Water Courses, Mines, Minerals, Easements and Appurtenances whatsoever, to the said Messuages or Tract of Land belonging, or in any ways appertaining (excepting and always reserving out of this present Demise and Grant, unto the Chiefs or Sachems and their Heirs any Tract or Piece of Land they chose to reserve for themselves and their Heirs; but if they the said Chiefs or Sachems of the Six Nations are minded at any Time to leave the Lands, then and in that Case it shall revert to the said John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, and Ezekiel Gilbert, and their Associates, and their Heirs during

the Term of this Lease, To Have and to Hold the said Messuages and Tracts of Land, and all and singular the said Premises hereby demised, with the Appurtenances (except as before excepted) unto the said John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, and Ezekiel Gilbert, and their Associates, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from the Day above written, for and during the Term of nine hundred and ninety-nine Years, thence next ensuing, and fully to be complete and ended, yielding and paying therefor, yearly and every Year, during the said Term hereby granted, unto the said Chiefs or Sachems of the Six Nations, their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, the yearly Rent or Sum of Two Thousand Spanish Milled Dollars, in and upon the fourth Day of July; and also that they the said John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Peter Ryckman, John Stevenson, Ezekiel Gilbert, and their Associates, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, paying the yearly Rent of Two Thousand Spanish Milled Dollars and performing all and singular the said Covenants and Agreements hereinbefore mentioned, which on their Behalfs are or ought to be paid done or performed, shall and may, from Time to Time and at all Times during the said Term hereby granted, peaceably and quietly enter into, have, hold, use, occupy, possess and enjoy, all and singular the said premises hereby granted and demised, with the Appurtenances (except as before excepted) without any Let, Trouble, Hinderance or Molestation, Interruption or Denial of them the said Chiefs or Sachems of the six Nations, their Heirs, Executors or Admin-

Brethren: These People who have been to purchase your Lands have been disobedient Children to their Fathers, our great Council.

istrators and of any other Person or Persons whatsoever claiming or to claim from or under them or any of them, or by or through their or any of their Acts, Means or Procurements. In witness whereof the Parties to these Presents, have set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above written.

*Sealed and delivered* }  
*in the presence of* }

Witnesses Present—

N. ROSEKRANTZ,  
GEORGE STIMSON, Jun.  
JOSEPH SMITH,  
Colo. LEWY.

Kanuksony,	Oncunshahie,
Kohikdoton,	Anayawas,
Chuahisah,	Kyantwaka or
John Serade,	John Abeel,
Owhongagate,	Sysawaka;
Tewalague,	Toneadwa or
Syadoh,	Big Throat,
Kaniundungeus,	Kawunduwan or
Atawcanah,	Big Trec,
Teunenkathe.	Onagicco or
<i>Tuscaroras—</i>	Infant,
William Brañt,	Taowes or
Sequestera,	Chaw Tobac,
Tiagawa,	Tonowago,
Terewachsoonde.	Toandates,
<i>Cayugas—</i>	Oyshgudra or
Carachquadirha,	Hot Bread,
Canahog,	Carondagua,
Canachguaga,	Tawckesa,
Tohwase,	Little Beard,
Atitjeake,	Soscawa.
Saquieyachtea,	<i>Subonee—</i> Astaka.
Thanyost,	<i>Mobawk—</i>
Onasquagert,	Carachonutie.
Tiachtieko,	<i>Oneida—</i> Aieje.
Achyatha,	Cornelius Tohaye-
Towardus,	uesera;
Tahuchtajus,	Captain David.

*Livingston's Lease from the Oneidas.*

On the eighth of January, 1788, Livingston, Benton and Gilbert executed an Agreement with certain Indians claiming to be Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneida Nation, by which the Latter conveyed:

All that certain Tract of Land commonly called and known by the Territory of the Oneida Indians, beginning at the Confluence of Canada and Wood Creeks, running thence Southerly on the Line known by the Line of Property to the Source of the Unadilla Branch of the Susquehannah River, descending the same Branch to the Northeast Corner of the Purchase lately made by the State of New York, thence due West to the Northwest Corner of the same Purchase, on the Chenango River, thence descending the said Chenango River to its Junction with the Teyoghagoga River, thence ascending the said last mentioned River to the Influx of a certain Stream falling into the West Side of the last mentioned River called Ononogawense, thence ascending said Stream to its Source, thence on a straight Line to the Source of a Creek called Raghsonghto, thence on a direct Line to a Place called Raraghenhe on the Outlet of the Oneida Lake, thence on a direct Course to a Place called Atenghrayendon on Lake Ontario, thence on a direct Line Eastwardly to a Place called Teyowisodon, thence on a direct Line to the Little Falls on the Mohawk River, thence on a direct Course to the Place of Beginning: excepting out of the above granted and demised Premises the Lands following, to wit: a Piece six Miles square on the Oneida Creek, heretofore granted to the Stockbridge Indians; also a certain other Piece two Miles

Brethren : A Belt will be delivered to you in Confirmation of this our Message to you.

wide on the Line of Property and by Computation five Miles in length, granted to other New England Indians; also a certain other Piece of two Miles square on the said Line of Property heretofore granted to James Dean; also one other Piece one Mile square adjoining to the said Dean's, granted to Colonel Wemple; also one other Piece one Mile square adjoining said Dean, granted to George W. Kirkland and John T. Kirkland; also thirty-seven square Miles, adjoining said Dean, and lying on the said Line of Property granted to Jedediah Phelps; also fourteen other square Miles on the said Line of Property granted to Perache; also one other square Mile on Canada Creek granted to Archibald Armstrong; also excepting and reserving to the Parties of the first Part, their Heirs and Successors, for their sole Use and Behoof, the Right of Fishing in the Creek which enters into the East End of the Oneida Lake called the Fish Creek, from one Extremity thereof to the other, with the Lands along on each Side of the same Creek, to the Extent of one Mile in width; except the Lands at and about the Mouth of the said Creek, where the old Royal Block House formerly stood, which said Lands are hereby granted to the Party of the second Part, for the Privilege of erecting and keeping a Post or Posts and Storehouse, whenever they may see fit; likewise reserving the sole Right of taking the Fish at and below the Outlet of the said Lake; also excepting and reserving to the Parties of the first Part, their Heirs and Successors, the Tract of Land following, to wit, beginning at the Southwest Corner of Lands given to the New England Indians, thence running on a straight Course to the Southeast Corner of Lands given to the Stockbridge In-

dians; thence along the South Line of the same Westerly, to the Southwest Corner of the last mentioned Land; thence Westerly continuing the same Course, so far as that a Line drawn Northerly, on a direct Course, and extended to the Oneida Lake, opposite the small Island called Tyoghahighnaneatogon will intersect the old Indian Path to Raneghsorage, where the same crosses the Creek at the Windfalls; and after striking said Lake, thence Easterly along the South Shore of the said Lake, to the Mouth of Wood Creek; thence ascending the said Wood Creek, till it comes to a Point that shall be two Miles on a direct Course, distant from the Line of Property aforesaid; thence Southerly on a Line Parallel to the said Line of Property, to the Lands granted to Jedediah Phelps and others, and thence following the Westerly Bounds of the same till it meets the Place of Beginning.

These Lands were leased for a Term of nine hundred and ninety-nine Years, for a Rent of \$1,000 for the first ten Years, and increasing after that Time at the Rate of \$100 annually until the Sum amounted to \$1,500, which was to remain the annual Rent afterwards. The Leasees also agreed whenever they might erect Posts and Storehouses at the Places designated where the old Royal Block House stood, to give \$100; and in Case of the Discovery of Mines to allow the Indians their Share of the Profits.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the Presence of James Ononghsawinghti, Tharontuwagon, James Dean, Samuel Kirkland, Hez. Olcott, Jed. Phelps, Nicholas Jourdain, and Abm. Van Eps.

By Rawistonisk, Christian Thomgrahsoghghare, Paul Otstogger, William Ragentarougwen, Jacob Reed alias Atsi-

Mr. Benson also reported to the Board a Draft of a Letter from the Board to John Tayler, Esquire, which being read and amended was agreed to, and is in the Words following:

aktatye, John Skanondo, Peter Origomhe, Hendrick Thaghenghororenghte, Anthony Thononghrigo, Thomas Shononghsis, John Onontigo, David Sagorak-arongo, Ludwick Thagsaweta, Peter Agwerontongwas, Paul Thomgatashager, Caleb Benton, Ezekiel Gilbert.

In February, 1788, Livingston and Benton memorialized the Legislature, and submitted a Copy of the Leases they had obtained, and solicited the Appointment of Agents to confer with them "on such Terms and Considerations as may be consistent with the Justice, Dignity and Policy of the State, and that the Legislature would be pleased to recognize the said Leases under such Restrictions as to them in their Wisdom shall appear just and equitable." They also procured the Signature of Indians to a Memorial of which the following is a Copy:

*Brothers, Chiefs and Great Men, who sit around the Council Fire of our Brethren the People of the State of New York, attend:*

Brothers. We have come thus far on our Way to see you at your Council Fire, but the Roads are already become very Bad, and the Prospect of their soon becoming Worse induces us to return, and to speak to you in Writing.

Brothers. We are your Allies, we are a free People, our Chiefs have directed us to speak to you as such, therefore open your Ears and hear our Words.

Brothers. In your late War with the People on the other Side of the Great Water, and at a Period when thick Darkness overspread this Country, your Brothers the Oneidas stepped forth, and uninvited took up the Hatchet in your

defense; we fought by your Side, our Blood flowed together, and the Bones of our Warriors mingled with yours; you appeared grateful for our Attachment, and gave us repeated Assurances, that should the Great Spirit give you Success, we should be made to rejoice. The Event of the War was favorable; we returned to our Country where Ruin and Desolation had spread over our Fields and Villages; we rejoiced however that we could return in Peace, and pleased ourselves with the Hopes of the peaceable and quiet Enjoyment of our Country, for which we had fought and bled, in the common Cause together with you. While we were thus flattering ourselves with the agreeable Prospects, we received an Invitation to meet some of your Chiefs who were sent to speak with us at Fort Herkimer; we were glad and immediately set out to meet them, expecting they were come to relieve our Wants and to make good the repeated Assurances we had received, that on our Return to our Country we should be made to rejoice; those Chiefs who then met us will doubtless remember how much we were disappointed, when they told us they were only sent to buy our Lands.

Brothers. It is needless for us to recapitulate the Speeches that were made on that Occasion. You have probably wrote them in a Book; your Chiefs may well remember how reluctantly we entered on a Treaty for the Sale of our Lands. They may also remember the Method we then took to evade it, which was by making a Proposal to them to lease a certain Part of our Country. The Contempt with which they received our Offer is doubtless still fresh in their Memory; it is in ours. In Compliance

Sir: By an Act of the Legislature at the present Session we are appointed Commissioners to hold Treaties with the

however with their urgent Solicitations, we at length consented to sell them a Part of our Lands in Consequence of the solemn and repeated Assurances your Chief Sachems then made, that this should be the last Application that our Brothers the Legislature of the State of New York would ever make to us for Land.

Brothers. We are determined then never to sell any more; the Experience of all the Indian Nations to the East and South of us has fully convinced us, that if we follow their Example we shall soon share their Fate. We wish that our Children and Grand Children may derive a comfortable Living from the Lands which the Great Spirit has given us and our Forefathers. We therefore determined to lease them; our Friends in different Parts of the Country hearing of our Determination, and being willing that we should still continue a Nation, have offered to take our Lands by Lease, and give us a generous Rent. We were loth to affront you again by the Offer of our Lands on such Terms, and have therefore agreed to the Proposals of our Friends.

Brothers. Since we have been upon the Road, a lying Bird has passed by us, and reached your Council Fire, and told you we have not leased our Lands; we say, Brothers, the Suggestion is False, and we hope you will treat it as such.

Brothers. We are surprized to hear that you are displeas'd because others have accepted that, which your Chiefs have told us is beneath your Nation. But, Brothers, we are more surprized still, to learn you claim a Right to controll us in the Disposal of our Lands; you acknowledge it to be our own as much as the Game we take in hunting. Why then do you say that we shall not

dispose of it as we think best? You may, Brothers, with as much Propriety, when one of our Hunters comes to your Market with a Pack of Beaver, point out the Person to whom he shall sell, and to no other.

Brothers. We wish you to consider this Matter well, and to do us Justice. We have now leased our whole Country excepting what we reserved for our own Use, to People who we doubt not, will pay us according to Agreement, and if there be anything which you can do to encourage them in the Settlement of it, we wish it may be done.

Brothers. This is all we have to say. To the Great Men of the State of New York.

JACOB REED, Sec<sup>y</sup>.  
PETER SALCKARENGHIS,  
DANIEL SEGAONEGHSERIBER,  
HENDRICK SAHONWATE.

*Witness*

PETER B. TEN BROECK,  
GEORGE STIMSON, JR.

Personally appeared before me, the above named subscribers and acknowledged the foregoing Instrument to be their voluntary Act and Deed.

Acknowledged before me this }  
twelfth day of March, 1788. }

HENRY J. V. RENSSELAER,  
One of the Judges of the Inferior  
Court of the County of Columbia.

An Advertisement appeared in the Hudson Gazette, dated Feb. 2, 1788, signed by Jacob Reed, Capt., notifying all whom it might concern, that the Indians would neither sell nor lease more of their Lands.

Although the Conspirators had at this Session one of their Number in the Senate, and three, including Livingston himself, in the Assembly, yet their Peti-

Indians within this State and have agreed that you should be our Agent in Albany to manage such Business in Relation to the Commission as shall from time to time become neces-

sary. The Commission was summarily rejected; and the Legislature, by concurrent Resolution of Feb. 16, 1788, declared these Leases to be Purchases, and empowered the Governor to use the Force of the State, should it be necessary, to prevent Intrusion or Settlement upon the Lands so claimed.

Although Livingston and Schuyler were driven from the Place where the Treaties of 1788 were held, the Influence of these Leasees was felt in all its Force, and the strongest Appliances were employed, not only in preventing Attendance at the appointed Place, but in embittering the Minds of such as attended, and rendering them Averse to any Settlement with the State. The Deeds of Cession finally obtained were upon nearly the same Basis as the Leases, in regard to Annuities and Reservations.

In February, 1793, an Act was passed for the Relief of Benjamin Birdsall and his Associates, constituting this Leasee Company, in which they were to receive a Tract of Land ten Miles square, North of the Mohawk, in lieu of all Claims or Pretensions on account of their Relinquishment of the Leases. Birdsall and Hogeboom were Members of Assembly from Columbia County at this Session. This Tract was located in Clinton County, on Township three of the old Military Tract. The New York and Canadian Branches of the Company had much Difficulty in settling their Affairs. It is quite probable that the Movers in this Scheme had something in View beyond the Possession of Lands. In November, 1793, James Wadsworth and Oliver Phelps received a Circular signed by Livingston and Benton, urging the Plan of organizing

the Counties of Otsego, Tioga, Herkimer and Ontario, then comprising the whole of Central and Western New York, into an independent State. This daring Attempt at Revolution was met in a Spirit of true Patriotism; a Meeting was held at Canandaigua, and the following spirited Resolutions passed:

At a Meeting held at the Town of Canandaigua, in the County of Ontario, and State of New York, on Friday, November 8th, 1793, immediately after the Adjournment of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace; at which all the Judges and Assistant Justices, and a large Majority of the Justices of the Peace, together with all the Inhabitants convened from different Parts of the County on that Occasion, were present.

The Hon. Timothy Hosmer, Esq., first Judge of the County in the Chair.

Nathaniel Gorham Jun. Clerk.

The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

Whereas, certain restless and turbulent Characters, from the Eastern District of this State, evilly disposed towards the Welfare of this County, have for some Time past, endeavored to stir up Sedition among the peaceable Inhabitants thereof, and excite them to Acts both treasonable and improper;

And whereas, they have proposed to many Individuals of this County, that the County of Ontario, in conjunction with that of Otsego, and Part of Tioga and Herkimer, should immediately shake off all Dependence from the State of New York, and support their Independence by Force of Arms, in case the State

sary, and we flatter ourselves that the Appointment will not be inconvenient to you. We have for the present entrusted to your Care our Message to the Indians which you will

should be unwilling to ratify and confirm the same;

And whereas, the Passions of the Dishonest and Disorderly, of the Ambitious and Timid have been flattered by the Expectation of having Laws passed for the screening Individuals from the Payment of their just Debts for six Years, and they have been falsely told that all the Indian Lands, as well those belonging to the State of New York, as those which this State together with Massachusetts have guaranteed to Individuals, should become a Prey to the Capacity of their hungry Followers—and have engaged to support their Measure by a Number of armed Troops, collected from Vermont and elsewhere, in case of Opposition;

And whereas also the said Persons have called a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this County, to be convened at Geneva, in the Town of Seneca, on the twenty-fifth Day of the present Month; which Meeting is to be attended by the said Persons, and sundry others not Inhabitants of this County;

Therefore, Resolved, That the Inhabitants of the County of Ontario, sensible of many Advantages that they have derived from their Connection with one of the most respectable States in the Union, and desirous of the Continuation of the same Advantages, highly resent the ill-timed and improper Attempt made by the Characters above alluded to, to disturb their Peace and Harmony, that they conceive their Measures as pregnant with Danger, and such as if carried into effect, would introduce into our infant County, all the complicated Evils which Anarchy and Confusion can create.

Resolved, That this Meeting highly resent the Threats made use of by the said Persons, and conceive that, under the Protection of the State of New York, they have nothing to fear from any Banditti they can collect, for the Purpose of forcing them into Measures which they heartily disapprove of.

Resolved, That this Meeting, fully impressed with the Impossibility of the proposed State's defraying the Expences of the most moderate Government that can be devised, and aware of the Impolicy as well as the Injustice of raising by enormous Taxes on uncultivated Lands such a Revenue, or of devoting to those Expences Property purchased under the Faith of the States of New York and Massachusetts, and of drawing into our flourishing County, People, that such iniquitous Measures would attract; recommend to the Persons above alluded to, to pursue some more laudable Mode of gratifying their Ambition, and to desist from Proceedings altogether Hostile to our Interest and Welfare.

Resolved also, That it is the Opinion of this Meeting, that the proposed Meeting at Geneva ought not to be attended, as it was called by Strangers to the County, and that we will consider as Inimical to the County, such Persons belonging to it, who, at said Meeting shall consent to any of the Proposals before reprobated.

Resolved, That this Meeting expect, after having made this public Declaration of their Situation, that those entrusted with the Administration of the State, will take the most vigorous Measures to suppress any of the Attempts made to destroy the Peace and Quiet of this County.



herewith receive and which we request you to forward to them as soon as possible in such Manner as you shall suppose best, so that they may receive it with Certainty. You will observe that it will be necessary to provide a proper Belt to accompany the Message. We must also depend upon you for an immediate Communication of the Answer from the Indians, and we shall then have it in our Power to determine as to Provisions and other Requisites for the Treaty, which we shall intrust you to procure, and will furnish you with Money as well for that Purpose as for paying the Messenger or Messengers, as you may find necessary to employ to convey the Message to the Indians. The holding of the proposed Treaty with the Indians is of the utmost Importance, and we commit it to your Discretion to use such Means for effecting this Object as you shall deem proper, notwithstanding our particular Instructions at present do not extend beyond the sending of our Message to the Indians.

We are Sir,

Your most obedt. Servants.

By Order of the Board.

GEO: CLINTON.

JOHN TAYLER, Esquire,  
Albany.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Meeting, together with the Clerk thereof, be requested to sign the above Resolutions, and cause them to be printed in the different Newspapers printed in this State. By Order of the Meeting.

(Signed) TIMOTHY HOSMER, Chairman.

A True Copy. NATH. GORHAM JUN. Clerk.

—*Turner's Phelps & Gorham's Purchase; Albany Gazette, Nov. 25, 1793.*

[*Albany Gazette, Nov. 17, 1794.*]

From Whitestown, Nov. 5.

"*And Satan came also among them.*"

A Gentleman directly from Canan-  
darqua informs that 1600 Indians had  
come in to the Treaty on Monday  
se'night, and also that Wm. Johnson

a British Indian Agent and a Mr. Street,  
the Indian Interpreter from Niagara,  
was also there, and had found Means  
to collect 26 Chiefs in a Bye-Place, and  
were haranguing them in the most elo-  
quent and flattering Manner when dis-  
covered by the Inhabitants; they were  
using the most persuasive Arts, together  
with Offers of large Presents to induce  
the Indians to turn their Arms against  
the United States. The Meeting broke  
up in a disorderly Manner. The In-  
habitants were greatly exasperated at  
this insolent Conduct of British Agents,  
and it is said they gave out that if Col.  
Pickering did not cause their Arrest they  
would inflict upon them the Yankee  
Punishment of Tar and Feathers.

Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor be requested to write to his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, informing him of the Proceedings of this Board, and requesting that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will join in the proposed Treaty.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Stephen Hendrickson in Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess, the twelfth Day of March, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
William Floyd, Samuel Jones,  
Ezra L' Hommedieu, &  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.

The Governor laid before the Board a Paper signed by several Indians of the Oneida Nation and attested by Matthew Lyne, respecting the Purchase made of some of their Nation by Caleb Benton, Ezekiel Gilbert and others, and Mr. Lyne appeared before the Board and was examined; Thereupon

Resolved, That a Message be sent to the Oneida Nation, and that Mr. Benson prepare a Draft thereof.

Resolved further, That a Letter be written to John Tayler, Esquire, to accompany the Message to the Oneida Nation, and that Mr. Benson prepare a Draft thereof.

Mr. Benson laid before the Board a Draft of a Message to the Oneida Nation, which being read and amended, was agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following:

Brothers: A Paper purporting to be a Message to the Assembly of this State and signed with the Names of several Indians of your Nation, has been received by the Legislature of this State and has by them been delivered over to me and the other Persons whom they have appointed Commissioners on their behalf to hold Treaties with the Indians. The Commissioners had previously resolved to hold a Treaty with the Six Nations at Fort Schuyler on the 10th of July

next, and I sent to you for your Information a Copy of the Message to the Six Nations of Indians inviting them to the Treaty. At the Treaty the several Matters in the above mentioned Papers contained will be fully considered, and in the mean Time my Advice to you and your People is that you keep Peace and Order among yourselves, and by no Means suffer any Persons to come and settle on your Lands. It is earnestly our Wish that as many of your People do attend the Treaty as possible, as the Business to be there transacted is of the greatest Importance both to you and us.

Mr. Benson also laid before the Board a Draft of a Letter from his Excellency the Governor to John Tayler, Esquire, which was read and agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following :

Sir: Since the closing of our Letter to you of the 10th instant, the Legislature has delivered over to us the Papers inclosed in this Dispatch. They were received by the Assembly under a Cover only, and without any farther Communication, and brought to this Place by Mr. Matthew Lyne, and who appears to have been employed expressly for the Purpose. These Papers are communicated to you as possibly containing some Information which may be of Use to you in your Endeavours to promote the Public Interest with Respect to the great Object of the Treaty. From Mr. Lyne's Information the Paper purporting to be a Message from the Oneidas in an English Translation, the Original being in French, as was signed at Oneida. Three or four Indians only came with it to Schenectady, and they may still be there. We would suggest to you that probably it would be useful if you was to go to Schenectady and converse with those Indians and inform them generally of the Measures we have taken for holding the general Treaty. The Letter from the Governor to the Oneidas, which is left open for your Perusal, is also to be forwarded as soon as possible.

At a Meeting of the Commisioners at the House of  
Walter Heyer, in the City of New York, the 18th  
Day of April, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
John Lawrence, Samuel Jones, &  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.

The Governor laid before the Board a Letter from John Tayler, Esquire, to him of 20th ulto. accepting of his Appointment as Agent, and also another Letter from Mr. Tayler of the 9th inst, covering Copy of his (Mr. Tayler's) Speech to some Indians of the Oneida Nation, with a Copy of their Answer thereto, which are in the Words following:

Albany, 20th March, 1788.

Sir: Your Favours of the 10th and 12th instant with the several Inclosures were delivered me the 17th, since which I have not been able to procure a trusty Messenger to the Six Nations, as a great Number in this City are concerned in the *Long Lease*. Mr. John Bleeker, the most conversant in the Indian Language and Manners, and not interested with Livingston, objects to going as the Breaking up of the Winter has rendered the Roads almost impassable. I set off immediately for Schenectady. The Indians who brought the Petition to that Place, which was handed to the Legislature, stayed with him. I think he may direct me to proper Persons; if I can not procure one there I will go to the German Flatts, or farther if necessary. So many Obstructions will be thrown in the Way of this Business, that it will be necessary to conduct this Matter with the utmost Caution. Livingston is to make the Indians a Payment the 25th inst. I shall from time to time send your Excellency such Information as I obtain, and will be happy to execute any Directions you may think proper to forward me.

I am your Excellency's  
most obt. Servant,

JOHN TAYLER.

GEO. CLINTON.

Sir: In my Letter of the 19th ultimo to your Excellency I mentioned that I intended setting out immediately for Schenectady. On my Arrival I called on Mr. Penet. This Gentlemen offered me every Assistance in his Power. The Ice in the River could not be passed, I was therefore obliged to return and wait until the 28th, at which Time I crossed and went to Fort Schuyler accompanied by Mr. Lebon who trades at Oneida for Mr. Penet. The great Depth of Snow in that Country obliged us to go on Foot from the German Flatts and rendered it very difficult to proceed any farther, I dispatched a Man to Oneida, and four Days after Colo. Louis, Schonondo, Peter the Beach Tree, Capt. David and an Onondago Chief arrived, the only principal Men that were in the Castle, except Jacob Reed; the others were out hunting. I delivered your Message together with that for the Six Nations with a Belt, and left a Copy of the Message to the Six Nations with them and prevailed on Colo. Louis and Schonondo to deliver it to the Senecas. As Peter had been in Favour of Livingston, I thought it proper to say something to them, a copy of which I inclose, and an Abstract of their Answer. The Indians have engaged to set out immediately and expect to return in three Weeks to me at Albany. I shall instantly forward their Answer to you.

A Mr. De Bergh from Tioga, a Clerk to Mr. Penet, came to Schenectady while I was above, and informed that Livingston had sent fourteen Slays laden with Goods into the Indian Country. They got within 50 Miles of Tioga, and could proceed no farther; That the Senecas were exceedingly dissatisfied with Livingston, and were determined not to abide by the Bargain; charging him with having cheated them, and threatened Ryckman for having assisted him in cheating them; That near 160 Families were at Tioga with a considerable Number of Cattle, in Order to form a Settlement on those Lands, but were very much at a loss as they had heard that the State were determined to prevent any Settlement being made. Mr. Penet dispatched De Bergh with your Proclamation to shew those People and the Indians; and desired him to inform the Indians that a Message from the Governor

for them had gone to the Westward. The Distresses of the Indians are so great, owing to the long Winter, that if Mr. Livingston thinks proper to deliver Goods to them they will receive them, but I am convinced it will have no Effect so as to prevent the Treaty taking Place. Colo. Louis assisted Livingston at the Treaty, and told me that Mr. Livingston said he was authorized by the State. He has a Demand against him and is much dissatisfied, and I am persuaded will execute the Trust I have reposed in him, with the utmost Fidelity. If anything should suggest itself necessary for me to do I shall be happy in being favoured with your Commands. I am with the utmost Esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient &  
most humble Servt.

Albany, 9th April, 1788.  
GOVERNOR CLINTON.

JOHN TAYLER.

Brothers: The Governor and Great Men of the State of New York have received your Message and have listened to what you said unto them. They have sent an Answer by me. I would not intrust their Message to any one but resolved to come & see you myself. The Roads are so bad that I could not get farther than this Place. I have sent for you, Sachems and Warriors to meet me here; I am glad to see you, and will now deliver the Message.

Brothers: I have likewise another Message from your Father the Governor to the Six Nations which he desired me to send to them, and he told me that the safest Way was to send it by some of the Oneidas, as he was sure his Friends the Oneidas would deliver it carefully. I have it now with me and wish you would send it off immediately by two of your Chiefs, and I will give you who go a little Money, and will provide you with some Bread and Pörk to support you on your Journey, and I will return and wait for the Answer of the Six Nations at Albany, which I expect you will bring to me, and I will write to the Governor that he may be sure it will be safe delivered.

Brothers: Since we are now together, I will speak a few

Words to you, and if I speak Truth I am sure you will listen to me, and if I do not speak Truth I do not want to be heard.

Brothers: You will remember that a few Years ago, when some of our white People purchased Lands from the Oneida Nation, contrary to the good old Custom which was before, the Governor and our great Men the white People were much grieved at it, and the Governor soon after held a Treaty and bought the Lands the Oneidas chose to sell. You remember this was done in a fair, open Manner in the Presence of the whole Oneida Nation, and they were honestly paid, and the young Men helped to mark the Trees, so that they knew what they sold, and if any of our People offered to come any farther than was agreed on, our Father the Governor would assist you to drive them off.

Brothers: When the Governor and great Men of the State buy Lands from you, there never happens any Disputes, and every Business that is done in the good old Way is plain and easy. Your Fathers and ours tried all Ways and liked that the best, and they have walked in that Path a long Time. But if disobedient Children from among us go into your Country, and take a Barrel or two of Rum, and call a Council, and if you are so unwise as to leave off hunting and hold Councils when such People call, and sell or lease your Lands to them, and if they do not pay you who will help you. And if they say you shall keep a Country to live in, and afterwards settle white People on it and drive you off, how can you expect Assistance from your Friends; or if they promise to pay you every Year a Sum of Money, and they will not do it, it will be very hard and you cannot complain to the Governor and our Chiefs, for you have brought the Trouble on yourselves.

Brothers: If all the Money that you are to receive for your Country was divided among you it would not amount I believe to more than four Pence to each Person, and if you could not get your yearly Rent, to free yourselves from further Troubles, having lost all your Friends by departing from the good old Rule, you would be obliged to sell your Papers, which would bring you but a small Sum, and perhaps when that

Money was divided it would not amount to more than one Shilling to each Person, and so by acting wrong and forsaking the old Path in which your Forefathers walked safely, you would lose your Friends and lose your Country.

Brothers: These Things grieve your Friends very much, and all the white People (except a few disobedient Children) are very sorry for it. However it is not yet too late to make all Things right; and if you attend at the Council Fire which will be lighted at Fort Schuyler the 10th Day of July next, your true and ancient Friends the Governor and Chiefs of the State will meet you there, and will brighten the Chain of Friendship, and will put you in the right Way and will support you in it.

Brothers: In the Governor's Message he requests that you will not let any white People settle on your Lands; I hope you will attend to his Advice.

*Indians' Answer.*

Brother: We have travelled a bad Road, and are very much tired. We are glad to see you here. You have told us good News. We hear the Governor's Message with great Joy, and we will tell it to all our Friends, and will deliver the Governor's Message and Belt to the Senecas, and if those you send the Message by should take sick, we will send it by some safe Men. The Road is open to Fort Schuyler, and all the Nations will meet you there after the Corn is howed. We hope you will not fail to meet us there.

Brother: You have told us the Truth and it has made us very glad to hear our Friend speak to us, and we will not forget what you have said to us, and we hope to see you at Fort Schuyler with the Governor, and that we shall be put in the right Way. We will certainly meet you there, and listen to your good Advice.

LOUIS,  
SCHONONDO,  
PETER,  
DAVID,  
KAYANDERONQUA.



Thereupon Resolved, that the Board deem it necessary that the Sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to John Tayler, Esquire, for the Purpose of procuring Supplies and forwarding Messages and Dispatches to and from the Six Nations of Indians, and that the Governor draw his Warrant on the Treasurer for that Sum, payable to Mr. Tayler or his Order.

The Governor also laid before the Board a Copy of a Letter written by him to his Excellency Governor Hancock, together with his Answer thereto, which are in the Words following, to wit:

Sir: At the Request of the Senate and Assembly of this State, I do myself the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed Papers.

These Communications sufficiently explain themselves and evince the Necessity of speedy and effectual Means, not only for the Preservation of the Public Right but to prevent the Confusion and Disorder which will ensue, by permitting Individuals to acquire a Title in a Mode not recognized by Law.

We persuade ourselves your Legislature will be equally impressed as we are with the Importance of this Business and as our Interests in the Lands reciprocally ceded to each other, is inseparable, we have assured ourselves of suitable Coöperation on the Part of your State in such Measures as the Exigencies may require.

It would have been most agreeable to us previously to have conferred with the Commissioners to be appointed by your State as to the Time and Place of holding the Treaty. This however would have been attended with a Delay which might have proved very injurious; I have therefore already dispatched Messages to the Indians inviting them to a Treaty at Fort Schuyler on the first Day of July next.

*Governor Hancock's Answer.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Council Chamber, Boston, April 5th, 1788.

Sir: The polite Attention your Excellency has paid to

this Commonwealth in your several Communications which I have had the Honor of receiving on the Subject of the Western Lands have been exceedingly pleasing to the Legislature, and they have requested me to signify the same to your Excellency and that they entertain a high Sense of the spirited and decisive Measures which the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Senate and Assembly of the State of New York have taken with Regard to the unwarrantable and unlawful Practices of John Livingston and others in obtaining Leases from the Indians, of the Lands lately the Subject of a Compact between the two Governments, and that this Court unite with them in declaring the said Leases to be null and void. I have the Honor also of informing your Excellency, that the embarrassed Situation of this Commonwealth has prevented their joining with your State in the proposed Treaty with the Indians, and induced them to comply with the Proposal of certain of their Citizens, for purchasing the Right of Preëmption, which was by the tenth Article of the Compact aforesaid ceded to this Commonwealth. I have the Honor to be with great Esteem,

Your Excellency's  
most obedt. & very humble Servt.

JOHN HANCOCK.

His Excellency

GEORGE CLINTON, Esq.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of  
Richard Varick in the City of New York, the third  
Day of May, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
John Lawrence, Samuel Jones,  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.

The Governor laid before the Board a Letter from John Livingston to him covering certain Proposals to the Commissioners, which Letter and Proposals are in the Words following:

Sir: I have taken the Liberty to inclose to your Excellency the Propositions I promised. If your Excellency and

the Commissioners think them such as the State ought to accept of, I will do myself the Honor to attend at any Time and explain every Matter relative to the Business. I mean the second Proposition only to be recommendatory according to the Resolution.

I wish much to leave this Town on Sunday; the Nature of my Business is such that I must return immediately. Your Excellency will confer a particular Favor on me if you can make it convenient to call a Meeting tomorrow and decide the Matter.

I am your Excellency's  
most obedt. Humble Servt.

JNO: LIVINGSTON.

Governor CLINTON.

New York, May 2nd, 1788.

*Copy of Propositions.*

Mr. John Livingston, in Behalf of himself and his Associates, proposes to the Commissioners for holding Treaties with the Indians, to obtain from the State of New York a Conveyance of all the Lands owned by the said Indians within the Claim of New York upon the following Terms, to wit:

1st. The State to repay Mr. Livingston and his Associates the Consideration Money for which the Indians executed the Lease, together with all the Costs and Expenses which attended the obtaining the said Lease, and no Monies to be paid but such as appear from proper Vouchers to have been actually paid or secured to be paid by the said Livingston and his Associates.

2nd. The State in Consideration of the Conveyance to it, by the Indians, to grant of the said Lands one Million one hundred thousand Acres to the said John Livingston and his Associates jointly, one Moiety of which Land so granted to be located as soon as possible in the Oneida Country, and the other Moiety in the Scenakee, Cayuga or Onondago Country.

Mr. Livingston makes this Proposition in Behalf of himself and his Associates in the fullest Confidence that if the

Proposition be disapproved by the Commissioners it shall never be used directly or indirectly to the Prejudice of himself and his Associates, or either of them, but shall in every Respect be considered as if the same had never been made.

JNO: LIVINGSTON.

The Board having taken the same into Consideration: Resolved, the said Proposals are inadmissible and such as the Board are not authorized to accept of, and that a Letter be written to him to this Effect, which being prepared was read and agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following:

New York, May 3d, 1788.

Sir: I have received your Letter of Yesterday with the Proposals inclosed and have this Day laid them before the Commissioners in this City.

In Answer I am requested by the Board to inform you that your Propositions are of such a Nature that they do not conceive themselves authorized by Law to treat with you thereon, and if they had Authority for that Purpose, the Propositions would be considered by them as altogether inadmissible. I am Sir your obt. Servt.

JOHN LIVINGSTON, Esq.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of his Excellency the Governor in the City of New York, the twenty-seventh Day of May, 1788.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.  
Samuel Jones, and

The Governor laid before the Board two Letters from John Tayler, Esquire, to him of the 5th & 16th instant, which are in the Words following:

Sir: The inclosed from Mr. Penet, covering a Letter from Mr. Paroche (a Trader for Penet at Oneida), containing a Report from Coll. Louis and Schonondo, relative to your Message to the Six Nations, was delivered to me last Night. The Translation is indifferent, I shall therefore de-

tain it. The Uneasiness prevailing among the Six Nations arises in a great Measure from the improper Procedure of Individuals towards them respecting their Lands. I have therefore Hopes that your Message, which reached them in a proper Time, may have a good Effect, altho' the Account appears to be alarming. Paroche has committed a Mistake in taking Louis' and Schonondo's Speech to the Genesees. It is supposed that Louis meant to say, That the Governor of New York was going to hold a great Council to confirm the Agreement made at Fort Stanwix. I shall send off this Morning for Louis and Schonondo to come to this Place, and will forward any further Intelligence that I may obtain, and will endeavour to execute any Directions that you may think proper to send. *Le Bon*, mentioned by Paroche, is the Person who went with me to Fort Schuyler. I have drawn on the Treasury for one hundred Pounds.

I have the Honor to be your  
Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

JOHN TAYLER.

Albany, 5th May, 1788.  
GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Sir: In my Letter to your Excellency of the 5th instant, I mentioned that I intended sending for Louis and Schonondo. Louis arrived this Evening, and Schonondo being very sick sent an old Man named Lowrence to represent him. They confirm what was transmitted by Paroche from Oneida, and in Addition say that they have not the least Doubt but that the Senecas will attend the Treaty at Fort Schuyler. That the chief Man of that Nation with whom they conversed, told them that they might rely on it. Mr. John Livingston met Louis on the Road to Schenectady and informed him that he had Orders from the State of Massachusetts to take the Lease from the Indians, it therefore became necessary to explain the Nature of the Agreement between our State and Massachusetts, in which General Schuyler was so obliging as to assist me. They appeared to be perfectly satisfied and were of my Opinion that the Senecas, if properly informed, would reject

the Contract they had entered into with Livingston, until they had finished the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, as they positively asserted that he was sent by the State. Louis has his Note for two hundred Pounds, as a Compensation for the Assistance he rendered in compleating the Purchase, but declared that he aided him under an impression that he was sent by the State. A Meeting of the Oneidas will be called by Livingston, and Presents made them. Louis and Schonondo will so fully explain the Intentions of the State, as to frustrate any thing that he can do, and Mr. Kirkland will have little Influence at Oneida. In one of his Sermons to them previous to the grant of the long Lease, he observed that his Thoughts were too extensive, their Country so large that he could not collect himself, and urged the Propriety of selling a Part and then his Ideas would be more confined and he would preach better; they have discovered his Views and despise him. I have advanced the Messenger fifteen Pounds six Shillings in Specie, and sixteen Pounds in Goods. I have likewise sent a Boat laden with Indian Corn to the Oneidas in the Name of the Governor: I have further promised to Louis a Reward when the Treaty will be held at Fort Schuyler and have engaged him to return here with the Messenger who is to come to Oneida from Buffaloe Creek, and to render any other Assistance that will be required of him. Mr. Livingston and his Associates are determined to prevent a Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and assert that they will certainly succeed. It therefore becomes necessary on the Part of the State to make use of every possible Means to counteract their Intentions. I should therefore wish to have the Directions of the Commissioners. A considerable Quantity of Goods is carried up by Mr. Livingston, and upwards of one hundred Head of Cattle have lately gone through this City and Numbers of Persons who propose settling in that Country. Permit me to suggest that as in all Probability great Numbers of Indians will attend the Treaty, the Supplies ought to be adequate and procured in Time. I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedt. humble Servt.

Albany, 16th May, 1788.

JOHN TAYLER.

Thereupon Resolved, that a Letter be written to Mr. Tayler in Answer to his of the 16th, which being prepared was read and agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following :

New York, 27th May, 1788.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 16th instant, which I have communicated to Messrs. Jones, Varick and Benson, the Commissioners now in Town. We would advise that as soon as it is ascertained that the Indians will meet us, and you can form some Estimate of the Numbers which probably will attend, that you may make such Arrangements as you shall conceive most eligible for procuring the Provisions and Liquors to be dealt out to the Indians. The different Kinds of Provisions and the Quantity of each, we must submit to your Judgment, as we do also the Mode of procuring these Supplies, whether by Contract or otherwise. If a certain Proportion of Provisions were salted, it would probably be cheaper, and at the same Time more agreeable to the Indians; and we would also suggest to you that if the Flour can be procured in the Neighbourhood of the German Flatts, the Expence of Transportation will be saved. It will however be important that whatever Measures you take, or whatever Engagements you enter into, that they may be as certain as possible, so that we may depend on having the Provisions from Time to Time as they may be wanted. In Addition to the Sum of £100 heretofore advanced to you, I have this Day given a Warrant on the Treasurer in your Favour for £500, which you will draw for as these Preparations and the other Occasions may require. You will immediately transmit to me the Answers from the Indians as soon as you shall receive them, so that we may in Season give you such farther Directions as shall appear necessary.

I am, &c.

GEO. CLINTON.

Resolved also, that the Board deem it necessary that the Sum of five hundred Pounds be advanced to Mr. Tayler for the Purposes of procuring Supplies and Necessaries for holding a Treaty with the Six Nations of Indians.

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On the 4th of June the Governor received from Mr. Tayler a Letter of the 29th May, which is in the Words following, to wit:

Albany, 29th May, 1788.

Sir: In my Letter to your Excellency of the 16th instant by Post, I mentioned the Arrival of Coll. Louis in this City and the Substance of the Information I had received from him, and suggested the Propriety of making the necessary and adequate Provisions for holding the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and informed you of the Advances I made the Indians, to which I have received no Answer. I am of Opinion that Beef and Flour, particularly, must be procured in this Quarter and Boats built for the Purpose of transporting the Stores and Provisions, &c. I must therefore again entreat the Commissioners to forward their Instructions. I am apprehensive that unless immediate Preparations are made it will be impossible to have the Stores up in Season. I would not wish to be too urgent but fear too great Delays. I have already expended the greater Part of the Sum I have drawn for and Money is a necessary Requisite.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

JOHN TAYLER.

P. S. I hope the Commissioners will be pointed in their Instructions.

Governor CLINTON.

And it being impracticable to convene a sufficient Number of the Members in the City of New York to form a Board, the Governor requested Mr. Varick to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Tayler's Letter and to form a Duplicate of the Governor's last Letter to him, and Mr. Varick accordingly wrote a Letter to Mr. Tayler in the Words following:

Sir: The preceding is Copy of a Letter transmitted to you by Post on the 28th inst. since which his Excellency the Governor has received yours of the 29th, the Receipt of which I am requested to announce to you. You will observe



from the preceding Letter, that it is not the Intention of the Commissioners to circumscribe your Discretion by any particular Instructions on the Subject of your Agency. This they consider as unnecessary, having the fullest Confidence in your Judgment and Prudence. There is not a Board of Commissioners in Town. Arrangements will be made for further Supplies of Cash previous to the Governor's going to Poughkeepsie. As soon as you transmit positive Intelligence that the Indians will attend, I am to write to L'Hômmiedieu and Floyd. You will be pleased to advise me whether one or more large Marquees can be procured at Albany for the Accommodation of the Commissioners and their Suite. If you cannot procure them I must try General Knox. The Count Moustiers and his Sister-in-Law, the Marchioness,<sup>1</sup> have expressed a strong Desire to attend the Treaty. If they do, it will require some additional Provision on your Part. It may not be improper to hint to you that we rely wholly on you for Supplies of every Kind for the Commissioners, &c.; as you are to partake of the Ship's Fare, I doubt not but it will be good. I am in Haste and with Esteem Sir,           Your obedt. Servt.

R. VARICK.

JOHN TAYLER, Esq.  
New York June 5th, 1788.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Peter Tappen, Esquire, in Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess, the sixteenth Day of June, 1788.

Present:    His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
          John Lawrence,                           Egbert Benson.  
          Samuel Jones, &

The Governor laid before the Board a Letter from John

<sup>1</sup> The Count de MOUSTIER, appointed by Louis XVI on the 17th of Sept., 1787, to succeed the Chevalier de la Luzerne as Minister Plenipotentiary from France, was publicly received in that Capacity by Congress, Feb. 26, 1788. — (*Journals of Congress.*) The Lady was the Marchioness de Biron. The Marquee used by the French Party had been owned by Lord Cornwallis. — *Elkanah Watson's Hist. of Canals*, 15.

Taylor, Esquire, to him of the 8th instant, which is in the Words following:

Sir: Yesterday Evening Lowrence, an Oneida Sachem, and three young Men delivered me the inclosed Letter under Cover directed to your Excellency and five Strings of Wampum. They say they were brought to Oneida by three Cayugas who informed them that it contained an Answer to your Excellency's Message. Concluding that by the Contents of this Letter my Conduct would be regulated as to procuring Supplies, I have taken the Liberty to open it. I have my Fears that a small Number of the Six Nations, except the Oneidas, will attend the Council at Fort Schuyler. General Schuyler when the Indians delivered the Information contained in the inclosed Paper, is of Opinion with me that it would be proper to postpone the Treaty until some Time in September. As the Supplies the Indians have and will receive at the different Treaties will support them until that Period, and when they are exhausted they will be more anxious to meet the Governor than they appear to be at present, and the Time is too short to admit of their Return from Fort Pitt. They say that the Meeting at Buffaloe Creek was very numerous. That Brandt was gone to Quebec. They suppose Butler<sup>1</sup> to have been present. That the Oneidas who attended have not returned but are silent as to the Result of the Meeting. I expect soon to hear what has been determined on and will immediately transmit it to you. They hold up an Idea in the Letter that they had promised Congress not to attend any Treaty but what should be called by their authority. Would it not be proper for the State to send some Person to Fort Pitt. The Indians seem to think

<sup>1</sup> Col. JOHN BUTLER, one of the leading Tories of the Mohawk Valley, commanded the Enemy in the Massacre of Wyoming, and by Exhortation and Example distinguished himself by Deeds of Cruelty throughout the Revolution. His Estates were confiscated in New York, but he received Rewards and Office at the Hands of the British, and became

the Successor to Guy Johnson as Indian Agent. He was the Incumbent of this Trust at the Time these Treaties were held, and continued in Office till his Death, which occurred about the Year 1800. His Son, Walter N. Butler, scarcely less Infamous in the Annals of the Frontiers, was killed on West Canada Creek, October 30, 1781.

that we wish by all Means to deprive them of their Lands and complain that so many Attempts are made by Individuals for that Purpose, who tell them that they are authorized by the State or Congress, and lament that they have no Person to complain to. I informed Lowrence that the Assertions made by Livingston and Schuyler were not true; that their adhering to any improper Bargain entered into by a few of their worst Men with Livingston, would reduce them to the Situation Schuyler mentioned; that the State would protect them from Injury and Insult, provided they followed the Advice that had been so often repeated to them not to sell their Lands to Individuals but to treat with the Governor only, and that the Governor would fully explain to them the good Intention of the State at the Treaty. Livingston and Jellis Fonda are returned. The others are gone on. They say that they were taken sick. The Speeches were delivered by Dean as Interpreter for Schuyler and Livingston. The Letter from Buffaloe Creek was written by Stephens Son to the British Interpreter at Niagara, who likewise resides there. Lowrence thinks the Six Nations will not have Time to attend the Treaty as early as the Commissioners propose. Should it be thought advisable to alter the Time, a Message ought to be dispatched for that Purpose. Previous to the Arrival of the Indians, I sent Thornton<sup>1</sup> to finish a Contract I had made at Canajoharie for 200 Barrels of Flour at 16s. pr. C. Wt. and directed six Batteaux to be built; wrote to Mr. White to have ready the Beef, who was to furnish it at 24s. pr. C. Wt.; had engaged 40 Barrels of Pork and sent for a few Sheep. I shall direct the building the Batteaux to go on slowly and shall stop the other Preparations as far as possible if the Commissioners think proper to direct it. I hope they will send their Instructions and that they may be as pointed as possible. I have given the Indians seven Pounds sixteen Shillings in Specie and about that amount in Goods.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's  
most obedt. humble Servt.

Albany, 8th June, 1788.

JOHN TAYLER.

<sup>1</sup> Capt. JOHN THORNTON resided at Esperance, Schoharie County. Duaneburgh, and built the first Mill at

Account of Transactions of John Livingston, Esqr., and his Associates at Oneida, related by Lowrence and three young Men.

On the Arrival of Mr. Livingston at the Oriskany, he sent a Message to the Oneidas requesting them to meet him at Fort Schuyler; accordingly several of the Oneidas came there and proposed that they should go to their Castle, to which Livingston objected, as it would occasion too great a Delay and consume too much Provision. They then agreed to meet at the Oneida Lake; accordingly the whole of the Castle, young and old, met them there; when Peter Schuyler arose and having a Paper in his Hand addressed the Oneidas as follows:

Brothers: The Governor will soon be at the Carrying Place to hold a great Council with you. I now tell you what he intends to do. He will bring a great Deal of Money with him and will try to buy your Land, and if he cannot get you to sell he will endeavour to lease your Lands and promise to pay you some Time hence, and after he has got it he will settle it and drive you off.

Brothers: I now warn you of his Intentions, therefore take Care; you see how the Stockbridge Indians are served. They have lost their Lands and are obliged to beat Sticks along the Rivers into Brooms, and you will be served just so.

Livingston then rose and repeated in Substance what was before told them by Schuyler. The Indians replied that they had no business with him, and that he had better attend to his own Concerns; that they belonged to this State, and were determined to meet the Governor at the Carrying Place. He then answered that he thought they were Men of their Words, and would stand to what they said; that they had agreed with them, but somebody had been among them since he was there and had told them to break the Agreement, therefore they were not Men of their Words.

Jacob Reed and a few of the drunken Men took some Presents, but none of the head Men would take anything, except a Pipe and Tobacco.

Buffaloe Creek, 14th May, 1788.

Sir: We have had the Pleasure of seeing your Proclamation in which we are happy to find your Excellency and your State has considered the Lease which Mr. Livingston and his Friends has taken from some of our young Men, contrary to the Resolutions and Speech from the whole of the Sachems and Chiefs of the Six Nations; the Purport of which was to cover up the Fire they had kindled at Canadasago<sup>1</sup> until the Spring, when we promised to attend. They told us they were sent by the Congress, otherwise we should not have taken the least Notice of their Message, as we had already promised Congress not to attend any Council but what should be called by their Authority. We must therefore beg of you to prevent any of your People from settling on our Lands, as we look upon the Lease not to be in the least binding, since not one Sachem or principal Woman had given their Consent, nor will we receive their Money but keep our Lands. We are all preparing to go to the Council at Tuscaroras, and have desired Mr. Livingston to meet us there, where we hope to settle all our Affairs according to Promise, and shall be ready to hear what he has to say. We shall then expect every Assistance from the Deputies from Congress to assist us in our Grievances at that Meeting. And we are much obliged to your Excellency for your obliging Speech & Attention to our Interest, and are with the greatest Respect your Excellency's most humble Servants.

Signed by a Number of Chiefs from the Six Nations.

<sup>1</sup>Canadesaga was at the Foot of Seneca Lake, adjacent to the present Village of Geneva, Ontario Co., N. Y. An ancient Fortification known as Fort Hill, is located on Lot 58, and was covered with heavy Forest Trees when first known to the Whites. Another beautiful Ground called the Old Castle, about one and a half Miles Northwest of Geneva, is covered by an Indian Orchard, and the Ground has never been plowed. This was sacred to the Burial of their Dead, and the Indians stipulated in the Treaty that the White Man's

Plow should never pass over the Bones of their Fathers. For many Years after the Purchase, the Indians came hither annually at Plowing Time, and watched the old Orchard, to see that the Stipulation was not broken. In one Corner of the Ground is a Trench and Series of Holes, the Remains of an ancient Stockade which has long since disappeared. This was one of the most favorite of the Indian Residences, and numerous Relics of Aboriginal Occupation have been found in the Vicinity.

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Thereupon Resolved, that it is proper to postpone the Time of holding the Treaty, and that a Message be sent to the Six Nations of Indians for that Purpose, the Draft of which Message being prepared, was read and agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following :

*Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations!*

Brothers! We lately sent you a Message requesting you to meet us at a Treaty to be held at Fort Schuyler on the tenth Day of July next, and we have lately been informed that probably some of your People will be abroad, so that they will not be able to attend at that Time.

Brothers! The Business of the Treaty is of the greatest Importance both to you and to us, and concerns all your Men and all your Women and all your Children, and we could wish that all your People should be there, and we have therefore postponed the Time for holding the Treaty until the first Day of September next.

Brothers! We hope that all your People will come to the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and be present when we brighten the Chain and renew the Covenant between you and us.

Brothers! We request you to send us an Answer to this Message as soon as you can, so that we may know what to depend on. I am your Friend and Brother,

GEO: CLINTON.

Poughkeepsie, June 16th, 1788.

Resolved also, that a Letter be written to Mr. Tayler in Answer to his Letter of the 8th instant, covering the Message to the Six Nations, the Draft of which Letter being prepared was read and agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following :

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 8th inst. with its Inclosures, which I have communicated to the other Commissioners, and we coincide with you in Opinion that it will be most advisable to postpone the Time for holding the Treaty with the Indians, and we have therefore sent you an additional Message to them for that Purpose, and which you

will forward with all possible Dispatch. We have left a Blank in the Message to be filled up with such Time as you shall judge most eligible, but the Day not to be more distant than the 10th of September. The earlier the Treaty is held the better, but we also suppose it of Importance that as many of the Indians should attend as can probably at any Time be convened, and therefore in fixing the Time you will be governed by these Considerations.

As we have committed to you to ascertain the Time when the Treaty will be held, you will without any particular Instructions from us, be able to regulate yourself with Respect to the Preparations in procuring Provisions & Batteaux.

I am, &c.

GEORGE CLINTON.

JOHN TAYLER, Esq.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Peter Tappen in Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess, the twelfth Day of July 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
Samuel Jones & Egbert Benson.

The Governor laid before the Commissioners three Letters from John Tayler, Esquire, to him, to wit, one of the 17th ulto. covering a Letter from Jacob Reed of the Oneida Nation, and one of the 2nd and another of the 6th inst. with certain Inclosures, which are in the Words following:

Sir: This Day Coll. Louis, a Son of Schonondo and a War Chief from Oneida, arrived and delivered me the Particulars of what passed between Mr. Livingston and the Oneida Nation, the Substance of which was forwarded with the Letter from Buffaloe Creek. They further add that two Senecas will not meet at Canadasago, although Dean and McKinstry have gone for the Purpose of inviting them to attend. Permit me to suggest that it will be proper to send a Message to the Senecas in Order to be informed when they will meet. Two Oneidas have agreed to go with any white

Man that is sent to them for that Errand. A Mr. Alcott<sup>1</sup> has been sent to the Oneidas to press them to go to Canadasago, which they all refused; he is still there, and probably may prevail with a few. General Schuyler will inform your Excellency with any Particulars that has passed here.

I am Your Excellency's  
most obedt. Servt.

JOHN TAYLER.

Albany, 17th June 1788.

N. B. Mr. Thornton, who was at Oneida, brought the inclosed Letter from Jacob Reed.

Oneida, June 12th, 1788.

Dear Sir: I take this Opportunity to write these few Lines informing Your Excellency that I am unwell, but am little better than I have been this four Days. But hope by the divine Providence of God you are well. I likewise inform Your Excellency that I am sent to appear before the Treaty held at Canadasago by the Committee of Hudson, but am not able to go. Mr. Thornton is in this Place this Morning and informs me that you are going to make a Treaty at Fort Schuyler next Month. And I must likewise inform Your Excellency that the Six Nations of Indians have been here and informed us that they are not to appear, not till the Treaty of Muskingum is over.<sup>2</sup> Sir, this is all I have to say at present.

I am your most obedt  
and humble Servant,

JAC. REED.

His Excellency  
Governor GEO. CLINTON.

<sup>1</sup> HEZEKIAH OLCOTT was an Indian Trader, who resided many Years at Oneida Village. He was one of the Leasce Company.

<sup>2</sup> The Treaty at Fort Harmar was executed Jan. 9, 1789, between Arthur St. Clair on the Part of the United States,

and the Six Nations of Indians. It purported to be a Confirmation of the Treaty of 1784 at Fort Stanwix, and provided for the Surrender of Robbers and Murderers taking Refuge in the Indian Country.—*Am. State Papers, Ind. Affairs*, i, 5; *B. D. & W.'s Ed. U. S. Laws*, i, 309.



Albany, 2nd July, 1788.

Sir: Immediately on Receipt of your Message to the Six Nations, I dispatched Capt. Thornton to them, and fixed the first Day of September; I wrote the Oneidas to send two Indians with him and directed him to take a Mr. Wemple who was a Guide to Genl. Clinton's Army to that Country, is well acquainted with the Seneca Language, and lives on the Mohawk River.

I shall immediately on Thornton's Return make the necessary Arrangements and transmit to Your Excellency the Account he brings.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's  
most obedt. Servant,

JOHN TAYLER.

Governor CLINTON.

Sir: The several Inclosures were delivered to me last Night; they were sent to Mr. Penet<sup>1</sup> by his Clerk at Oneida. If the Indians may be credited the Result of the Treaty at

<sup>1</sup> PETER PENET was a Merchant of Nantes in France, and the Correspondence of that Period shows that he offered at various Times to become the Medium for furnishing Military Supplies and Arms for the Colonies in the Revolution. His House became Insolvent, and he removed to America, and settled at Schenectady as an Indian Trader, dealing chiefly with the Oneidas, among whom he had an Agent, and with whom he acquired considerable Influence.

Under a Promise in an alleged Dream he induced the Oneidas to stipulate the Gift of a Tract ten Miles square, and subsequently by his ambitious but shallow Artifices, he created great Difficulties among these Indians. His Partizans were subsequently termed the Pagan Party, as opposed to the Christian Party, or the Followers of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland and other Missionaries. The Difficulties arising from Penet's Claims

as a pretended Subambassador of the King of France, are stated elsewhere at length in this Work. The Tract known as Penet's Square was located cornering upon the St. Lawrence, at the Mouth of French Creek in Jefferson County, and patented to John Duncan, a Merchant of Schenectady, his Agent in 1789. It forms the principal Part of the Towns of Orleans and Clayton. Penet died in the West Indies, and the Lands long without a resident Agent, were taken up by Squatters. After various Changes, most of these Lands were bought by John La Farge, who, by a Course of summary Measures with the *Peneters*, succeeded in gaining Confidence in his Title (but intense personal Hatred from his Settlers), and in disposing of most or all of the Lands. Hippolite Penet, a renegade Brother of Peter, attempted to claim a Title, but was defeated.—*Hough's History of Jefferson County.*

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Buffaloe Creek is fully explained. The Account corressponds with that heretofore transmitted. The Oneidas appear to be much in want of Provision, and should the Commissioners think proper a Batteaux Load or more of Indian Corn could be sent them immediately.

Permit me to observe that they appear to be disposed to render this State every Service in their Power, and perhaps some Attention to them would be necessary.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's  
most obedt. Servant,

JOHN TAYLER.

Albany, 6th July, 1788.  
Governor CLINTON.

Oneida, 27th June, 1788.

Intelligence which a Seneca Indian brought to Oneida to our Brother John Tayler to be communicated to the Governor.

There is an Indian who is come from the Council of the Genesee while Coll. Louis was with our Brother La Fleure at Schenectady. Butler has kindled a little Council Fire and assembled the Senecas. He said to the Senecas: "My Brothers, you have not the Bigness of a Foot of Land, and if you will believe me and give a Piece of Land to the Sons of Johnson, I will be able to put a Stroke in your Power. You must absolutely grant to the Sons of Johnson this Land from four Miles of the Genesee to run to four Miles or a little farther than Canadesequ, and then you will see how I will arrange the Matter. It is an Indian who is come in Secret from that Council to give us this Intelligence, and he is very certain that the Senecas have granted that Land and that if a white Man should go there from hence they would either arrest or kill him. And Butler said "My Brothers, if the Bostonians should attack me, I will attack them, and if they take up the Hatchet I will do the same. My Brothers, if they should attack me, so forceably that I cannot stand it, then I will take your War Club to help me.

U

The following is what the Oneidas said to Mr. Tayler :

Our Brother, try to talk of this to our Brother the Governor, that he may give Information of it to the English Governor or to the English Ambassador.

The Chiefs of the Oneida think that the Senecas will not have Provision for the Route ; they think it will be proper to send two Batteaux of Provisions for them to Fort Stanwix against they come.

Directed to Peter Penet Esquire, at Schenectady.

Oneida, 27th June, 1788.

In the Names of all the Village to our Brother the Governor.

Our Brother ! We thank you for the Provisions you have given us for "une Journee." We have had pr. Head two Quarts and an half of 15 Barrels of Corn which we have received, but those who have been engaged in the Business have had a little more than us. Our Brother, we request of you to assist us if you can (as you have postponed the Council for two months) with two Batteaux Loads of Corn, if not, when you come up you will find some of us dead of Hunger, for the young Men cannot hunt because we constantly retain them for the Council, and Indian Corn boiled in Water is poor Stuff ; this our Brother is what your Brothers request of you, and they all assure you of their profound Respect.

PETER MINISTER,

LOUIS CONK, &

JOHN SCHONONDO,

in the Name of the Village.

Letter which Mr. P. Penet will be so good as to have translated into English and sent to the Governor.

Oneida, 27th June, 1788.

Sir : I have received your Letter of the 23d of this Month at Fort Hunter.<sup>1</sup> On Tuesday Morning I called at Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Fort Hunter stood a short Distance fluence with the Mohawk. The Erie East of Schoharie Creek, near its Con- Canal was constructed across the Site.

Wimple's and he prepared himself immediately, and we set out in the Afternoon. We arrived at Oneida the 26th, on Thursday Night, and I sent an Express to fetch Coll. Louis & Mr. Perache to assemble the Chiefs. They have made Arrangements and sent with me the Chief who was below with me, and Coll. Louis and another of the Village. On Saturday Morning we shall set out for Nontague. When we arrive there, I shall summon the Chiefs and if anything should not turn out well I shall write you Word immediately, and the other Indian (who is the other that is with me) shall be the Bearer. If the Chiefs are not at Canadeseque I shall take another Route back of it.

Sir, he who has the Honor to be  
Your very humble Servt.

JOHN THORNTON.

Captain Thornton made me write this in French for Fear that if he should write it himself in English it might fall into the Hands of some one who would open it, seeing it was directed to Mr. Tayler, and he desires Mr. Penet to keep this Letter until he returns to Schenectady.

PERACHE.

There being but three Commissioners at Poughkeepsie, and it being impracticable to procure a Meeting of a full Board, it was judged expedient that a Letter should be sent to Mr. Tayler in Answer to his said Letter of the 6th inst., and a Letter was accordingly prepared and agreed to by the Commissioners present, which is in the Words following:

Dear Sir: The Governor has received your Letter of the 6th instant with its Inclosures. There being only three Commissioners here we cannot form a Board, but being fully in Sentiment with you, we therefore advise that some Indian Corn, and if you think proper, other Necessaries, be immediately sent to the Oneidas. The Quantity we submit to your Discretion. Immediately on the Governor's Return to New York a Quorum of the Commissioners will be convened,

when the Papers will be communicated to them, and a formal Resolution entered to warrant this Expenditure.

Yours, &c.

*Egbert Benson*

Poughkeepsie,  
July 12th, 1788.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of John Simmons, in the City of New York, on the third Day of August, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Ezra L'Hommedieu,  
Richard Varick,

Samuel Jones, and  
Egbert Benson.

The Governor laid before the Board a Letter from John Tayler, Esquire, to him, of the 16th instant, with certain Inclosures, which are in the Words following:

Sir: The inclosed Papers are just arrived from Schenectady. Mr. Penet received Thornton's Letter by Express. The Instruction that I have lately received will warrant my sending two Boats laden with Provision to Oneida, as the Indians propose to attend earlier than was intended. Exertions to procure the Supplies will be necessary, and a farther Supply of Cash will be required. I shall write immediately on Thornton's Arrival.

I am Your Excellency's  
most obedt. Servant,

JOHN TAYLER.

Albany, 16th July, 9 o'Clock P. M.  
GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Schenectady, July 16th, 1788.

Dear Sir: The inclosed is a Letter which I received late last Night by an Express, and which I send to you as the same. My Clerk at Oneida informs me that there are already some Indians on the Road for the Council which will be held at Fort Stanwix, and that the Oneida Indians demand Provision for to keep them alive when they come at Oneida.

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 157

According as my Clerk informs me, it will be necessary to send up some Batteaux with Provision immediately, for fear that if the Indians (who will arrive at Oneida) find no Provision, they will immediately return.

While I have the Honor to be, with respect,  
Dear Sir, Your most obedt. humble Servant,



JOHN TAYLER, Esqr.

Canadasago, July 8th, 1788.

Dear Sir: I have safe arrived at this Place, where I had the good luck to find the most of the Onondago and Seneca Tribe, and immediately called a Council and delivered my Message without being discovered by Livingston's Company till I had my Business completed. The Indians have agreed in Council to come to the Governor's Treaty as soon as they have finished their Business here, which will be much sooner than you expected, as they are come from the most back Towns, and they mean to come to the Governor's Treaty before they return Home. There will be I expect as much as a thousand Indians from this Quarter, that is Men, Women and Children, as far as I can find out by them. I am detained here a few Days for a few Chiefs that are to come from Buffaloe Creek, which is Abeel and four or five more. Those Chiefs that are here expect it will be about the Middle of August when they can be at Fort Stanwix to treat there with the Governor. I must acquaint you that my Presence is very mortifying to this Company at this Place; they sometimes threatened to confine me and sometimes to send me off the Ground. But this works for the Good, as it has exasperated the Indians which have secured me Protection. I have found a Piece of Letter, which I transmit to you for your Perusal, which I suppose will give you an Idea of their Uneasiness. No more at present, but I am

Yours, with Respect,  
Mr. JOHN TAYLER.

JOHN THORNTON.

The Governor also laid before Board a Letter from John Tayler, without Date, which is in the Words following:

Sir: Captain Thornton arrived Yesterday from Kanadasago, at which Place he delivered your Message to the Senecas and others of the Six Nations who were convened there. They have directed him to inform the Governor that they will meet him at Fort Schuyler the 25th of August, and that at least four hundred of the Senecas and many of the other Nations will attend. He further says that the Indians treated him with the utmost Civility, and when he was threatened and insulted, insured him their Protection. They have requested that a Boat Load of Provision may be sent to the Cayuga Ferry, in Order to enable the old Men to prosecute their Journey. He was ill used by Livingston's Party; they threatened to send him off the Ground, and insisted that no Person had a Right to spread Lies and sow Sedition among the Indians, and took every Means in their Power to insult him, and in all Probability he would have been much abused, was it not for the kind Reception and civil Treatment he received from the Indians. His Interpreter fearing that some drunken Savage might abuse him, left the Ground and returned Home. He mentions some kind Offers, also as it was hinted to him, that a young Man might be very advantageously concerned with their Company. To which he replied that neither Abuse nor kind Offers should prevent him from executing the Business committed to his Trust. He further adds that Butler is to have two Rights to be conveyed to his half-Sisters in N. England for his Services, but cannot determine whether in the Massachusetts Right or in that of this State. Mr. Kirkland arrived this Day and brought the inclosed Letter with a Belt from Joseph Brandt. He observes that as a Citizen of this State he conceives it to be his Duty to give you all the public Intelligence he possesses. That his being an Agent on the Part of the State of Massachusetts afforded him an Opportunity all the Transactions with the People of that State: that he was likewise present at many of the private Councils of the Indians, but does not

chuse to disclose such Matters as he conceives to be secret. He says that the Indians at Buffaloe Creek, at which Place Brandt and Butler were, charged Livingston with improper Conduct. Brandt said the Lease was fraudulently obtained, and spoke very harshly of Mr. Livingston in Presence of Gilbert and Benton; that after some Deliberation it was agreed by Mr. Phelps to release to the Indians near two thirds of the Lands in the Massachusetts Cession, lying to the West of the Genesee River and retain the Residue, paying therefor five thousand Dollars, twelve Head of Cattle this Fall, and two hundred Pounds annually forever; the one half in Cattle the other Cash. Mr. Kirkland further adds that he and Butler witnessed a new Lease executed by the Indians to Livingston for the Indians' Right Eastward of the Massachusetts Claim, except the Territory of the Oneidas, but does not know its Stipulations (as he says). A Copy of which Lease is in Butler's Possession. The Indians—The Savages are much divided in Sentiment. Whig and Tory still prevails. The Whig Party adheres to the State. Mr. Kirkland has declared he will have no further Connection with Livingston. He disapproves of the Principles they are going on, as he terms it, and condemns their Conduct exceedingly, and has offered me his Services if the State chuses to employ him. He returns to the Westward from N. England a fortnight hence. Mr. Lawrence is in Sentiment with me that he may be of Use to the State. An Inhabitant in the Genesee Country named Allen, offered his Services to Thornton. If the Commissioners thought proper he would come with the Indians. I shall prepare a Boat for Cayuga by the 9th of August, & could wish to have the Approbation of your Excellency on this Subject.

I have the Honor to be Your  
Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

GOV. CLINTON.

JOHN TAYLER.

N. B. A farther Supply of Cash is absolutely necessary, and ought to be sent up immediately. I shall retain the Belt sent by Brandt and some Strings of Wampum sent by Thornton.



The Governor also laid before the Board a Letter from Joseph Brandt, dated at Buffalo Creek, the 9th of July inst., and returning the Belt of Invitation to the Commissioners, which Letter is in the Words following :

Buffaloe Creek, July 9th, 1788.

Brother attend ! Since we wrote you about two Months ago respecting the Lease which Mr. Livingston had obtained of our Lands, we have held a great Council with our Brothers from Boston,<sup>1</sup> at which all the Chiefs and principal Warriors

<sup>1</sup> The Deed of Cession referred to was executed at Buffalo Creek, July 8, 1788, between Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, Purchasers under Massachusetts, and the Six Nations, for \$5,250, without any Reservations. The Tract embraced all the Lands between the State of Pennsylvania and Lake Ontario, bounded East by the Prescription Line and West by a Line described as follows : From the Line of Pennsylvania, North on a Meridian to the Confluence of the Shanahaswaikoreehi (Canaseraga) Creek and Genesee River, thence down the Genesee to a Point two Miles North of Shanawageras (Canawagus) Village, thence West twelve Miles, thence Northward on a Line that shall pass twelve Miles West of the Genesee at its most Westerly Point to the Lake.

There was subsequently much Complaint as to the Terms of this Agreement, the Indians insisting that an Annuity of \$500 was due them, and that the Payment was to have been \$10,000. In a Speech by Red Jacket, delivered before Timothy Pickering at Tioga Point two Years after, the Seneca Orator after recounting the Incidents of the Negotiation, which was protracted through the Night and till Sunrise the next Morning, said : " And last Summer a Year ago, we came to Canandaiqua expecting to receive ten thousand

Dollars, but then we found but five thousand to receive. When we discovered the Fraud, we had a Mind to apply to Congress, to see if the Matter could not be rectified : for, when we took the Money and shared it, every one here knows, that we had but about a Dollar apiece for all that Country. Mr. Street ! You very well know, that all our Lands come to was but the Price of a few Hogsheds of Tobacco ! Gentlemen who stand by [looking around and addressing himself to the White People who were present], do not think hard of what has been said. At the Time of the Treaty, twenty Broaches would not buy half a Loaf of Bread, so that when we returned Home there was not a bright Spot of Silver about us. The last Spring again, General Chapin stretched out his Hand to us to open a little Fire at Big Tree Flats ; and then I had a little Talk with him ; and finding we had but a Shilling apiece to receive, we desired him to shut up his Hand again. This is all we have to say at this Time. Mr. Street knows how hard it was for us to part with our Land. And this we said, because we wish the President to know how we have been treated." The Reader will find voluminous Papers relating to these Complaints in *American State Papers, Indian Affairs, 1.*

The Rev. Mr. Kirkland for his Serv-

of the Six Nations attended. At this great Meeting we have sold Part of our Country to our Brothers from Massachusetts

ices at this Treaty, received 2000 Acres of Land in the seventh Township, seventh Range.

In December, 1790, a large Deputation of Senecas attended upon President Washington at Philadelphia, to state their Grievances concerning this Treaty. The following Speeches, interesting from their Points of brilliant Eloquence, and as Mirrors of the Feeling professed by the Parties, will further illustrate this Subject.

*The Speech of the Corn Planter, Half Town, and Great Tree, Chiefs and Councillors of the Seneca Nation to the Great Council of the Thirteen Fires:*

Father. The Voice of the Seneca Nation speaks to you, the great Councillor, in whose Heart the wise Men of all the thirteen Fires have placed their Wisdom. It may be very small in your Ears and we therefore entreat you to hearken with Attention; for we are about to speak of Things which are to us very great. When your Army entered the Country of the Six Nations we called you the Town Destroyer; and to this Day when that Name is heard our Women look behind them and turn Pale, and our Children cling close to the Necks of their Mothers. Our Councillors and Warriors are Men, and can not be afraid; but their Hearts are grieved with the Fears of our Women and Children, and desire it may be buried so deep as to be heard no more.

When you gave us Peace, we called you Father, because you promised to secure us in the Possession of our Lands. Do this, and so long as the Lands shall remain that beloved Name will live in the Heart of every Seneca.

Father. We mean to open our Hearts

before you, and we earnestly desire that you will let us clearly understand what you resolve to do. When our Chiefs returned from the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and laid before our Council what had been done there, our Nation was surprised to hear how great a Country you had compelled them to give up to you, without your paying us anything for it. Every one said that your Hearts were yet swelled with Resentment against us for what had happened during the War, but that one Day you would reconsider it with more Kindness. We asked each other, what have we done to deserve such severe Chastisement?

Father. When you kindled your thirteen Fires separately, the wise Men that assembled at them told us that you were all Brothers, the Children of one great Father, who regarded also the Red People as his Children. They called us Brothers, and invited us to his Protection: they told us that he resided beyond the Great Water, where the Sun first rises; that he was a King whose Power no People could resist, and that his Goodness was as bright as that Sun. What they said went to our Hearts; we accepted the Invitation, and promised to obey him. What the Seneca Nation promise they faithfully perform; and when you refused Obedience to that King, he commanded us to assist his beloved Men in making you Sober. In obeying him we did no more than ourselves had led us to promise. The men who claimed this Promise told us that you were Children and had no Guns; that when they had shaken you, you would submit. We hearkened to them and were deceived, until your Army approached our Towns. We were deceived; but your People in teaching us to confide in that King had helped to

in the Presence of our Brother Coll. Butler, and have also fully settled and adjusted all our other Land Affairs, and

deceive, and we now appeal to your Heart—Is the Blame all ours?

Father. When we saw that we were deceived and heard the Invitation which you gave us to draw near to the Fire which you kindled, and talk with you concerning Peace, we made haste towards it. You then told us that we were in your Hand, and that by closing it you could crush us to nothing, and you demanded of us a great Country as the Price of that Peace which you had offered us, as if our Want of Strength had destroyed our Rights. Our Chiefs had felt your Power and were unable to contend against you, and they therefore gave up that Country. What they agreed to has bound our Nation; but your Anger against us must by this Time be cooled, and although our Strength has not increased nor your Power become less, we ask you to consider calmly. Were the Terms dictated to us by your Commissioners reasonable and just?

Father. Your Commissioners, when they drew the Line which separated the Land then given up to you from that which you agreed should remain to be ours, did most solemnly promise that we should be secured in the peaceable Possession of the Lands which we inhabited East and North of that Line. Does this Promise bind you?

Hear now, we beseech you, what has since happened concerning that Land. On the Day in which we finished the Treaty at Fort Stanwix, Commissioners of Pennsylvania told our Chiefs that they had come there to purchase from us all the Lands belonging to us, within the Limits of their State; and they told us their Line would strike the River Susquehanna below the Tioga Branch. They then left us to consider of the Bargain till the next Day; on the next

Day we let them know we were unwilling to sell all the Lands within their State, and proposed to let them have a Part of it, which we pointed out to them on their Map. They told us that they must have the whole; that it was already ceded to them by the great King at the Time of making Peace with you, and was *their own*; but they said that they would not take Advantage of that, and were willing to pay us for it after the Manner of their Ancestors. Our Chiefs were unable to contend at that Time, and therefore they sold the Lands up to the Line which was then shown them as the Line of that State. What the Commissioners had said about the Land having been ceded to them at the Peace our Chiefs considered as intended only to lessen the Price, and they passed it by with very little Notice; but since that Time we have heard so much from others about the Right to our Lands which the King gave when you made Peace with him that it is our earnest Desire that you tell us what it means.

Father. Our Nation empowered John Livingston to let Part of our Lands on Rent to be paid to us. He told us that he was sent by Congress to do this for us, and we fear he has deceived us in the Writing he obtained from us. For since the Time of our giving that Power a Man by the Name of Phelps has come among us and claimed our whole Country Northward of the Line of Pennsylvania, under Purchase from that Livingston, to whom he said he had paid \$20,000 for it. He said also that he had bought likewise from the Council of the Thirteen Fires, and paid them \$20,000 for the same.

And he said also that it did not belong to us, for that the great King had ceded the whole of it when you made

after a tedious Attention to the Business of the last Fall, transacted between Mr. Livingston and some of our Nations

Peace with him. Thus he claimed the whole Country North of Pennsylvania and West of the Lands belonging to the Cayugas. He demanded it; he insisted on his demand, and declared that he would have it *all*. It was impossible for us to grant him this, and we immediately refused it. After some Days he proposed to run a Line at a small Distance Eastward of our Western Boundary, which we also refused to agree to. He then threatened us with immediate War if we did not comply.

Upon this Threat our Chiefs held a Council, and they agreed that no Event of War could be worse than to be driven with their Wives and Children from the only Country which they had a Right to, and, therefore, weak as our Nation was, they determined to take the Chance of War, rather than to submit to such unjust Demands, which seemed to have no Bounds. Street, the great Trader to Niagara, was then with us, having come at the Request of Phelps, and as he always professed to be our good Friend, we consulted him upon the Subject. He also told us that our Lands had been ceded by the King, and that we *must* give them up.

Astonished at what we heard from every Quarter, with Hearts aching with Compassion for our Women and Children, we were thus compelled to give up all our Country North of Pennsylvania and East of Genesee River up to the Fork, and East of a Line drawn from that Fork to the Pennsylvania Line.

For this Land Phelps agreed to pay us \$10,000 in Hand, and \$1,000 a Year forever.

He paid us \$2,500 in Hand, Part of the \$10,000, and he sent us to come last Spring to receive our Money; but instead of paying us the Remainder of

the \$10,000 and the \$1,000 due for the first Year, he offered us no more than \$500, and insisted that he agreed with us for that Sum to be paid yearly. We debated with him for six Days, during all which Time he persisted in refusing to pay us our just Demand, and he insisted that we should receive the \$500; and Street from Niagara also insisted on our receiving the Money as it was offered to us. The last Reason he assigned for continuing to refuse paying us, was, *that the King had ceded the Lands to the Thirteen Fires* and that he had bought them from you and *paid you for them*. We could bear this Confusion no longer, and determined to press through every Difficulty and lift up our Voice that you might hear us, and to claim that Security in the Possession of our Lands which your Commissioners so solemnly promised us. And we now entreat you to enquire into our Complaints and redress our Wrongs.

Father. Our Writings were lodged in the Hands of Street of Niagara, as we supposed him to be our Friend; but when we saw Phelps consulting with Street on every Occasion, we doubted of his Honesty towards us, and we have since heard that he was to receive for his Endeavors to deceive us, a Piece of Land ten Miles in width West of the Genesee River and nearly forty Miles in length, extending to Lake Ontario, and the Lines of this Tract have been run accordingly, although no Part of it is within the Bounds which limit his Purchase. No doubt he meant to deceive us.

Father. You have said we are in your Hand and that by closing it you would crush us to nothing. Are you determined to crush us? If so tell us so, that those of our Nation who have become

at Canadasago, we have all concluded to permit those People to settle in our Country, and as it is agreeable to us we hope

your Children and have determined to die so may know what to do.

In this Case, one Chief has said, he would ask you to put him out of Pain. Another, who will not think of dying by the Hand of his Father or of his Brother, has said he will retire to the Chateaugay, eat of the fatal Root and sleep with his Fathers, in Peace.

Before you determine on a Measure so unjust, look up to God who made us as well as you. We hope he will not permit you to destroy the whole of our Nation.

Father. Hear our Case: Many Nations inhabited this Country, but they had no Wisdom, and, therefore, they warred together. The Six Nations were powerful, and compelled them to Peace; the Lands, for a great Extent, were given up to them; but the Nations which were not destroyed, all continued on those Lands, and claimed the Protection of the Six Nations as the Brothers of their Fathers. They were Men, and when at Peace had a Right to live upon the Earth. The French came among us and built Niagara; they became our Fathers and took Care of us. Sir Wm. Johnson came and took that Fort from the French; he became our Father, and promised to take Care of us, and did so until you were too strong for his King. To him we gave four Miles around Niagara as a Place of Trade. We have already said how we came to join against you; we saw that we were wrong; we wished for Peace; you demanded a great Country to be given up to you; it was surrendered to you as the Price of Peace, and we ought to have Peace and Possession of the little Land which you then left us.

Father. When that great Country was given up, there were but few Chiefs

present, and they were compelled to give it up, and it is not the Six Nations only that reproach those Chiefs that have given up that Country. The Chippewas and all those Nations who live on those Lands Westward, call to us and ask us, Brothers of our Fathers, where is the Place you have reserved for us to lie down upon?

Father. You have compelled us to do that which has made us ashamed. We have nothing to answer to the Children of the Brothers of our Fathers. When last Spring they called upon us to go to War to secure them a Bed to lie upon, the Senecas entreated them to be Quiet till we had spoken to you. But on our Way down we heard that your Army had gone towards the Country which those Nations inhabit, and if they meet together the best Blood on both Sides will stain the Ground.

Father. We will not conceal from you that the Great God and not Men has preserved the Corn Planter from the Hands of his own Nation. For they ask continually, Where is the Land which our Children and their Children after them are to lie down upon? You told us, say they, that the Line drawn from Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario would mark it forever on the East, and the Line running from Beaver Creek to Pennsylvania would mark it on the West, and we see that it is not so, for first one and then another come and take it away by Order of that People which you tell us promised to secure it to us. He is silent, for he has nothing to answer.

When the Sun goes down, he opens his Heart before God, and earlier than that Sun appears again upon the Hills, he gives Thanks for his Protection during the Night; for he feels, that among Men, become desperate by their Dan-

their Settlement on our Lands will meet with your Encouragement and Approbation. This we have done to bring about a general Union among all the Five Nations.

ger, it is God only that can preserve him. He loves Peace, and all he had in Store he has given to those who have been robbed by your People, lest they should plunder the Innocent to repay themselves. The whole Season which others have employed in providing for their Families, he has spent in his endeavors to preserve Peace, and at this Moment his Wife and Children are lying on the Ground and in Want of Food; his Heart is in Pain for them, but he perceives that the Great God will try his Firmness in doing what is right.

Father. The Game which the Great Spirit sent into our Country for us to eat is going from among us. We thought that he intended that we should till the Ground with the Plow, as the White People do, and we talked to one another about it. But before we speak to you concerning this, we must know from you whether you mean to leave us and our Children any Land to till. Speak plainly to us concerning this great Business.

All the Lands we have been speaking of belong to the Six Nations. No Part of it ever belonged to the King of England, and he could not give it to you. The Land we live on our Fathers received from God, and they transmitted it to us for our Children, and we cannot part with it.

Father. We told you we would open our Hearts to you. Hear us once more.

At Fort Stanwix we agreed to deliver up those of our People who should do you any Wrong, that you might try them and punish them according to your Law. We delivered up two Men accordingly, but instead of trying them according to your Law, the lowest of

your People took them from your Magistrate and put them immediately to Death. It is Just to punish Murder with Death, but the Senecas will not deliver up their People to Men who disregard the Treaties of their own Nation.

Father. Innocent Men of our Nation are killed one after another, and of our best Families; but none of your People who have committed the Murder have been punished.

We recollect that you did not promise to punish those who killed our People, and we now ask: Was it intended that your People should kill the Senecas, and not only remain unpunished by you but be protected against the Revenge of the next of Kin?

Father. These are to us very great Things. We know that you are very Strong, and we have heard that you are Wise, and we wait to hear your Answer to what we have said, that we may know that you are Just.

CORN PLANTER,  
HALF TOWN,  
GREAT TREE.

Signed at Philadelphia, Dec. }  
1, 1790, in Presence of }

JOSEPH NICHOLSON, *Interpreter.*  
TY. MATLACK.

*The Reply of the President of the United States to the Speech of Corn Planter, Half Town and Great Tree, Chiefs and Councillors of the Seneca Nation of Indians.*

I, the President of the United States, by my own Mouth, and by a written Speech signed by my own Hand and sealed with the Seal of the United States, speak to the Seneca Nation and desire

Brother: You sent us an Invitation to meet you at Fort Schuyler, which Belt we return. We are unable to meet you at the Place you propose this Year as Business of the utmost Importance to the Indian Nations calls our immediate At-

their Attention, and that they would keep this Speech in Remembrance of the Friendship of the United States.

I have received your Speech with Satisfaction, as a Proof of your Confidence in the Justice of the United States, and I have attentively examined the several Objects you have laid before me, whether delivered by your own Chiefs at Tioga Point in the last Month to Colonel Pickering, or laid before me in the present Month by the Corn Planter and other Seneca Chiefs now in this City.

In the first Place I observe to you, and request it may sink deep into your Minds, that it is my Desire and the Desire of the United States, that all the Miseries of the late War should be forgotten and buried forever. That, in future, the United States and the Six Nations should be truly Brothers, promoting each other's Prosperity by Acts of mutual Friendship and Justice.

I am not uninformed that the Six Nations have been led into some Difficulties with respect to the Sale of their Lands since the Peace. - But I must inform you that these Evils arose before the present Government of the United States was established, and when the separate States and Individuals under their Authority, undertook to treat with the Indian Tribes respecting the Sale of their Lands. But the Case is now entirely altered. The General Government only has the Power to treat with the Indian Nations, and any Treaty formed and held without its Authority will not be binding.

Here, then, is the Security for the Remainder of your Lands. No State, nor Person, can purchase your Lands, unless at a general Treaty, held under

the Authority of the United States. The General Government will never consent to your being defrauded, but it will protect you in all your just Rights.

Hear well, and let it be heard well by every Person in your Nation, that the President of the United States declares that the General Government considers itself bound to protect you in all the Lands secured to you by the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, the 22d of October, 1784, excepting such Parts as you may since fairly have sold to Persons properly authorized to purchase of you. You complain that John Livingston and Oliver Phelps, assisted by Mr. Street of Niagara, have obtained your Lands, and that they have not complied with their Agreement. It appears upon Inquiry of the Governor of New York that John Livingston was not legally authorized to treat with you, and that everything that he did with you has been declared Null and Void, so that you may rest Easy on that Account. But it does not appear from any Proofs yet in possession of Government that Oliver Phelps has defrauded you. If however you have any Cause of Complaint against him, and can make satisfactory Proof thereof, the Federal Courts will be open to you for Redress as to all other Persons. But your great Object seems to be the Security of your remaining Lands; that, therefore, the Sale of your Lands in future will depend entirely upon yourselves. But that when you may find it your Interest to sell any Part of your Lands, the United States must be present by their Agent and will be your Security that you shall not be defrauded in the Bargain you may make.

It will however be important that

tendance on the Treaty now held on the Ohio River, for which Place we are now setting out. Brother, this is all we have to say.

*J. S. Brant*

in Behalf of the Five Nations.

His Excellency  
Governor CLINTON.

P. S. We shall appoint an Agent by the next Fall and give him Power to see our annual Rents paid justly, and hope you will establish him in that Office.

before you make any further Sales of your Lands you should determine among yourselves who are the Persons among you who shall give such Conveyances thereof as shall be binding upon your Nation, and forever prevent all Disputes relative to the Validity of the Sale.

That besides the before mentioned Security for your Land, you will perceive by the Law of Congress for regulating Trade and Intercourse with the Indian Tribes, the fatherly Care the United States intend to take of the Indians. For the particular Meaning of this Law, I refer you to the Explanations given thereof by Col. Timothy Pickering at Tioga, which with the Law are herewith delivered to you.

You have said in your Speech that the Game is going away from among you, and that you thought it the Design of the Great Spirit that you should till the Ground, but before you speak on that Subject you want to know whether the Union mean to leave you any Land to till. You now know that all the Lands secured to you by the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, excepting such Parts as you may since have fairly sold, are yours,

and that only your own Acts can convey them away. Speak, therefore, your Wishes on the Subject of tilling the Ground. The United States will be happy in affording you Assistance in the only Business which will add to your Numbers and Happiness. The Murders that have been committed upon some of your People by the bad White Men I sincerely lament and reprobate, and I earnestly hope that the real Murderers will be secured and punished as they deserve. This Business has been sufficiently explained to you here, by the Governor of Pennsylvania, and by Colonel Pickering on Behalf of the United States at Tioga. The Senecas may be assured that the Rewards offered for apprehending the Murderers will be continued until they are secured for trial, and that when they shall be apprehended they will be tried and punished as if they had killed White Men.

Having answered the most material Parts of your Speech, I shall inform you that some bad Indians and the Outcasts of several Tribes who reside at the Miami Village, have long continued their Murders and Depredations along



Resolved, that from the Information contained in the several Letters received from John Tayler, Esquire, and the

the Frontiers lying along the Ohio. That they have not only refused to listen to my Voice inviting them to Peace, but that upon receiving it they renewed their Incursions and Murders with greater Violence than ever. I have therefore been obliged to strike these bad People in order to make them sensible of their Madness. I hope they will hearken to Reason, and not require to be further chastised. The United States desire to be the Friends of the Indians upon Terms of Justice and Humanity; but they will not suffer the Depredations of the bad Indians to go unpunished. My desire is that you would caution all the Senecas and Six Nations to prevent their young Men from joining these Miami Indians, for the United States cannot distinguish the Tribes to which bad Indians belong, and every Tribe must take care of their own People. The Merits of the Corn Planter, and his Friendship of the United States, are well known to me, and shall not be forgotten; and as a Mark of the Esteem of the United States, I have directed the Secretary of War to make him a Present of Dollars either in Money or Goods as the Corn Planter shall like best; and he may depend upon the future Care and Kindness of the United States; and I have also directed the Secretary of War to make suitable Presents to the other Chiefs in Philadelphia, and also that some further Tokens of Friendship be forwarded to the other Chiefs now in their Nation.

Remember my Words, Senecas! Continue to be strong in your Friendship for the United States as the only rational Ground of your future Happiness, and you may rely upon their future Kindness and Protection. An Agent shall soon be appointed to reside in some Place convenient to the Senecas and the Six

Nations. He will represent the United States. Apply to him on all Occasions. If any Man bring you evil Reports of the Intentions of the United States, mark that Man as your Enemy; for he will mean to deceive you and lead you into Trouble. The United States will be True and Faithful to their Engagements.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the United States this 29th Day of December, 1790, and in the 15th Year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

By the President.

TH. JEFFERSON.

By Command of the President of the United States.

H. KNOX, *Sec. for the Dep. War.*

*The Speech of Corn Planter, Half Town and Great Tree, Chiefs of the Seneca Nation, to the President of the United States.*

Father. Your Speech written on the great Paper is to us like the first Light of the Morning to a sick Man, whose Pulse beats too strongly in his Temples and prevents him from Sleep. He sees it and rejoices, but he is not cured.

You say that you have spoken plainly on the great Point. That you will protect us in the Lands secured to us at Fort Stanwix, and that we have the Right to *sell* or to *refuse* to sell it. This is very good. But our Nation complain that you compelled us at that Treaty to give up too much of our Lands. We confess that our Nation is bound by what was there done, and acknowledge your Power; we have now appealed to yourselves against that Treaty as made while you were too Angry at us, and

several Inclosures contained therein, it is probable that some of the Indian Nations will attend at Fort Schuyler to hold a Treaty with the Commissioners agreeable to their Invitation,

therefore unreasonable and unjust. To this you have given us no Answer.

Father. That Treaty was not made with a single State, it was with the thirteen States. We never would have given all that Land to one State. We know it was before you had the great Authority, and as you have more Wisdom than the Commissioners who forced us into that Treaty, we expect that you have also more Regard to Justice, and will now at our Request reconsider that Treaty and restore to us a Part of that Land.

Father. That Land which lies between the Line running South from Lake Eric to the Boundary of Pennsylvania as mentioned at the Treaty at Fort Stanwix, and the Eastern Boundary of the Land which you sold and the Senecas confirmed to Pennsylvania, is the Land on which Half Town and all his People live, with other Chiefs, who always have been, and still are dissatisfied with the Treaty at Fort Stanwix. They grew out of this Land, and their Fathers' Fathers grew out of it, and they cannot be persuaded to part with it. We therefore entreat you to restore to us this little Piece.

Father. Look at the Land which we gave to you at that Treaty, and then turn your Eyes upon what we now ask you to restore to us, and you will see that what we now ask you to return is a *very little Piece*. By giving it back again you will satisfy the whole of our Nation. The Chiefs who signed that Treaty will be in Safety, and Peace between your Children and our Children will continue so long as your Land shall join to ours. Every Man of our Nation will then turn his Eyes away from

all the other Lands which we then give up to you, and forget that our Fathers ever said that they belonged to them.

Father. We see that you ought to have the Path at the Carrying Place from Lake Eric to Niagara as it was marked down at Fort Stanwix, and we are all willing it should remain to be yours. And if you desire to preserve a Passage through the Conewango, and through the Chautauque Lake, and Land for a Path to that Lake to Lake Eric, take it where you best like. Our Nation will rejoice to see it an open Path for you and your Children, while the Land and Water remain. But let us also pass along the same Way, and continue to take the Fish of those Waters in common with you.

Father. You say that you will appoint an Agent to take care of us. Let him come and take care of our Trade; but we desire he may not have anything to do with our Lands; for the Agents which have come amongst us and pretended to take care of us have always deceived us whenever we sold Lands, both when the King of England and when the States have bargained with us. They have by these Means occasioned many Wars, and we are therefore unwilling to trust them again.

Father. When we return Home we will call a great Council and consider well how Lands may be hereafter sold by our Nation. And when we have agreed upon it we will send you Notice of it. But we desire that you will not depend on your Agent for Information concerning Land; for after the Abuses which we have suffered by such Men we will not trust them with anything that relates to Land.

and that therefore it is the Duty of the Commissioners to prepare and set out on the eleventh instant, or as soon thereafter as a suitable Conveyance can be procured, by Water from this City to the City of Albany, and from thence to

Father. We will not hear Lies concerning you, and we desire that you will not hear Lies concerning us, and then we shall certainly live at Peace with you.

Father. There are Men who go from Town to Town and beget Children and leave them to perish, or, except better Men take care of them, to grow up without Instruction. Our Nation has long looked around for a Father, but they found none that would own them for Children, until you now tell us that your Courts are now open to us as to your own People. The Joy which we feel at this great News, so mixes with the Sorrows that are passed that we can not express our Gladness, nor conceal the Remembrance of our Afflictions. We will speak of them at another Time.

Father. We are ashamed that we have listened to the Lies of Livingston, or been influenced by Threats of War by Phelps, and would hide that whole Transaction from the World and from ourselves, by quietly receiving what Phelps promised to give us for the Lands they cheated us of. But as Phelps will not pay us even according to that fraudulent Bargain, we will lay the whole Proceedings before your Court. When the Evidence which we can produce is heard, we think it will appear that the whole Bargain was founded on Lies which he placed one upon another; that the Goods which he charged to us as part Payment were plundered from us; that if Phelps was not directly concerned in the Theft, he knew of it at the Time and concealed it from us; and that the Persons we confided in were bribed by him to deceive us in the Bargain. And if these Facts appear that

your Court will not say that such Bargains are Just, but will set the whole aside.

Father. We apprehend that our Evidence might be called for, as Phelps was here and knew what we have said concerning him; and as Ebenezer Allen knew something of the Matter we desired him to continue here. Nicholson, the Interpreter, is very sick, and we request that Allen may remain a few Days longer as he speaks our Language.

Father. The Blood which was spilled near Pine Creek is covered, and we shall never look where it lies. The Chain of Friendship will now, we hope, be made Strong, as you desire it to be. We will hold it fast, and our End of it shall never Rust in our Hands.

Father. We told you what Advice we gave to the People you are now at War with, and we now tell you that they have promised to come again to our Towns next Spring. We shall not wait for their Coming, but will set out very early and shew to them what you have done for us, which must convince them that you will do for them every thing which they ought to ask. We think they will hear and follow our Advice.

Father. You give us Leave to speak our Minds concerning the Tilling of the Ground. We ask you to teach us to plow and to grind Corn; to assist us in building Saw Mills, and supply us with Broad Axes, Saws, Augers, and other Tools, so as that we may make our Houses more comfortable and more durable; that you will send Smiths among us, and above all that you will teach our Children to read and write, and our Women to spin and weave. The Man-

Fort Schuyler (the Information contained in Joseph Brandt's Letter to the Contrary notwithstanding).

ner of your doing these Things we cave to you, who understand them, but we assure you that we will follow your Advice as far as we are able.

CORN PLANTER,  
HALF TOWN,  
GREAT TREE.

Present at Signing

JOSEPH NICHOLSON, *Interpreter.*  
T. MATLACK,  
JOHN DECHART,  
JEM. HUDSON.

Philadelphia, 10th January, 1791.

*The Speech of Corn Planter, Half Town, and Big Tree, Seneca Chiefs, to the Great Councillor of the Thirteen Fires.*

Father. No Seneca goes from the Fire of his Friend until he has said to him, "I am going." We therefore tell you that we are now setting out for our own Country.

Father. We thank you from our Hearts that we now know there is a Country we may call our own, and on which we may lie down in Peace. We see that there will be Peace between your Children and our Children; and our Hearts are very glad. We will persuade the Wyandots and other Western Nations to open their Eyes, and look towards the Bed which you have made for us, and ask of you a Bed for themselves and their Children that will not slide from under them.

We thank you for your Presents to us, and rely on your Promise to instruct us in raising Corn as the White People do; the sooner we do this the better for us. And we thank you for the Care you have taken to prevent bad Men coming to trade among us; if any come without your License we will turn them back, and we hope our Nation will deter-

mine to spill all the Rum which shall hereafter be brought to our Towns.

Father. We are glad to hear that you determined to appoint an Agent that will do us Justice, in taking Care that bad Men do not come to trade amongst us; but we earnestly entreat you that you will let us have an Interpreter in whom we can confide to reside at Pittsburgh. To that Place our People and other Nations will long continue to resort; there we must send what News we hear when we go among the Western Nations, which we are determined shall be early in the Spring. We know Joseph Nicholson, and he speaks our Language so that we clearly understand what you say to us, and we rely on what he says. If we were able to pay him for his Services we would do it; but we meant to pay him by giving him Land, it has not been confirmed to him; and he will not serve us any longer unless you will pay him. Let him stand between us we entreat you.

Father. You have not asked any Security for Peace on our Part, but we have agreed to send nine Seneca Boys to be under your Care for education. Tell us at what Time you will receive them and they shall be sent at the Time you shall appoint. This will assure you that we are indeed at Peace with you, and determined to continue so. If you can teach them to become wise and good Men, we will take Care that our Nation shall be willing to receive Instruction from them.

CORN PLANTER,  
HALF TOWN,  
BIG TREE.

Signed at Philadelphia, 7th Feb., 1791,  
in Presence of

JOSEPH NICHOLSON, *Interpreter.*  
THOMAS PROCTOR,  
T. MATLACK.

Resolved also, that Mr. L'Hommedieu be desired to write a Letter to Mr. Floyd requesting his Attendance in this City in Order to proceed with the other Commissioners to attend the proposed Treaty.

PITTSBURGH, March 17, 1791.

Sir. When we raised from the great Council of the Thirteen Fires, we mentioned that we meant to have a Council with the Chiefs of the bad angry Indians.

Through the whole Quaker State, as we came up the Road, we were treated well and they took good Care of us until we came here. One Misfortune happened only, that one of our Waggon's is not yet arrived here, the one we first engaged, with the Goods you presented to us.

Father. Your Promise to me was that you would keep all your People quiet; but since I came here I find that some of my People have been killed—the good honest People who were here Trading.

Father. We hope you will not suffer all the good People to be killed, but your People are killing them as fast as they can. Three Men and one Woman have been killed at Big Beaver Creek, and they were good People and some of the Whiges will testify the Truth of this. When I heard the News I found one Boy had made his Escape and got to the Trader's House who saved his Life. I now want to see him.

Father. We have been informed that twenty-seven Men came from another State and murdered these Men in the Quaker State, and took away nine Horses and all the Goods they had purchased from the Trader. Our Father and Ruler over all Mankind, now speak and tell me, did you order these Men to be killed?

Father. Our Words are pledged to you that we would endeavor to make Peace with all warlike Nations. If we cannot do this do not blame us; you

struck the innocent Men first. We hope you will not blame us, as your People first broke good Rules; but as for our People we are as friendly and firm as ever.

Father. We must now acquaint you with the Men's Names who did this Murder at Beaver Creek: Samuel Brady, formerly a Captain in your Army and under your Command, also a Balden, were Persons concerned in this Murder.

Father. I can inform you little more, therefore will conclude with asking you how I should have come to the Knowledge of this, or how I could have informed you, had it not been for our good Friend, Joseph Nicholson? I therefore beg you may grant him an Appointment as Interpreter; for we cannot see how we will do without him.

I know of no other Man that speaks your Language and ours so well as him.

CORN PLANTER,  
NEW ARROW,  
HALF TOWN,  
BIG TREE.

P. S. The Boy who made his Escape at Beaver Creek has arrived in this Place, and I have taken him under my Protection. Father. Your Despatches for Detroit have been unavoidably detained heretofore; but tomorrow Big Tree and one other shall set off with them, and will also take the Boy mentioned here, and deliver him to his Relations. We part today at this Place. Big Tree is going amongst the cross Indians to see if they will make Peace, and I go to my own People to call them to Council.

CORN PLANTER.

—*Am. State Papers, Ind. Affairs, 1.*

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Resolved also, that the Board do approve of the Directions given to Mr. Tayler in the Letter of the 12th of July last.

Resolved also, that the Board deem it proper that the further Sum of six hundred Pounds be advanced to John Tayler Esquire, for the Purposes of procuring Supplies and Necessaries for holding the said Treaty.

Resolved further, that a Letter be written to Mr John Tayler in Answer to his last mentioned Letter, which was accordingly prepared, read & agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following:

New York, August 3d, 1788.

Sir: I have received your last Letter, without Date, informing me of the Return of Capt. Thornton, and communicated it to the Commissioners and by their Advice I have granted a Warrant in your Favor for the Sum of Six hundred Pounds, which is now deposited in the Treasury, and for which you may draw on the Treasurer immediately. We shall set out for Albany in the Course of a Fortnight at farthest, and it is the Direction of the Board that in the mean Time you proceed (except as to procuring Articles for Presents to the Indians) to make every other Preparation for the Treaty, and this Business we must commit wholly to your Judgment. The Letter which Mr. Kirkland delivered to you was from Joseph Brandt, of which we send you a Copy for your Information. From this Letter it would seem as if Brandt & the Indians who were with him at Buffaloe Creek will go to Muskingum and consequently not attend our Treaty. This Circumstance has so far embarrassed us as not to put it in our Power to direct you respecting the Extent of Provisions to be procured. Capt. Thornton possibly may explain this Matter to you so as to enable you to form some Estimate of the Number of Indians who will attend, and agreeable to which you will regulate yourself as to the Quantity of Supplies.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of John Simmons, in the City of New York, on the twelfth Day of August, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
 William Floyd, Richard Varick,  
 Ezra L'Hommedieu, Samuel Jones, &  
 John Lawrence, Egbert Benson.

Resolved, that the Commissioners will prepare and set out by Water for the City of Albany on Thursday the 14th instant.

Resolved also, that Mr. Varick be requested to engage a Sloop for the Passage and Accommodation of the Commissioners, and that he provide Supplies for them from this Place to the City of Albany.

Resolved further, that it will be proper that the Commissioners take with them the Sum of five thousand, to wit, two thousand Pounds thereof in Specie and the Residue in Paper Money, for the Purpose of making Purchases from the Indians of their Lands and for discharging the contingent Expences of holding the Treaty with the Six Nations of Indians, and that his Excellency the Governor draw that Sum from the Treasury of this State by Warrant payable to Richard Varick, one of the Commissioners.

The Board being advised that only about 1000 Dollars of Specie could be obtained from the Treasury, Resolved, that Mr. Varick be requested to procure the Sum of sixteen hundred Pounds, and if the same cannot be otherwise procured in Season, that he be requested to negotiate a Loan of that Sum at the Bank. On the next Day, Mr. Varick reported to the Board that not being able to procure the Sum in Specie which he was directed to obtain otherwise than from the Bank, he had accordingly negotiated a Loan thereof at the Bank, and for securing the Repayment thereof with the Interest in kind, he had deposited the Sum of £1760 in Paper with the Cashier.

Resolved, that the Board approve of this Transaction.

On the 14th instant His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Floyd, Mr. L'Hommedieu, Mr. Varick, Mr. Jones and Mr. Benson embarked on Board of the Sloop of John Van Woert for the City of Albany, and arrived at that Place on the 19th of August.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of John Tayler, Esquire, in the City of Albany, on Wednesday the twentieth Day of August, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
William Floyd, Samuel Jones,  
Ezra L'Hommedieu, &  
Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.

The excessive Rains having rendered the Roads impassable for Carriages and the Mohawk River for Boats for the Transportation of the Commissioners, their Baggage and Stores, it is the Opinion of the Board that it would be inexpedient to set out for Fort Schuyler before Saturday the 23d instant; they thereupon directed Mr. Tayler to provide Carriages for the Conveyance of the Commissioners and their Baggage, so as to be ready to proceed on that Day.

His Excellency the Count Moustiers, Minister Plenipotentiary of his most Christian Majesty to the United States of America, having determined to accompany the Commissioners from the City of New York with a View of attending the Treaty with the Indians. Resolved also, that Mr. Tayler be directed to take immediate Measures for the Accommodation and Conveyance of him and his Suite and their Baggage.

On the 23d Day of August, Peter Gansevoort Junr. having joined the Commissioners, they set out from Albany and proceeded to Maibee's,<sup>1</sup> six Miles beyond Schenectady.

On the 24th the Commissioners continued their Journey and at the House of Colonel Veeder at Caghnewaga they were met by a Seneca Warrior, who said he was sent by some of his Nation to obtain Information respecting the intended

<sup>1</sup> JOHN MAIBEE.



Treaty. It having been represented to them by a Number of white People at Kanadasegoa that no Treaty was intended to be holden. Whereupon the Commissioners resolved that a Letter be immediately written to the Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations, requesting their immediate Attendance at Fort Schuyler and that the Seneca Warrior be desired to return therewith without Delay.

Resolved also, that Mr. Tayler be directed to provide the Seneca Warrior with Provisions and to advance to him some Money to compensate him for his Trouble, and that Coll. Louis (who met the Governor at Lewis Groot's in the Morning) be requested to accompany him to Oneida, in Order to facilitate his Journey to the Seneca Country.

A Message was accordingly prepared which was agreed to by the Board, and is in the Words following:

*To the Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations:*

I and the other Commissioners are now at Caghnawaga on the Way to Fort Schuyler to attend the Treaty agreeable to my last Message to you. I shall be at Fort Schuyler in about four Days from the Date of this Message, and I again repeat the Invitation to all your People to come.

The other public Business of the State will not permit me to remain long from Home, and it will therefore be necessary for such of your People as propose to be at the Treaty to come on with all possible Haste or they may be too late.

August 24th, 1788.

The Commissioners then proceeded to Maibee's. - On the 25th they lodged at the House of the Widow of George Herkimer,<sup>1</sup> and on the 26th at the House of Mr. Franks at the German Flatts.

On the 27th they set out from Mr. Franks' and arrived at Fort Schuyler on the 28th, where they found the Onondago Nation who had arrived some Days before.

On Fryday the 29th, the Oneida Nation with the Tuscarora and other dependant Tribes, also arrived. On the same

<sup>1</sup>GEORGE HERKIMER was a Brother of Gen. Nicholas Herkimer.

Day the Onondagoes and Oneidas expressed a Desire of meeting the Commissioners formally to congratulate them on their Arrival, and as the Onondagoes were first on the Ground they insisted upon having the first Audience, which was acquiesced in by the Oneidas, and the Commissioners accordingly met.

Present : His Excellency the Governor.  
William Floyd, Samuel Jones,  
Ezra L'Hommedieu, Egbert Benson, &  
Richard Varick, Peter Gansevoort, Junr. .

The Onondago Nation attending and the Company being seated, Tehonwaghsloweaghte, alias Black Cap, arose and addressed the Governor and Commissioners in a short Speech, in which he congratulated the Commissioners on their safe Arrival at that Place after a long and tedious Journey, and expressed in warm Terms the Happiness they experienced at the present Meeting, and offered in a very fervent Manner Thanks to the Great Spirit for his Protection on the respective Journeys of both Parties to that Council Fire.

He then agreeable to what he said was their ancient Custom, delivered to the Governor a Copy of his Invitation with a String of White Wampum, as an Evidence of their being prepared to proceed on the Business of the Treaty, but mentioned at the same Time that as Onaghsetgoa, one of their Chief Warriors, was dispatched by them to invite their Cayuga and Seneca Brethren to attend, they would wish to defer entering into any formal Negotiations until his Return.

This Speech was answered by the Governor by a Return of Congratulations and a concise Explanation of the Reasons for kindling the Council Fire at this Time, and he observed that as the Business to be transacted was of the greatest Importance as well to the Onondagoes and their Posterity, as to the Peace and Happiness of this State, it would be necessary to have mutual Confidence in each other, and to convene frequently and confer freely together, so that we may understand each other well and bring Matters to a satisfactory Conclusion.

The Governor before he closed informed them that the

Commissioners readily acquiesced in their Proposal of deferring any formal Negotiations until the Return of Onaghsetgoa, their Chief Warrior.

And then, the usual Ceremonies being performed, the Onondagoes retired and the Oneida Nation and their Dependants attended, who being seated, Agwelentonwas, alias good Peter, delivered to the Commissioners an elegant congratulatory Speech in which, after expressing the Attachment to the State and their American Brethren in general, and the Happiness they experienced in meeting the Governor and Commissioners at this Time, he complimented the Count Moustiers by expressing the great Satisfaction they had in seeing at that Place, the Representative of a Monarch for whom they had so warm a Friendship.

After closing the congratulatory Address, he observed to the Commissioners, that as the other Nations were not yet come in, if it was agreeable to the Commissioners, they would return to their Village, and attend to their private Concerns for a few Days, and attend again when they should receive Notice for that Purpose from the Commissioners; and at the same Time requested that they might have a Supply of Provisions, and a Staff (alias some white Rum), to assist them on their Journey.

The Governor then in Behalf of the Commissioners returned Congratulations on the Meeting and briefly explained to them the Reasons which induced the Legislature to direct the kindling of a Council Fire at this Time, in the Course of which he reminded them of the two former Treaties, and the wholesome Advice which had thereat been given to them, with Respect to their Lands, and observed that notwithstanding this, they had again listened to the wicked Report of the Birds, which had led both them and their white Brethren into Difficulties, which it now required our joint Wisdom to remove, and that it would therefore be necessary that we should frequently meet and confer together, so that we might understand each other, for that if the Wings of these little Birds were not clipped they would pick out their Eyes.

The Governor then congratulated them upon the Return

from France of Peter Otsiquette,<sup>1</sup> one of their Children, and informed them that his Conduct had merited the Approbation of their Friend the Marquis de la Fayette; that by his Absence he had acquired Knowledge which it was hoped would render him useful to his Nation, and therefore recommended him to their Attention.

After the usual Ceremonies of drinking and smoking together were ended, the Governor covered up the Council Fire for that Time and the Company retired.

Saturday the 30th of August and Monday the first of September, were employed in providing Accommodations, and

<sup>1</sup>PETER OTSEQUETTE, of the Wolf Tribe, attended the Marquis de La Fayette to France in 1784, and remained there four Years, under the Patronage of distinguished Public Characters. Elkanah Watson says of him at this Treaty: "He is probably the most polished Savage in Existence. He speaks French and English perfectly, is Master of Music and many Branches of Polite Literature, and in his Manners is a well bred Frenchman. He is a remarkable Instance of the Folly of attempting to civilize an Indian."—*Watson's Hist. of Canals*, 16.

Thomas Morris, who attended this Treaty, made the following Memorandum concerning him: "Having received the early Part of my own Education in France, and being well acquainted with the French Language, I would frequently retire with Peter into the Woods, and hear him recite some of the finest Pieces of French Poetry, from the Tragedies of Corneille and Racine. \* \* \* He had not been many Months restored to his Nation, and yet he would Drink raw Rum out of a brass Kettle, take as much Delight in Yelling and Whooping as any Indian; and, in Fact, became as vile a Drunkard as the Worst of them."—*Turner's Phelps & Gorham's Purchase*, 475.

Otsequette died at Philadelphia, March

26, 1792, while attending a Treaty with the Federal Government, and was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery on Mulberry Street. The Presence of many of his Nation, suggested the Policy of conducting his Funeral with extraordinary Honors, and the Secretary of War, several Persons attached to the War Department, many Officers of the General Government and of the Army and Militia, escorted by a Detachment of Light Infantry and appropriate Bands of Music, attended the Funeral. It was estimated that at least ten thousand Persons were present on the Occasion. By an Act of March 18, 1791, the Commissioners of the Land Office were directed to cause 1,000 Acres adjoining or near the Oneida Reservation to be patented in the Name of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Attorney General of the State, as Trustees, for the Use and Enjoyment of Peter Otsequette, allowing Portions to be leased for short Terms, but not in Reversion. In 1800, the Rents of this Land were made applicable to the Education of his Children; and in 1833, the Treasurer was directed to pay the Agent of the First Christian or Orchard Party, \$100, to be spent in settling a Son at Green Bay, and \$200 more when it had been proved that he had removed and settled there.

in making the necessary Arrangements for conducting the Business of the Treaty.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Seth Renney, at Fort Schuyler, on Monday the 2nd Day of September, 1788.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.  
 William Floyd, Samuel Jones,  
 Ezra L'Hommedieu, &  
 Richard Varick, Egbert Benson.

The Board being informed that John Livingston, accompanied by John C. Schuyler, Esqr., had arrived at this Place, and there being Reason to apprehend that they would attempt to interfere with the Negotiations of the Commissioners and frustrate the Views of the State;

Resolved therefore, that Notifications issue to them to depart from this Place, and a Notification to them respectively, in the Words following were accordingly prepared and served upon them by Mr. Abraham Bloodgood.

*State of New York, to wit:* By his Excellency George Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, &c., &c., and William Floyd, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Richard Varick, Samuel Jones and Egbert Benson, Commissioners appointed to hold Treaties with the Indians within the said State.

To Mr. John Livingston of the Manor of Livingston:

By virtue of the Authority for that Purpose granted to us by a Law of the said State, entitled "An Act for appointing Commissioners to hold Treaties with the Indians within this State," Passed the first Day of March last, we do hereby require you within three Hours after you shall have been served herewith, to depart from Fort Stanwix, being the Place where a Treaty is now in holding by us with certain Indians residing within the said State, and to retire to the Distance of forty Miles from the said Place.

Given under our Hands at Fort Schuyler aforesaid  
 this 2nd Day of September, 1788.

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The Commissioners then took into Consideration the Propriety of summoning Witnesses and taking Depositions touching Leases or Purchases said to have been made by John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Ezekiel Gilbert and others, and being informed that James Dean and Samuel Kirkland were privy to these Transactions,

Resolved, that they be immediately summoned to attend this Board to give Testimony, and Summons were accordingly prepared and served upon them respectively, a Copy whereof is in the Words following:

*State of New York, ss:* By his Excellency George Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, &c., &c., and William Floyd, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Samuel Jones, Richard Varick & Egbert Benson, Commissioners appointed to hold Treaties with the Indians within the said State.

To

These are in the Name of the People of the said State to require you to appear forthwith before us at the Dwelling House of Seth Renney,<sup>1</sup> near Fort Schuyler formerly Fort Stanwix, in the County of Montgomery, to give Evidence according to your Knowledge touching all Leases or other Purchases of or Contracts for the Sale of Land, obtained or made without the Authority or Consent of the Legislature of this State, from or with any Indians residing within this State, by or to any Person or Persons, and hereof fail not on Pain of one hundred Pounds. Given under our Hands this Second Day of September, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight.

Mr. JAMES DEAN,  
Mr. SAMUEL KIRKLAND, } Septr. 2.  
Mr. HEZH. OLCOTT, Septr. 4th.  
Mr. HEZH. CHAPMAN, Septr. 13th.

<sup>1</sup> SETH RANNEY removed to Ogdensburgh soon after the Settlement by Judge Ford in 1796, and resided till his Death on a Farm upon the St. Lawrence, a few Miles above that Village.

On the third inst. the Governor being at Canada Creek, received the following Information from Onyegat of Genesee, which he communicated to the Board.

A Speech of Onyegat of Genesee to Governor Clinton, delivered at Wood Creek, Sepr. 3d, 1788.

Brother attend! I come from Genesee, where I live, but last from Kanadasegea, which is now six Days ago. Before I left Genesee the Seneca Chief, called Big Tree, received an Invitation Belt from the Governor of New York, calling him and the Tribe to a Treaty at Fort Stanwix, upon which he desired me to accompany him through the several Villages on that River to communicate the Import of the Belt and prepare them for a March to Fort Stanwix. When we had accomplished this and were just ready to sling our Packs, a small Company arrived from Kanadasegea of two white Men and two Indians. The Chief among them was called Coll. McKinstry; he inquired of us concerning the Message we had received from the Governor of New York: upon our Answer and declaring our Intention of meeting him at the Place appointed for his Treaty, he hung his Head down and appeared disconcerted. We understood by the Indians with him that he was bound to Niagara. He soon went out of the House and as we observed was writing a Letter, and presently despatched an Indian with the Letter to Kanadasegea with Orders to travel the whole Night. The next Day towards Night came two Messengers from Kanadasegea, the one a white Man who resides among the Onondagoes and a Seneca with three Strings & a Letter. This they opened and delivered to the Big Tree and others. Its Contents here follow. Now Brother attend.

Brothers: We hear that you have received a Speech from the Governor of New York or Congress to hold a Treaty at Fort Stanwix. We are surprised at this. We will open your Ears that you may hear distinctly, and uncloset your Eyes that you may see clearly.

The Governor's Business at this proposed Treaty is to

purchase your Lands, but you have leased them to us. He means to pay you all at once for them, and then in a few Years to drive you off and tell you that you have no Property here. But we mean to pay you a great Sum the next Spring, and then pay a certain Sum annually forever, that your Children may have something to live upon.

Brothers: Do not listen to him; he has Warriors, and so have we: if he comes here we will fight it out with him. We know you are distressed for Provisions, till your Corn becomes fit to eat, we will grant you Supplies. Repair to Kanadasegea and you shall have some immediate Relief.

We accordingly came to Kanadasegea and drew Provisions. Soon after our Arrival there came the Cayuga Chief called Tigacayoa. He also in Conjunction with the Chief Men at Kanadasegea called Dr. Benton, dissuaded us from coming down, arguing that Congress had called a Treaty at the Muskingum & now to be called another Way would not be safe for them. But on my hearing that my old Friend Mr. Wemple was at the Mouth of the Cayuga Lake with Provisions to assist us on our Way down, I was determined to see the Governor at all Adventures, accordingly set out; whether the Indians in general will follow me is uncertain.

ONYIGAT,

Head Warrior at Genesee.

On the 4th of September, Tehonwaghsloweaghte, alias Black Cap, and Kakiktoton (the two Onondago Chiefs) and two Chief Warriors attended at the Commissioners' Quarters, and having intimated that they came agreeable to Invitation to converse with the Commissioners confidentially respecting the Business of the Treaty, the Governor addressed them as follows:

Brothers! As it is my Intention at this Council Fire to consult our mutual Interest it is necessary that we should open our Minds to each other freely, that we may be able to determine what is best to be done.

You are sensible that the State has never wished to take your Lands from you. When the War was over we imme-



diately kindled up a Council Fire at this Place to renew the ancient Covenant and brighten the Chain of Friendship which had subsisted between our Forefathers and between you and us. We then cleansed it of the Rust it had contracted during the War. At that Time I told you that We did not covet any of your Lands, but if at any Time you wanted to dispose of any Part of them it was to be done according to the ancient Custom in the Presence of the Governour, who would always take Care to see that the Lands were properly described and you honestly paid for them.

It gave me great Pain to hear last Year that some of our young Men had of their own Accord and without our Consent gone into your Country and purchased your Lands of you contrary to the old and wholesome Rule established between us. It was wrong of you to receive those Men among you & to make Bargains with them. They are disobedient Children who have violated the Laws made by their Fathers and will defraud you of all your Lands, unless some Means be devised to prevent it. When I was informed of the Conduct of those disorderly Men, our Chief Men who were convened at Poughkeepsie were much offended at it, and then directed me to kindle up the Council Fire and to concert with you the proper Means to prevent the Mischief. It gave me great Pain to observe that while we were sending Messages, and inviting you to meet us here upon Business which so nearly concerned your Interest, some of your Brethren were encouraging our young Men and sitting in Council with them at Buffaloe Creek. I have Orders from our great Council to punish these Men for their Disobedience to our Laws; and you have been Witnesses that I have sent one of them from this Place. It is essentially necessary that we should consult together and determine what is best to be done to correct the Evils which have taken Place among you, and prevent the like in future. Some of my Brethren who are here with me have already had some Conversation with you on this Subject; they informed you that Mr. Livingston and his Associates had obtained a Lease for all your Lands, and that the Indians who had assembled at Buffaloe

Creek last Summer had signed it. Reflect a Moment. Is it reasonable to expect that Men who will cheat their Fathers and disobey their Orders will pay You honestly for your Lands? It is a Bargain made without the Consent of the State and contrary to its Laws and our ancient Custom. They have promised you Money and a yearly Rent. If they refuse to pay you, how are you to compel them to it. It is not reasonable to expect that the State will interfere in your Behalf in a Business conducted against their Will. Those People will settle upon your Lands, they will soon become too strong for you, and if you should go to War with them, their Scalps will neither cloath nor feed you. It might involve both you and us in great Difficulties and Trouble. You will easily perceive therefore the Necessity that effectual Measures be concerted to prevent it, and it was for this Purpose that we invited you to this Council Fire. Open your Minds to us then freely. Tell us what you think is best to be done. We will do the like to you, and by explaining our Minds to, and reposing Confidence in each other, we may be able to adopt the best Measures to correct the Evils in which we are involved.

Black Cap then arose and answered as follows :

Brother! I am very happy to meet the Governor this Day and to hear him express such favorable Sentiments: you may rest assured that we are disposed to do every thing that you can wish. We had also an Invitation to meet your disorderly young Men at Kanadasegea, but we refused to go, and determined to attend at the Council Fire which you had kindled, and to finish the Business here. We are fully authorized to do it. If you are willing to take a Lease of our Lands we are willing to give you one. If not we are ready to enter into such other Agreement as you shall propose, as best calculated to promote our Interest. Matters were not conducted properly at Kanadasegea, and we determined to come here and set Things right.

The Governor then mentioned to them that as the War had for a Time interrupted the friendly Intercourse between

us and them, and might have introduced some Changes in the Manner of transacting their Affairs, he therefore requested them to inform him whether the Onondagoes were so represented as to be able to transact Business at this Council in a satisfactory Manner, and so as to prevent all Disputes upon that Subject with the Nation. To which the Black Cap replied as follows: This is an important Question. We will consult our People upon it in Council, and will tomorrow give our Brother the Governor an Answer.

The Governor then observed that he would from Time to Time consult with their Chiefs upon what was proper to be done. That there were wicked People employed to induce their People to go home and prevent us from doing Business with them, and that we must unite our Endeavours to prevent their wicked Designs. That Mr. Livingston and his Associates had their Emissaries at Kanadasegea and all about the Country, spreading Misrepresentations to answer their own wicked Purposes, and who were daring enough even to assert that they were acting under the Authority of the State.

On the same Day Mr. James Dean attended agreeable to Summons, and was examined and his Deposition taken and sworn to before all the Commissioners except Mr. Gansevoort, who left this Place on Monday last on a Jaunt to Oswego. On the same Day a Summons in the form above mentioned was issued and served on Hezekiah Olcott, a Trader residing at the Oneida Village.

On the 5th of September Mr. David Schuyler attended the Commissioners, and his Deposition was taken touching a Bribe offered him by John Livingston, to procure his Influence to induce the Onondago Indians to return home and not sell their Lands to the Commissioners.

On the 6th of September Mr. Hezekiah Olcott attended agreeable to Summons, & was examined by & his Deposition was taken and sworn to before the Commissioners.

On the 7th of September the Commissioners received the following Information from a Seneca young Warrior.

That when the Messenger Onaghsategea, the Onondago, arrived at Kanadasegea, 5 Days ago, there were then 5 Chiefs,

one the Principal Man from Buffalo Creek, there. That they had consulted about attending the Treaty here, and had determined to look out for a Messenger to notify their Intention, but on the Arrival of Onaghsategea they conceived it unnecessary. That he got drunk and did not return so soon as they expected; on which they charged this Informant with their Message, which is, that they have sent out for some young Warriors, and when they arrive they will attend. He believes the Onondago Messenger is on the Road back now. He is charged with a private Message from Rosekrantz, to wit: That he had received the Letter directed to him, and that he would be down soon. But if any Thing should happen to prevent it he will give Notice of it by some particular Indian; that the Cayuga Chief, Tegaeayon (or the Fence), the principal Man, and only one at Kanadasegea, is sick and at the Point of Death. This Chief (as he mentioned in a Speech) came to see the Lands about Cayuga Salt Springs surveyed, accompanied by one Docksteder, was brought out of the Woods sick, and speechless; that the Chiefs that employed this Messenger, said they were now extremely glad that they had heard directly from the Governor, for everything before had been misrepresented and perverted; that the Farmer, a principal Seneca Chief, would attend; that the Runners to call in the young Warriors were to go to Buffalo Creek and to be but two Nights absent.

On the 8th of September the Commissioners received the following Information from an Oneida Warrior who resides at Genesee.

The Informant saith that on the Arrival of Wemps Son at Kanadasegea the Chiefs were assembled; that many were glad to see him and expressed an earnest Desire to know his Business; that not understanding the Indian Language he begun to relate his Message in English; that Dr. Benton thereupon procured a Person whom the Indians call Jack, and whose Name is supposed to be John Bell, being the only Interpreter there now in the Service of the New York Genesee Company, to interpret to the Indians the Message from the Governor, brought by young Wemp; and as the Inform-

ant understood from some white People then at Kanadasegea, and who understood the Indian Language, the said Jack had misinterpreted the Governor's Message, and had informed the Indians that the Message purported nothing more than that Wemp's Father was at the Outlet of the Cayuga Lake with some Provisions for them, but was about to return, having given up all Expectations of meeting the Indians there; and the Informant saith that it was supposed that Dr. Benton had directed such Misinterpretation; and the Informant further saith that Dr. Benton then informed the Indians that he had sent some Persons, and among others the said Jack, at or to near the Place where the Treaty with the Governor was intended to be held, and that there were no Provisions or Preparations there for the Treaty, neither could they hear there any News about the intended Treaty with the Governor; that the said Jack then spoke to the Indians and confirmed what the Doctor had said, and further observed that the Governor had given up all Hopes of the Indians coming to the Treaty & therefore had staid at home. And the Informant further saith, that when the Indians thereupon complained that they were in Want of Provisions, Doctor Benton told them that if they would remain at Kanadasegea, and adhere to their Word and Bargain with him he would give them Provisions; but if they went to the Treaty or in Quest of the Treaty with the Governor, then he would not furnish them with any Provisions; that the Chiefs thereupon seemed to consent to remain at Kanadasegea, but that some of the Warriors notwithstanding declared their Determination to come to the Treaty with the Governor, and observed that the Chiefs would not conduct in this Manner if some Money had not been slipped into their Pouches. And the Informant further saith that neither Mr. Reed or Mr. Ryckman were at this Meeting of the Indians with Dr. Benton at Kanadasegea and that before the Indians separated, Dr. Benton spoke to them respecting Mr. Reed and Mr. Ryckman's settling on their Lands, and gave both Reed and Ryckman very bad Characters to the Indians and desired the Indians to send for them and they, the Indians, would hear him speak strong,

or threaten Reed & Ryckman. That when the Indians refused to send for Reed or Ryckman, Dr. Benton then requested the Indians to drive them from off the Lands; that previous to the Request to send for Reed & Ryckman, Dr. Benton requested the Indians to inform him of what Reed and Ryckman had from Time to Time told them, and that upon the Indians refusing to give him such Information he made the above Request to the Indians to send for Reed and Ryckman. That this took Place about 13 Days since, and from that Time to the Arrival of Onaghsetegee, the Onondago who was sent by the Governor from Caghawaga, the Chief and other Indians were almost constantly in a State of Intoxication with Liquor given to them by Benton. That the Messenger sent by the Onondagoes on his Arrival at Kanadasegea convened the Chiefs and Warriors (only one white Man, the Son of the Revd. Mr. Rosekrantz, being present), and delivered to them the Governor's Message; and there-upon Mr. Rosekrantz also communicated to the Indians the Contents of a Letter which he had also received, to the same Purport with the Governor's Message.

That then the Seneca Indian who had met the Governor at Caghawaga, also informed the Indians that he had actually seen the Governor on his Way at Fort Schuyler.

That upon this the Chiefs returned their Thanks and said they had now their Eyes open, and could see where to go, and determined to come down: That some of them requested the Informant to wait for them and they would accompany him. That he waited a Day, but Liquor was again furnished them very plentifully, but by whom he knows not, and the Informant came off.

That the Messengers from the Governor and from the Onondagoes arrived at Kanadasegea about six Days ago; that there were then at that Place 5 Chiefs, one of them the Principal Man from Buffalo Creek, when the Council last above mentioned was held.

That the Onondago Messenger having got drunk, and the Chiefs being put to Difficulty to procure a proper Person to send their Message, and understanding that the Informant

was ready to set off for Fort Schuyler, they charged him with their Message to the Governor, which is as follows :

“ That they have sent out for some young Warriors, and when they arrive they, the Chiefs, will attend the Governor’s Treaty.”

He believes the Onondago Messenger is now on the Road back. He is charged with a private Message from Rosekrantz, to wit : That he had received the Letter directed to him, that he will be down soon ; if any Thing should happen to prevent it he will give Notice of it by some particular Indians.

That the Cayuga Chief (Tegaeayon or the Fence or Protection), the Principal Man and the Only one at Kanadasegea, is sick and at the Point of Death. That this Chief came to see the Lands about Cayuga Salt Springs surveyed, accompanied by one Docksteder (as he mentioned in a Speech). He was brought out of the Woods sick and speechless.

That the Chiefs who charged the Informant with this Message, were now extremely glad that they had heard directly from the Governor, for everything before had been misrepresented and perverted.

The Farmer, a principal Seneca Chief, would attend ; that the Runners to call in the young Warriors, were to be but two Nights absent to Buffalo Creek.

On the same Day the Onondago Nation attended the Commissioners at their Quarters, in open Council, when Kakikoton made the following Speech :

Brothers attend ! Your Messengers whom you sent to the Westward are now returned, and desire that you will hear the Message they will now deliver to you.

Brothers ! When the Messenger left Kanadasegea a Number of the Chiefs told him that they would overtake him at Skawayes, a Place about 12 Miles on this Side Kanadasegea.

I will first begin with what took Place on the Arrival of your Message at Kanadasegea. They were first discovered by a Chief Man who resides at Kanadasegea, called in English Dr. Benton. He supposed the Messenger came on public

Business, and inquired what it was. The Messenger said he came on public Business, and was not ashamed to mention it, but must first communicate it to the Indian-Chiefs.

He inquired where the Chiefs were; he was informed the Spruce Carrier was sick and confined to his Cabbin. He accordingly went to his Cabbin, and communicated the Message. Upon his delivering the Message three Chiefs and 40 Warriors agreed to come down.

After sleeping 4 Nights your Messenger set off with 4 others, expressing their Intention to sleep at Skawayes. The Chiefs and Warriors agreed to attend the Governor of New York, and said they would overtake them and sleep at that Place.

A little before Sunset a French Gentlemen, called Debarges,<sup>1</sup> with a Seneca Warrior, called the Infant, overtook them, crossed the Creek and encamped there. While your Messenger was impatiently waiting to be overtaken by the Chiefs and Warriors who had promised to overtake them, the French Gentleman & Warrior recrossed the River and thus addressed them at their Fire Place.

Brothers: We are sent to you by the Chief at Kanadasegea, called Dr. Benton. He says he has much Concern for the good of the Indians, and thinks it will be your Destruction if you go down to the Treaty called by the Governor of New York. I know his Intentions; when you return you'll have no Place to set your Foot on. You will be like the wild Beasts which are hunted.

The French Gentleman further said, that Dr. Benton said he knew the Designs of the Governor; his own was to provide for their Wives and Children, and the Governor's was to

<sup>1</sup> DOMINIQUE DEBARGES OR DEBARTZCH was a Montreal Trader, who in a remarkable Degree enjoyed the Confidence and influenced the Actions of the Senecas. He was in the Interest of the Leasee Company, and afterwards of Oliver Phelps, whom he assisted in bringing to a successful Issue his Treaty

for Lands. Debartzch traded at the Cashong Farm, which he claimed under an Indian Grant, and his Dealings extended to the Western Indians, among whom he went after selling his Cashong Claim to Maj. Benjamin Barton of Lewiston. He had an Indian Wife.—*Turner's Phelps & Gorham's Purchase.*



destroy them; therefore the Chiefs and Warriors at Kanadasega had determined not to come.

They were also informed that the Governor had his Troops collected at the German Flatts, ready to fall upon them as soon as they returned.

The young Seneca Warrior then told the Warrior that he was very sorry that he was over powered. He was then ready with 40 Warriors to wait on the Governor of New York.

The Spruce Carrier is very sick or he would have come; as also the Cayuga Chief is very sick and at the Point of Death. The Cayugas and our Brothers of the Oneida and some of the Tuscaroras who reside in the Seneca Country, will attend the Governor at the Treaty.

The Strings I now hold up are from the Big Fire to Schonnondo & Peter the Priest, with Compliments to the Governor of New York. We pray you to possess your Minds in Chief. Our Eyes are fixed on the Chiefs who are gone to Muskingum. In the Spring I shall be glad to meet you and the Governor of New York at any Place he shall fix.

*The Governor's Answer.*

Brothers! I thank you for the early Communication of the Message received by you from the Senecas. Before I proceed to give you an Answer we will take a Drink together.

Brothers! When we speak to you we speak the Voice of the People of the State. We despise the little Artifices made use of by those of our disobedient Children who are gone among you to deceive you.

After drinking the Governor spoke as follows:

Brothers! We have now drank together. I hope your Eyes are clear & your Ears are open to hear what I have to say to you. It concerns the Welfare of you and your Children.

The War for a Time interrupted the friendly Intercourse which had subsisted between us, but we were never unmindful of your Interest. At the Commencement of Peace, we took the earliest Opportunity of kindling a Council Fire at this Place to revive our antient Friendship.

At that Fire a Committee of the Five Nations attended, and we there solemnly renewed the antient Covenant between us. We then informed you that it was a fundamental Principle of our Government that no white Man should purchase your Land without the Consent of our Legislature. We then explained to you our Laws & shewed you that they were calculated to preserve our Interest against the Frauds and Impositions of wicked People who we knew would take advantage of you in your unguarded Moments and get your Lands from you, unless we took Measures to prevent it.

Brothers! We told you we had conquered our Enemies and obliged them to make Peace with us. We also told you that we did not consider you as Enemies but Brethren. We did not want to take your Lands from you. We wished you to enjoy them in Peace; that if at any Time you should incline to sell any Part of them, we would be ready to buy it and give you a generous Price for it; but that any Agreement respecting your Lands should be made agreeable to our Laws and the ancient Usage between us.

Brothers! You then expressed your Satisfaction and thanked us for the Care we had taken of your Interest.

Brothers! After all that had passed, our great Council was much surprised and grieved to find that some of their disobedient Children had been among you; that you had received them, treated with them, and leased your Lands to them, without our Knowledge or Consent. This was not only injuring yourselves but encourageing them to lift up their Hands against their Fathers.

Brothers! We do not mean to attribute this injurious Conduct to you; for by the Message which you have now delivered to us, it appears that our disobedient Children have deceived you and even attempted, by Misrepresentations and Falsehoods, to prevent your Meeting us at this Council Fire, which was kindled up to prevent the Evils they had occasioned. They have for this Purpose reported that we had a Number of armed Men at Tioga and the German Flatts to kill or take you Prisoners, if you should attend at this Place. You now see with your own Eyes that this is false. We are

here without Arms even to defend ourselves and living with you like Brothers. If you entertain a Doubt of our friendly Disposition towards you, send some of your young Men down the Country to see if all is not Peace there; I will furnish them with Provisions and a Staff to assist them on their Journey.

Brothers! From the Accounts we have now received, it is not probable the Senecas and Cayugas will attend in Season at this Council Fire. We are therefore now ready to complete our Business with you. Their Absence shall not prevent it.

Brothers! I have before mentioned to you that some of our white People had obtained a Lease of your Lands against our Consent and contrary to our Laws; that they have deceived you and you have no Means of compelling them to perform their Engagements. It is therefore necessary that we should complete without Delay an Agreement with each other that shall be lasting, so as to prevent these Evils from taking Place in future.

On the ninth of September the Onondago Nation again attended the Commissioners at their Quarters, and Tehonwaghsloewaghte, alias Black Cap, in open Council made the following Speech.

Brother Chief of New York, and the other Chiefs who attend you at this Council Fire, attend!

We have conversed several Days on the Subject of your Treaty with us with Respect to our Lands. We have considered your Advice to us this Morning to act with great Deliberation. We have accordingly taken the Matter into Consideration, and now inform you that this Matter has been considered with great Unanimity in our Nation this Morning.

We have determined on the whole to settle the Business of this Treaty agreeable to your Wishes, in which our mutual Good is concerned; but as one of our Chief Warriors is so lately returned from the westward, and as one of our Sachems is indisposed, we wish for further Time for Deliberation, and tomorrow Morning you will hear our Voice, at which Time

we will describe you the Bounds of our Territory between the Oneidas and Cayugas agreeable to ancient Tradition, and we will then also mention the Reserves which we wish to be secured to us.

Brother! This is all we have to say.

*The Governor's Answer.*

We are glad to see you, and we are happy to hear that you have deliberated upon what we communicated to you this Morning; and that so great a Degree of Unanimity upon the Subject has prevailed in your Nation. Altho' we wish to expedite Business & return home, yet we do not wish to precipitate a Matter of so much Importance & therefore approve of your spending the Remainder of the Day in deliberating on the Subject, especially as one of your Chiefs is unwell and your Warrior is so lately returned and cannot be supposed to be yet perfectly acquainted with what has been transacted in his Absence.

In the mean Time we recommend to you Sobriety, while this Business which is of such great Importance to you and your Posterity is transacting, and Strangers who are looking on and will laugh at us if while this Business is in Agitation any of us should be found disguised. If the Business is completed in Sobriety, we shall have no reason to repent of what has been done. After it is completed we may indulge ourselves in innocent Mirth and Friendship together.

Brothers! I have now no more to say. We will take a Drink together and smoke our Pipes and then retire to our Deliberations, and tomorrow Morning we will attend to hear what further you have to offer.

On the 10th of September (Mr. Gansevoort having this Day returned) the Onondago Nation again attended the Commissioners at their Quarters, and Tehonwaghslowe-aghte, alias Black Cap, in open Council made the following Speech:

Brother Chief and our other Brothers Commissioners, Attend!

We have met to smoak our Pipes together this Morning. We have all been deliberating upon the Subject of the Conversation which we had together some Days ago. We have made up our Minds on the same.

Before we open the Business we mention to you that we have brought a Person here to be our Mouth to you (namely, Colo. Louis), as you have one Person to be your Mouth to us. Brother, our Chief, & Brothers here present, now open your Ears.

We opened our Ears the other Day to hear your Voice, we now request you to open your Ears to hear our Voice.

We have all considered the Conversation which has passed between us since the Beginning of this Treaty. Two things were proposed us: The one a great and immediate Good, the other a continuing Good to us and our Children after us.

Brother! In your Wisdom you exhorted to great Deliberation on the Subject. We have therefore chosen the latter Proposal you made to us. We have chosen to convey to you our Country in a Way in which we may receive a continual Benefit; that when the Cold comes we may be kept warm, & when hungry we may have something to subsist on.

Brother! We would now assign a Reason for our Conduct. We have heard of a Treaty held at Kanadasegea and another held at Buffaloe Creek. We were not concerned in either of these Treaties. We sent some Persons there to be Hearers or Spectators, but we had no Agency in either of those Treaties, & utterly disapprove of what was there transacted. The Lands are our own, and we appeal to you Brothers, how would you feel if People at a Distance would undertake to sell Lands which belong to you and on which you live, and therefore we must attend to our Interest and endeavour to secure something to us & our Children after us.

Brother Chief! Now we will describe to you the Boundary of the Territory of our Country as received by us from ancient Tradition.

The Indians then described the Boundary of their Lands, and after some Explanations, retired to consult on the Quantity of Lands to be reserved by them for their own Habitations, &c., and then returned and described the Lands which they wish to be secured to them.

On this Day the Commissioners notified the Oneida Chiefs that they would be ready to commence Business with them on Monday the 15th instant, and requested their Attendance in the Morning of that Day.

It appearing to the Commissioners in the Progress of the Treaty with the Onondagoes that it would be advantageous to the State as well as very agreeable to the Indians, that Part of the Consideration should be paid in Goods: It was

Resolved, that Mr. Tayler do immediately endeavour to procure a Quantity of Goods for the Use of the Onondagoes, if they were to be procured at Fort Schuyler, and that he proceed to Albany without Delay, to purchase and forward to this Place a Quantity of Goods in Order to facilitate the proposed Negotiations with the Oneidas.

Resolved also, that Richard Varick pay to Mr. Tayler the Sum of five hundred Pounds to be applied by him for the Purposes aforesaid. ✓

The Agreement with the Onondagoes being perfected, they requested that the Deeds of Cession might be completed and said they would attend to execute them upon receiving Notice from the Commissioners.

The 11th Day of September was employed in adjusting the Form of the Deeds of Cession and in getting them engrossed, and on the the 12th the Onondagoes attended the Commissioners, and the Deeds were and executed the Consideration Monies paid to them in full Council. It appearing upon Calculation of the Value of the Goods paid to the Onondagoes as part of the Consideration stipulated to be paid to them, that there was a Deficiency of fifty Pounds, that Sum was then paid to them in Specie; and the further Sum of fifty-one Pounds four Shillings was distributed by Order of the Board, in Presents and Rewards for Services done.

The Deeds being executed are in the Words following, vizt.<sup>1</sup>

At a Treaty held at Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix, in the State of New York, by his Excellency George Clinton, Governor of the said State, and William Floyd, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Richard Varick, Samuel Jones, Egbert Benson, and Peter Gansevoort, Junr. (Commissioners authorized for that Purpose by and on Behalf of the People of the State of New York) with the Tribe or Nation of Indians called the Onondagoes, it is on the twelfth Day of September, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, covenanted and concluded as follows :

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

<sup>1</sup> The whole of the Reservations described in this Deed of Cession have since passed out of the Hands of the Oneidas, and the Remnant of that Nation, now living in Oneida and Madison Counties, reside upon Lands belonging to them individually. The Relinquishment of Title occurred as follows :

September 15, 1795. A Portion of the Reservation was sold for \$2,952, and an Annuity of \$2,952, with the conditional Sale of other Parts for \$3 annually per 100 Acres.

June 1, 1798. Another Part ceded for \$200, and an Annuity of \$700.

March 5, 1802. A further Cession for \$900, and an Annuity of \$300. The upper Fish Creek Reservation was included in this Contract.

March 21, 1805. An Agreement of Division executed between the Christian or Sconendos and the Pagan or Cornelius's [Doxtater's] Party.

March 13, 1807. The Christian Party quit claimed a Part of their Tract for an annual Rent at six per Cent. at

the Rate of \$0.75 per Acre. The Sum of \$600 was advanced.

February 16, 1809. The Christian Party sold the remaining Part of their Fish Creek Reservation, 7,500 Acres, with certain Stipulations as to the Right of Fishing. Terms, \$600 in Cash, \$1,000 in June following, and an Annuity of \$120.

February 21, 1809. The Pagan Party sold their Lands East of Oneida Creek, from Oneida Lake to Mud Creek, which flows into Oneida Creek to the Southward of the Seneca Turnpike, for an annual Rent of six per Cent. on the Lands sold, rated at \$0.56 per Acre. The Sum of \$1,000 was advanced in Part Payment.

March 3, 1810, and February 27, 1807. The Christian Party sold Parts of their Tract at \$0.50 per Acre, in Part paid down, and the Balance secured in an Annuity at six per Cent.

July 20, 1811. The Oneidas released their Claims upon the Stockbridge and Brotherton Lands for \$1,200.

Secondly, the Onondagoes shall of the said ceded Lands hold to themselves and 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 Southerly End of the Salt Lake at the Place where the River or Stream on which the Onondagoes now have their Village empties into the said Lake, and runs from the said Place of beginning East three Miles, thence Southerly according to the general Course of the said River until it shall intersect a Line running East & West at the Distance of three Miles South from the said Village, thence from the said Point of Intersection West nine Miles, thence Northerly parrallel to the second Course above mentioned until an East Line will strike the Place of Beginning, and thence East to the said Place of beginning.

Thirdly, the Onondagoes and their Posterity forever shall 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, the Salt Lake and the Lands for one Mile around the same shall forever remain for the common Benefit of the People of the State of New York and of the Onondagoes and their Posterity for the Purpose of making Salt, and shall not be granted or in any wise disposed of for other Purposes.

Fifthly, In Consideration of the said Cession and Grant,

March 3, 1815. The Christian Party released several Lots at \$1 per Acre.

March 27, 1817. The second Christian Party (formed from the Pagan Party under the Rev. Eleazer Williams) released Portions of their Tract, and allowed six hundred Acres to be sold to erect a Church.

August 26, 1824, February 13, and October 8, 1829, and April, 1833. The first Christian Party conveyed Portions; and on the 21st of February, 1826, the second Christian Party also released Portions, with an Agreement to remove to Green Bay.

The Orchard Party (Methodists) released Feb. 2, 1827, April 3, 1830,

Feb. 6, 1830, and Feb. 4, 1837, Portions of their Tract.

Finally, on the 19th of June, 1840, and 8th of March, 1841, the first and second Christian Parties, and on the 13th of March, 1841, and May 23, and June 25, 1842, the Orchard Party, ceded all their remaining Lands to the State.

At many of these Treaties Reservations were made in Behalf of Individuals and Families, who became thus Owners in fee.





Most of this Nation now live in Wisconsin. In this State there were residing, in 1855, 161 Souls, in Lenox, Madison County, and Vernon, Oneida County.



the People of the State of New York do at this Treaty pay to the Onondagoes one thousand French Crowns in Money and two hundred Pounds in Cloathing, at the Price which the same cost the People of the State of New York (the Receipt of which Money and Clothing the Onondagoes do now acknowledge) and the People of the State of New York shall annually pay to the Onondagoes and their Posterity forever, on the first Day of June in every Year, at Fort Schuyler aforesaid, five hundred Dollars in Silver; but if the Onondagoes or their Posterity shall at any Time hereafter elect that the whole or any Part of the said 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 Onondagoes or their Posterity shall elect, and at the Price which the same shall cost the People of the State of New York at Fort Schuyler aforesaid.

Sixthly, The People of the State of New York may in such Manner as they shall deem proper, prevent any Persons except the Onondagoes from residing or settling on the Lands to be held by the Onondagoes and their Posterity for their own Use & 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 on any other of the Lands so ceded as aforesaid, the Onondagoes and their Posterity shall forthwith give Notice of such Intrusions to the Governor of the said State for the Time being. And further, the Onondagoes 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 in apprehending not only such Intruders but also 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. In Testimony whereof as well the Sachems, Chiefs, Warriors & others of the said Onondagoes in Behalf of their Tribe or Nation as the said 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 & Year first above written.

Turtle Tribe.	Turtle.	TEHONWAGHSLOWEAGHTE 
		S'HAGOYENAWAGHSKWE HANADÀES SAGOÈYONS SAGOSAIÈWAS, by the Chief of the Clan
		KANADAKEAWAGHTE ADAH'SWEADÁÁHSEA WAGHS'HÀINE, by the Chief of the Clan
Wolfe.	Beaver.	TEHOENAGALÀONGH S'HAGOHAASEGH, by the Chief of the Clan ONOEÌLEGHTE, by the Chief of the Clan
Bear.	Bear.	KAKIKTOTON 
		TEHOJISKEAÌYEA WAGHSELONYAHHE, by the Chief of the Clan
Deer.	Deer.	KANAGHSETÈGEA 
		AGOJIGHKWAYÈWA, by his Cousin, S'KAN'YADALIYO KALON'GH'YO, by his Brother
Eel.	Eel.	AGWELONDONGWAS 
		THANEHÀÀGHKWA, by the Chief of the Clan OTJANOENWE

Govern-  
esses. { TJEANOENIKHE  
          { KAEGHHEWA

*Geo. Clinton*

*Ezra Stoddard*

*Samuel Jones*

*Peter Gansevoort Jun<sup>r</sup>*

*W. Lloyd*

*Rich. Varck*

*Eg. Benson*

*Commissioners of Indian Affairs.* 203

*Witnesses Present.*

SIMEON DEWITT, Survr. Genl,  
LOUIS, NYADEGHHALONGWEAH, of the Oneidas.

Chief Governness { KAYENDATSYÒNÀ  
of the Senecas

Senecas { SHAGODD'YADYÈSTHA  
KÀNOWEANTHO  
JÒÀIGHGWATEL

Senecas { SHEANÒOEWA

SHAGOKAN'YOS

Cayugas { KANÈONGWE

KAGHYOUTHIO

SAMUEL KIRKLAND, Interpreter,  
JOHN I. BLEECKER, Interpreter,  
J. P. PENET,  
NICOLAS JOURDAIN,  
FREDERICK FOX,  
SAML. LATHAM MITCHELL,<sup>1</sup>  
WM. COLBRATT,  
ABM. BLOODGOOD.



The Treaty with the Onondagoes was then closed by the following Speech:

Brothers! Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Onondagoes, open your Ears and attend while we speak a few Words to you. We have Reason to thank the Great Spirit for the Good Disposition which we have had towards each other at this Council Fire.

<sup>1</sup>DR. MITCHELL subsequently became Public Welfare. He held many Offices very distinguished as a Naturalist, a of Trust with great Integrity, and died Medical Lecturer, and an earnest Advocate of whatever tended to promote the in New York City, September 8, 1831.

Brothers! We met here to consult together for our mutual Interest; we have opened our Minds to each other and we trust we have clearly understood each other, and we are persuaded that the Covenant which we have now solemnly entered into with each other will endure and be faithfully kept between the Parties forever, in Confirmation of which on our Part and of our perpetual Friendship to you, we now present you this Belt. A Belt afterwards annexed to their Deed.

Brothers! In making this Covenant we have regarded what appeared to us to be the true Interest of both the Parties, and we sincerely wish that you would so improve the Advantages to arise from it as that it may promote the Happiness of yourselves and your Posterity forever.

Brothers! As the Business on which we met is now happily accomplished, we shall cover up the Council Fire at this Time and take a Drink and smoke our Pipes together, and devote the Remainder of the Day to decent Mirth.

It has always been usual for your Forefathers and ours thus to relax their Minds after the Fatigue of important Business in Council, and we do not wish to depart from this ancient Custom on the present Occasion, when Matters have been concluded so much to our mutual Satisfaction.

Brothers! When you find it convenient for you to return home, we will furnish you with Provisions for your Journey and a Staff to help you on the Road.

Tehonwaghsloweaghte, alias Black Cap, then addressed the Commissioners as follows:

Brother the Chief, and those Chiefs who are with you of the State of New York!

You will now attend in your Turn. The Great Spirit above has chosen out this Day for finishing the Business of the Council Fire, at which we have revived the ancient Custom between your Forefathers of New York and Albany on the one Part and the Onondagoes on the other Part, even so far back as the Time of Queder Corlaer, als. Peter Schuyler.

Brother! You have been pleased to remark that Wisdom,

Openness and Goodnature have attended the whole of our Negotiation. You acknowledged that for this we are indebted to the Great Spirit above; we on our Part heartily join with you in this acknowledgement, and we are happy to observe that Friendship and a tender Regard for our Interest has marked every Step of your Conduct towards us on this Occasion.

Brothers! No sooner had you heard of what had been done at Kanadasegea last Fall, which endangered our Interest, than you appointed this Council Fire to establish that which we should have forever lost, without your Interposition.

The Agreement which we have this Day entered into, we consider as done in the Presence of the Great Spirit, and we call upon all here present, and all Nations around us, especially the Americans, to bear Witness to it.

Our Children and Children's Children to the latest Generation, will look back to the Transactions of this Day. You have now secured to us and our Posterity what we consider as a Territory sufficiently large for us and all our Posterity to live upon, and every Privilege arising from our whole Territory we enjoy and shall continue to enjoy.

Brothers! We have this Day renewed our ancient Friendship and entered into solemn Covenant. Let all here present be Witness to it. No evil Spirit shall be able to break the Covenant which we have this Day compleated; for Union begets Strength. An Individual is like the single Stick which I hold in my hand; how easy is it broke (then breaks the Stick in three Pieces and grasps them together) how weak when single & how strong when together. The Covenant we have entered into this Day will confirm and establish our friendly Alliance with our American Brethren forever.

Agreeably to ancient Custom, you have delivered to me in Behalf of my Nation a Belt with a Writing containing the Articles of our Covenant to be kept by us for us and our Children to look upon, and I likewise delivered to you a Belt with a Writing speaking the same Language, to be deposited in your Office for you and your Children to look upon; and if any evil Spirit shall disturb the Peace between

us we will recur to this Writing and Peace will be again established between us.

Now Brother, agreeable to your Proposal, let us rejoice this Day.

Brother! We have no more to say.

On the same Day, and before the Completion of the Business with the Onondagoes, a Number of Seneca Warriors with one of their Chief Governesses residing at the Genesee having arrived, they attended at the Commissioners' Quarters and addressed them with the following Speech, accompanied with a String of Wampum.

Brother, the Chief of this Council Fire! You will open your Ears, while we, some of the Warriors of the Senecas address you. It has pleased the Great Spirit to preserve us in our respective Journies, until we have met together.

You our Brother the Chief preside over a great People and are come from a great Distance; we also are come far from the West.

Brother the Chief, we desire you to possess your Mind in Peace, notwithstanding you do not see the Faces of any of our Sachems or Chiefs here with us, the Warriors now present. It is true they promised and it was their Intention to have come, but they were hindered. We are under Embarrassments. The Warriors whom you see here present, were so desirous to meet you at this Council Fire, that they were determined to contend with every Difficulty rather than not see you.

Brother! The Seneca Warriors here present salute you, and congratulate you and the Chiefs who accompany you, on your safe Arrival at this Place, and we thank the Great Spirit that he has preserved you and the Chiefs who attend you, from the Influence of the Evil Spirit on your Journey hither. Here is also present the Chief of the Female Governesses in our Nation, with some of her Sisters, who also pay their Respects to you and join with us in our Congratulations (here the Congratulations of the Men were in Behalf of the Women repeated by the Speaker). A String.

*The Governor's Answer.*

Brother! I and the Chiefs who accompany me are very glad to see you and thank you for this Mark of Respect, and especially for the Visit from our Sister the Chief of the Governesses, and the Sisters who accompany her; as the Journey must have been peculiarly fatiguing to them. With you we thank the Great Spirit that he has preserved us together. We lament that your Sachems and Chiefs have been prevented from meeting us: But we know that there are wicked and designing Men, who for injurious Purposes have endeavoured to prevent not only our Brothers the Senecas, but also our Brothers the Cayugas, Onondagoes and Oneidas from Meeting us. The Onondagoes and Oneidas have notwithstanding met us and we have settled Matters with the Onondagoes to our mutual Satisfaction, & made a Covenant with them in such a Manner as will be most for their Good & prevent any Abuses in future against them.

As the Sachems and Chiefs of the Senecas are not present, it is not in our Power formally to renew the ancient Covenant and brighten the Chain of Friendship that has existed between us or to enter on or transact any Business with you our Brothers now present, but we are notwithstanding happy to see you and we wish that some of you would remain and be Witnesses to the Completion of the Covenant between us & the Onondagoes, so that you may always bear your Testimony to the Fairness of the Transaction and be able to inform your Nation of it on your Return home.

The String returned to the Chief of the Governesses.

In the Evening of the same Day Kakiktoton, one of the Onondago Chiefs, in the Presence of the Nation announced to the Commissioners that O: Ojanoènwe, alias Jones, would be his Successor, and in Testimony thereof delivered to the Commissioners a String of Six Rows of Wampum.

On the 13th a Summons in the Form before mentioned was issued and served on Hezekiah Chapman of Uxbridge, in the State of Massachusetts, he having arrived this Day at this Place, who attended agreeable to his Summons and was



examined and his Deposition was taken and sworn to before the Commissioners.

On Monday an additional Number of Senecas having arrived and now amounting to near eighty in the whole, and no Hopes remaining that such a Representation of that Nation would attend as to enable them to transact Business with the Commissioners, it was determined that immediate Measures should be taken to induce them to return home, and to effect this (as it would be a Saving to the Public) to make some small pecuniary Presents to them, particularly to the leading Characters among them; and the more especially as their returning satisfied to their Country, and informing the Cayugas and their own Nation of the Transactions with the Onondagoes, and of the satisfactory Agreement which was effected between the State and that Nation, would be attended with salutary Consequences.

On the 16th the Governor and other Commissioners attended in the Ruins of Fort Schuyler where the Seneca Indians were encamped and addressed them in a Speech to the following Effect, having previously communicated the Wish of the Commissioners to the leading Characters among them for their immediate Return to their Country, and distributed among thirty-seven Crowns.

Brothers! Young Warriors of the Seneca Nation, open your Ears and hear a few Words I have to speak to you.

Brothers! When it was proposed to kindle a Council Fire at this Place, the Chiefs of the Six Nations were invited to it, and it was expected they would have attended. The Business to be transacted was of great Importance to you all. As soon as we were informed that a Number of our disobedient and disorderly Children were among our Brethren of the Six Nations treating with them for their Lands contrary to our Laws and the ancient Custom of transacting Business between us, and attempting to cheat and deceive you, we determined to kindle up a Council Fire at this Place, to renew the ancient Covenant of Friendship that has so long subsisted between us, brighten the Chain of Friendship & to concert

Measures as well for securing to you your Property as to prevent any Abuses that might be attempted against you in future. We regret therefore that the Intrigues and Artifices of a Set of wicked Men who have intruded themselves among you should have prevented the Attendance of a National Representation from the Cayuga and your Nation at this Council Fire. The Attempts which were made by these Men at Kanadasegea to prevent your coming on, must convince you of their evil Intentions. You have now seen with your own Eyes and heard with your own Ears, and you are able to determine whether what these Men told you at Kanadasegea is true or false. We have received you with Friendship. We have treated you kindly, and you have discovered no hostile Appearance in this Quarter. Our Brethren the Onondagoes listened to our Invitation; they have attended and we have settled all Matters with them to our mutual Interest & Satisfaction, and established our Friendship, we trust, on a lasting and permanent Basis.

Brothers! Altho' your Nation is not represented here so as to transact Business, it has given us great Pleasure to see the Chief of the female Governesses here and you young Warriors, & especially as you have now been Witnesses to the fair and candid Manner in which we have conducted and settled our Business with the Onondagoes, and how anxiously we have attended to their true Interest.

Brothers! We expect you will now return home and inform the Chiefs and Sachems of the Cayuga and your own Nation, of all you have seen and heard, and of our Desire of renewing our ancient Covenant and of brightening the Chain of Friendship and of settling all our Business with them. It is necessary you should return home with Expedition, that by spreading the Truth among your Brethren you may prevent the Mischiefs that are attempted against them by bad Men who deal in Falsehoods.

(There the Nature of the Settlement with Massachusetts and the Purchase made under the Authority of that State was freely explained, and the Difference of the Conduct of the

Proprietors under that Government and the Men who call themselves the New York Genesee Company pointed out).

Brothers! We desire you to inform the Chiefs and Warriors of the Cayuga Nation and such of your own Nation as are connected and interested with them, that we still have their Interest much at Heart, and that we are desirous of settling all our Concerns with them on the same fair and reasonable Terms that we have with our Brethren the Onondagoes, and that for this Purpose we will kindle a Council Fire at Albany the first of January, when we expect they will meet us.

Brothers! I will furnish you with Provisions for your Journey home and a Staff to help you on the Road, and Tobacco that you may smoke your Pipes. These shall be forwarded to Armstrong's, at the Mouth of Canada Creek, where they will be tomorrow Morning at ten o'Clock.

A String of Wampum and a Present of 37 Crowns.

To which the Senecas made the following Answer:

Brother Governor with your Chiefs attend! You have now spoken to us. You have acquainted us with the Design of your kindling a Council Fire at this Place, which was to renew the ancient Covenant of Friendship subsisting betwixt your Forefathers and ours, and that you would not have called us here at this Time on this Business, had not some disorderly People of your own State broken that Covenant by attempting to purchase our Lands without the Authority and Direction of your Chiefs, and contrary to our ancient Customs. You have also informed us particularly of your friendly Negotiation with the Onondagoes, and the competent Territory reserved for their own Use and secured to their Posterity forever by all the Chiefs of your State. The Onondagoes told us the same, and we were Witnesses to it. This Transaction being done agreeably to ancient Custom, has given us great Pleasure. You have desired us to take Charge of this String of Wampum, and communicate its Import to our Chiefs at Genesee, and then forward it to Buffaloe Creek.

Brother! This we will faithfully do. We observed to you upon our Arrival, that we were only young Warriors, not capable of transacting any National Business. We came to be mere hearers. We were determined to see you and hear your Voice. We had to struggle hard to break through the Opposition that was made to our coming down by some of your disobedient Children. We will now tell you how Things really are among us. The Voice of the Birds and proud strong Words uttered by some of your own People at Kanadasegea overcame the Sachems and turned them back after they had twice promised to come down with us.

Brother! Your Invitation to the Chiefs to meet you in Albany about New Year we shall carefully deliver, and we flatter ourselves that with the Assistance of the Chief of the Female Governesses here present we shall be able to quiet the Minds of all on our River, and you may expect to see the Chiefs of our Nation and of the Cayugas by the Middle of Winter. We shall also expect to hear from you again before that Time. We are encouraged in the Prospect which now opens to us that all the Affairs that pertain to our Peace and the Good of our Nation will be by and by settled, and firmly established to our Satisfaction.

Brother! We thank you for your Kindness to us since we came upon the Ground, and the Provision you have made for our Return. We have no more to say.

They were accordingly supplied with Provisions & a Staff, to wit, four Kegs of Rum to assist them on their Journey, and they departed in two Days thereafter apparently very well satisfied.

In the Afternoon of the same Day the Oneida Nation attended the Commissioners at their Quarters in Council and the Governor addressed them as follows:

*Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneidas:*

Brothers! From our Message to you last Spring and last Summer, you will be sensible that we intended to hold a general Treaty at this Time with you and our Brothers, the

other Nations of Indians within this State; and we had expected that they would all have attended, and when you and we met together on our Arrival at this Place, we had still some Hopes of a Number from the other Nations, especially the Senecas and Cayugas, competent to represent them, and therefore your Proposal at that Time to return Home to attend to your private Affairs and there to remain till we had informed you that the other Nations were come so that we were ready to proceed on the Business of a general Treaty, being for our mutual Convenience, was perfectly agreeable to us. It was an Evidence of Care and Industry which gave us much Pleasure. While we were waiting in the Expectation of the Attendance of the other Nations, which however became daily more improbable, our Brothers the Onondagoes who were here, then signified to their Wish to make a new and perpetual Covenant with us for their Nation separately, in Relation to their Lands. We accordingly entered on the Business with them, and it is now accomplished to our mutual Satisfaction, and we are persuaded in a Manner most beneficial for them as well as most for the Peace and Interest of the State. They have ceded all their Lands to the State, reserving to themselves the free Right of hunting and fishing throughout the whole of the Lands, and also reserving to themselves and for their own Use and Cultivation a very large Tract and more than sufficient for that Purpose, and a Mile around the Salt Lake is to remain for the Purpose of making Salt, in which they are to have an equal Right with our People. We have paid them eleven hundred and ten French Crowns in Silver and furnished them with Clothing to the Amount of one hundred and fifty Pounds without any Advance on the Price, and we have agreed to furnish them at this Place on the first Day of June in every year forever with Clothing & Provisions to the amount of two hundred Pounds without any Advance on the Price, or to pay them five hundred Dollars in Money, as they shall from Time to Time elect.

We thought it proper before we open our Business with you to inform you of what has been done between us and the

Onondagoes, to explain to you whence it arose that we have treated with them separately, and that you might be convinced that in the Covenant which we have now made with them, we have been as attentive to real Benefit to them as to any Advantage to the State.

Brothers attend! The Legislature of this State has heard that some of their People had without their Consent and Authority, and contrary to the Constitution and Laws of the State and contrary to the ancient and salutary Usage which has always subsisted between your Forefathers and ours, and between you and us, been with you and our Brothers the Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagoes, in Order to get your Lands from you, and these People having pretended that they had obtained from you and the other Nations of Indians what they call Leases of all your Lands under certain annual Rents.

Altho' we will severely punish our People for this Act of Disobedience to their own Constitution and Laws, the Legislature of the State supposed they would notwithstanding be wanting in Care and Friendship to you, if they did not at the same Time take some Measures for preventing the Evils which might befall you, should these evil minded Persons attempt to settle on your Lands, claiming them under such pretended Leases. They have therefore appointed us their Commissioners to meet you at this Council Fire in Order that you and we might consult together and agree on what will be most for your Interest and Security, and will best preserve Peace and good Government in the State in Opposition to the injurious Designs of these unworthy Citizens.

Brothers! Speak your Minds freely to us. Inform us fully how these Matters are, & let us know what you suppose most eligible to be done.

Brothers! You are sensible that in all Transactions between your Forefathers and ours, and between you and us, good Faith towards you and a Regard for your Welfare has always been observed, and we hope you will be fully persuaded that we meet you with the same Disposition, and that it is requisite that in all our Consultations together we should have

perfect Confidence in each other, & that neither you nor we should have any other Object than mutual Good.

(Here a String of Wampum.)

Brothers! Having accomplished our Business with the Onondagoes we have it in our Power now wholly to attend to you, but as we have been detained here for some Time waiting for our Brothers the other Nations, and as other public Business requires that several of us should soon return home, we could wish that the Business to be transacted between you and us may receive as much Dispatch as the Importance and Difficulty of it will admit.

To which Oneyanha, alias Beach Tree, commonly called Peter the Qt. Master, made the following Reply:

Brother of the State of New York & all the Chiefs here present with him, attend!

Your Governor has now opened your Minds to us, we have heard your Words in every thing you have spoken to us. The Great Spirit has seen fit to give us a pleasant Day at which you have spoken of the ancient Covenant between your Forefathers and ours, and pleasant Days they were, and the Revival of them gladdens our Hearts. In opening the Business of this Council Fire you have mentioned many Things to us; they are all important, they require great Deliberation. We therefore make no Reply, but tomorrow you shall hear our Voice. You may depend on it, that we will proceed with Wisdom, for we your Brethren, the Oneidas, are accustomed to speak decidedly, and after due Deliberation. Possess your Minds in Peace, that we decline making an Answer at present. You have told us that a good Mind is necessary in deliberating on Things of Importance. That you possess this Mind, and you may rely upon it that the same Temper will influence our Conduct, and that our mutual Good will be consulted.

Brothers! We have nothing further to add at present.

Brother, We will take the Freedom to add one Word more, altho' we mean to speak freely, and altho' we may speak

strong Words, let us take Care that we say nothing on either Side that will excite Passion or give Offence.

Previous to entering upon Business with the Oneidas, the following Resolution was entered into by the Board, and a Copy thereof, signed by all the Commissioners, was delivered to Jacob Reed, vizt :

Jacob Reed and certain several other Persons of the Oneidas having represented to the Board that John Livingston, Caleb Benton, Ezekiel Gilbert and others, commonly known by the name of the New York Genesee Company of Adventurers, in Consideration of Promises from them, the said several Persons of the Oneidas, to assist them, the said Company, in obtaining a Lease from the Oneida Nation of their Lands, had by executing Notes, and otherwise, entered into Contracts to them, the said several Persons of the Oneidas, for the Payment of Monies or Goods, Provided they the said Company should succeed in obtaining such Lease, and the said several Persons having also stated to the Board that Payments in Part have been made on the said Contracts, and expressed their Apprehensions that in Case an Agreement should now take Place between the Board and the Oneida Nation for a Cession of Lands to the State, that the said Company would attempt to recover back the Value of the said Payments in Part, which having been expended by the several Persons to whom the same were paid and they being unable to repay the same, that therefore Suits for such Recoveries as aforesaid should the said Company prevail therein would prove ruinous to them, the said several Persons ; and that by Reason of such Apprehensions the said several Persons had hitherto in the Council of their Nation altogether refrained from assenting to or advising a Cession of Lands to the State, and such Lease having been intended to be obtained not under the Authority or with the Consent of the Legislature, and Messrs. Benson, Jones and Varick having delivered it as their Opinion to the Board that the said Contracts were void and therefore that the said Company had no Remedy in Law for the Recovery back of whatever might have been paid in Part on such Con-



tracts: Thereupon Resolved by the Board, that if at this present Treaty with the Oneida Nation they should make a Cession of Lands to the State to be accepted of by the Board, that then the Faith of the State be considered as pledged to every Person of the Oneidas for a full Indemnity against all Suits which may be commenced against them by any Person of the said Company on or in any wise relating to any such Contracts as aforesaid.

On the seventeenth a Deputation from the Chiefs of the Oneida Nation, consisting of Ojistalale alias Colo. Hunjurry, Gaghsaweda alias Lodwick, and S'honoughlèys alias Anthony, waited on the Commissioners to let them know that the Oneida Nation were ready to speak to them if it suited the Commissioners to attend.

Upon which, the Company being seated, Oneyanha, als. the Beech Tree, arose and addressed the Commissioners to the following Effect.

Brother Chief of the State of New York and other the Chiefs accompanying you, attend!

Yesterday you congratulated us on our Meeting at this Council Fire. We now in Turn congratulate you and all the Chiefs and Warriors here present, on our being reassembled on this Day.

Brother from the State of New York, and all present, and our Sachems and Warriors, attend!

Yesterday you opened the Business of this Council; some things in the Course of your Speech seem to enter into our Minds; you observed to us that they were Matters of Importance and required great Deliberation. You also observed to us that it was necessary to the Accomplishment of the Business to our mutual Satisfaction that we should perfectly understand each other, for which Reason we require that you would repeat to us again the principal Things mentioned in your Speech of yesterday, that all may hear in full Council that we may perfectly understand each other. He then after seating himself exhorted his Nation to Attention to the Subject as it was their Request to have the Speech repeated.

A String of 3 Rows of White Wampum.

The Governor then at the Request of the Commissioners informed the Indians that the Speech which he made to them yesterday was committed to Writing, that he had it in his Hand and would now deliver to the Interpreters that they might repeat the whole of it over again to them in their own Language: That it was the sincere Desire of the Commissioners that they might clearly understand the Nature of the Business now to be transacted at this Council Fire, so that whatever Agreement might be entered into between us might be lasting and no new Difficulties arise. And thereupon the Governor delivered the Speech to Mr. Kirkland who interpreted it to the Indians in the Presence and to the Approbation of Mr. Bleeker, the other Interpreter, and Nicholas Jourdain<sup>1</sup> (who attended at the Instance of the Indians, they having notified their Intentions some Days ago by Letter of having him for their Mouth), and of Peter Otsiquettè and Colo. Louis, all of whom have some knowledge of both Languages.

Before any Reply was made by the Indians, Intelligence was received of the Death of Joseph, one of their Warriors, and that his Body was found in the Wood Creek below the Landing, and Messengers were immediately dispatched to inquire into the Truth of the Report, soon after which the Runners who were sent out, proclaimed the Truth of the Fact by sounding the dead Hoop. The Facts being inquired into it appeared that it was an accidental Death, as his Body lay in the Creek clad as when he went out, and his Pipe on the Shore; and the Company being again composed and seated, the Governor (thro' Peter the Quarter Master) delivered the following short Speech of Condolence, agreeable to Custom, accompanied with a String of six Rows of black Wampum.

Brothers! I and my Brother Commissioners condole with you on the unfortunate Death of one of your young Warriors,

<sup>1</sup> NICHOLAS JOURDAIN enjoyed to a considerable Extent the Confidence of the Oncidas, and acted as their Interpreter during the building of a Block House at Fort Schuyler, from November, 1783, till near the End of February following.

and we sincerely lament this unhappy Accident, the more especially at the Time when we were met in Council to transact our public Business. It is however the Hand of the Great Spirit, to which it is our Duty to submit and which is not to be resisted.

It is the Duty of the Living to transact Business, & I trust it will not be unnecessarily retarded by this unfortunate Event. With this String we wipe off the Tears from your Eyes, and cover up the dead Body.

To which Agwelentongwas, alias Domine Peter or good Peter, made an elegant, pathetic and short Reply, and requested that the Council Fire might be covered up until the Funeral Rites of their deceased young Warrior were performed according to their Custom, when his Nation would again attend to the public Business.

After this Reply, Good Peter addressed himself to the whole Nation and to the young Warriors in particular, and after impressing upon them in the most lively and pathetic Stile, the Pernicious Consequences of an excessive Use of Spirituous Liquor, he called for their Attention to the Resolutions of their own Sachems, which he said they must abide by or be their own Destroyers.

Brothers! young Warriors attend! Upon this sorrowful Event, we your Chiefs have resolved unanimously, that no one of us during this Treaty apply to the Governor or Commissioners for any Rum. Let him measure it out to us as he shall judge proper; we are not fit to prescribe as to this Article. Some who are great Drinkers have often given in both Women and Children in their List and drawn for the whole Company as Warriors, and thereby increased the Quantity beyond all reasonable Bounds. Let the Governor therefore determine if he sees fit to give a Glass in the Morning and at Noon and then at Night while on Business, and if any remain after each one is served let it be taken off from the Ground.

This was the ancient Custom at Albany in the Days of our Forefathers, when a great Number of Indians were assembled

on the Hill above the City. The Rum was brought there and each one drank a Glass and was satisfied. No true Indian who had the Spirit of a Man was ever known in that Day to run to a Commissioner and demand a Bottle of Rum upon the Ground of his being a great Man, and another two for the same Reason, which is the Practice now a Days; no such great Men were known in ancient happy Times.

On the 18th the Commissioners, agreeable to Invitation, attended the Funeral of Joseph the young Warrior, and on the 19th the Oneida Nation attended the Commissioners at their Quarters, and in Council Agwelentongwas, alias Domine Peter or Good Peter, arose and addressed the Governor and Commissioners as follows:

Governor of the State of New York and your Chiefs here present, now attend!

Possess your Minds in Peace if we should not answer every Particle in your Speech of the other Day. You observed that it was of Importance we should understand each other. You told us the Object of the Treaty was our mutual Good. A Number here will be collected, some of them to be Witnesses and enable us to understand each other's Mind. We are not afraid on our Part that all Nations should hear us, and understand what we say.

We shall make a Reply but in Part to what you have imparted to Us, as the Subject of the Treaty is of so much Importance.

I also observed to you Brother, that we chose all should hear what we had to say, as what is transacted secretly has a bad Appearance. All Business relating to the Public should be transacted openly.

Brother the Chief of New York! You remarked to us upon the ancient Covenant of Friendship which subsisted between our Ancestors and yours, this Covenant was made between the People of New York and our Ancestors the Six Nations. This Covenant was interrupted for a short Time by the late War, but on the Return of Peace, you told us that we were the Proprietors of the Soil, and you restored even the others

of the Six Nations, who had joined the British, to their former Possessions.

Brother Governor! I shall remark only upon a few things that have passed between us. Soon after we had returned to our former Habitation the Voice of a Bird came to us and said, you Oneidas are about to cut off a Part of your Country and to sell it, but this did not come from your great Council. You then summoned us to a Council at the German Flatts. You there told us of this and we then came to a Settlement of all Matters which this Bird had thrown in the Way of our ancient Covenant.

At this Council a Covenant and Bargain was entered into between us, and you told us you should not want to buy any of our Lands again, no not forever.

Brother! Your Ears are now open to hear as we continue to speak, but a little while after we finished our Business with you at the German Flatts, behold a Voice again reached our Ears which occasioned you to look around to see who had gone from your Great Council, and you soon discovered that some Persons had without your Authority procured from the Tribes to the Westward their Lands, and presently thereafter the Voice of the same Bird informed you that we Oneidas had in the same Manner also parted with our Lands, which induced you in your Wisdom to assemble this Council to remove the Evils which had broken upon our ancient Covenant.

Brother! You acquainted us upon your Arrival of the Reasons in general of your kindling the Council Fire at this Place; also of the Invitation Strings you sent out last Spring and this Summer to invite all the Six Nations to attend the Meeting. That soon after however your Hopes of a General Meeting with the Six Nations almost expired, and ours did also. That soon after our Brethren the Onondagoes proposed a Settlement with you agreeable to the ancient Usage between you and them. That you acceded to their Proposal and that your Minds had met to your mutual Satisfaction except as to the Salt Springs, which you submitted to them, and they proposed that those Springs should remain to the Use

of both Parties, to which you readily consented. It is not necessary for me to recapitulate all that passed between you and the Onondagoes; their Territory was their own, and I have only to express my Joy and that of my Nation that you have settled with them and that that Part of their Country which they have reserved to themselves is secured to them. I have only to observe that some Contracts have a long Path and last for a Man's Life; others have a short one and are destroyed by Disorders, but this is made to endure forever.

Brother! I wish for myself to step a little aside from the Order of doing Business. We have an ancient Boundary Line between us and our Brethren of the Onondagoes, and wish we could have been present and settled that with our Onondago Friends.

Brother Governor with your Chiefs! You are now continuing to hear. You observed to us, that on having settled all Matters amicably with our Friends the Onondagoes, nothing remained but a Settlement with us to our mutual Good and Advantage; you also observed that the Object before us was of great Importance and concerned our common Interest, for which Reason it was necessary that a calm, deliberate and unprejudiced Mind should possess us both, for which Reason we concluded that not our present or immediate Good but a Good which respects our Posterity was to be consulted.

Brother! You further observed to us, in the Course of your Speech, that we should speak our Minds openly at the present Treaty with Regard to ourselves, our Country and our Posterity; that you did not wish to streighten us; that in whatever Lands we should cede to you, our Warriors should have the Priviledge of Hunting and Fishing, and that a Line should be drawn round the Part we should reserve to ourselves to secure it to us and our Posterity.

Brother! You further observed to us that the Perplexity and uncertain State of our Country now called forth your Attention in your Great Council and that your Minds were much disturbed upon hearing in what Situation the Lands of us the Six Nations were in, from a Regard you had to the

ancient Covenant existing between you and us; and that owing to the irregular and disorderly Conduct of some of your Children, even some good Men had been misled; and that it was in your Power and that you would punish the disobedient for their Conduct.

Brother! I have once observed to you that it was not in our Power to repeat the whole of your Speech to us, nor would it be in yours, if you had not the Advantage of being acquainted with Letters or Writing. I now with my Voice give you the sincere Thanks of my Nation for your Speech, which hath strewed the Path with Light to direct our Steps.

A String of three Rows of White Wampum.

He then made an Apology that he was fatigued and wished to set down and rest, and that in the mean Time, according to ancient Custom, another Speaker would arise and raise the Spirit of their deceased Sachem the Grass Hopper. But before he sat down he observed to the Governor that the Man bearing the Name of Oedatseghta is the first Name known in their National Council and had long been published throughout the Confederacy; that his Friend the Grass Hopper was the Counsellor for the Tribe to whom that Name belonged, and that therefore they replaced the Grass Hopper with this Lad whom you are to call Kanyadaligo (presenting the young Lad to the Governor and Commissioners) and that until he arrives to an Age to qualify him to transact Business personally in Council, their Friend Hans Jurie is to bear the Name of Ojstalale, alias Grass Hopper, and to be the Counsellor for this young Man and his Clan until that Period. He then further observed:

Brother! There is one other small Matter. The Onondagoes chose one to be a Mouth and Ear for them, and you had one on your Part with which you were content. We have now chosen Colo. Louis and Peter Otsequette to be our Mouth and Ear with which we hope you will also be content.

We now inform you that after all the Divisions among ourselves, we have now united our Minds as one, which we hope when we come to important Matters will facilitate the

Negotiations between us and you. Peter the Minister then sat down and Peter the Quarter Master arose and in a Speech informed them of a Robbery committed at their Castle at Cananoharie since they had attended the Treaty, and described the Circumstances of the Robbery and exhorted his Tribe to Vigilance to detect the Perpetrators, and reminded them of what they were coming to.

On the 20th the Oneida Nation again attended the Commissioners at their Quarters and in Council the Governor addressed them as follows:

Brothers! When we made our Speech to you on Monday, we informed you of what had taken Place between the Onondagoes and us, and we also informed you of the Reasons which had induced the Legislature to send us to meet you at this Council Fire; we desired you to speak your Minds freely to us and to let us know what you supposed best to be done. You have made us an Answer, in which you have expressed your Approbation of the Covenant entered into between us and the Onondagoes, and especially that it is a Covenant to endure forever. You mention to us that a Voice had reached our Ears informing us that some of our People had without any Authority from us, obtained from you a Lease of your Lands, and you request us that we would first give our Advice and Sentiments as to the best Means for preventing the injurious Consequences which might arise from this Departure from the ancient Covenant between you and us. Agreeably to your Request therefore we shall speak our Minds to you and we shall speak plainly. Our Regard for the welfare of you and your Posterity and our Duty to our Constituents require that we should do so.

Brothers! Listen with Attention and take Care that you understand us truly. The best Friends when they meet to agree on certain Matters which are intended for their mutual Good, sometimes separate without coming to an Agreement, because they happen to mistake each other.

Brothers! You ought to believe us when we speak to you. We told you that we have as much your Good as our own



for our Object; unless you can believe us sincere in this Declaration, we shall find it very difficult and perhaps impossible to convince you of what will be best for you and your Posterity. People can never effectually assist each other, unless there is perfect Confidence between them.

Brothers! Be not deceived in supposing that it was our Intention to kindle a Council Fire at this Time in Order to Purchase Lands from you for our People. We have already more Lands than we have People to settle on them. If we had wanted Lands for our People to settle on, we would have told you so and requested you to have sold us some and would have paid you a reasonable Price for them.

Brothers! You know that at former Treaties we advised you not to dispose of your Lands to any of our People unless they had a License from the Governor to make Bargains with you for your Lands. We then also mentioned to you that this was the ancient Usage and Regulation between your Forefathers and ours, and that this Regulation was intended for your Benefit and to prevent Impositions on you, for that there were always wicked People among us ready to cheat you out of your Lands unless we took Care of you and protected you against Frauds. We also informed you that we had confirmed this Regulation by our Constitution, and we desired you to acquaint us, whenever you were desirous to dispose of any Lands. You then told us, that you were glad to hear those things from us, and thanked us for our good Advice to you, and promised to observe it. We are pleased to find by your Answer that you still remember these Things.

Brothers! The Voice which you observed had reached our Ears, that some of our disorderly People had without any Authority from us, been among you & obtained Leases from you for all your Lands, occasioned much Surprise and Grief to our great Council the Legislature; and the only Reason with them for sending us to meet you at this Council Fire, was that we might here renew our ancient Covenant, and by a new Agreement place Matters on such a Footing as to prevent these Things for the future.

Brothers! You will be sensible that it is very difficult for

us, in a very extensive Country, to watch our People, they get at a Distance from us and then privately make Bargains with you, without any Permission from us. For this Reason we advised the Onondagoes to cede to us all their Lands, reserving to themselves a convenient Tract for their own Use and Habitation where none of our People should come to settle, and of such Extent only that if any of our People should come there it would be immediately discovered. This Tract so reserved is not to be disposed of, but to remain to the Onondagoes and their Posterity forever. This appeared to us and to them the best Mean to secure it to their Posterity forever. Our People will know that they cannot get any Part of this Tract and therefore will not attempt it. This was our Advice to the Onondagoes, and we give you the same Advice. We are willing to pay you some Money and furnish you with some Clothing for your present Occasions; and as a Support to you and your Posterity, we are willing annually forever to furnish you with some Provisions and Clothing, or make an annual Payment in Money instead of Provisions or Clothing, if you or your Posterity shall at any Time prefer it. We can not in this Speech state to you with certainty the Amount of Money and Clothing to be given to you at this Time, or the Amount of the future annual Allowance, as these will in some Measure depend on the Quantity of Lands which you may propose to be reserved to your own Use. We must therefore wait til you inform us how much Lands are to be reserved, and when you and we have agreed respecting that Matter, we will then let you know to what Extent we suppose our great Council can afford to give you at this Time, and allow you in future. What we have now proposed to you is all that we can do for you, and we are persuaded the Proposal is most for your real and permanent Interest. Unless you in this Manner secure some Support to yourselves we fear your Nation will in a few Years be obliged to remove or perish, and it may not be in our Power to prevent it.

A String of 5 Rows.

Brothers! You know we have a great many wicked People among us, who will be constantly endeavouring to defraud

you as long as you have Lands to dispose of. We shall always punish them severely whenever we detect them in such wicked and unlawful Practices. This however will be very troublesome and expensive to us, and notwithstanding our Severity and Vigilance with our People, yet you will still experience injurious Consequences. Consider what would be your Situation if we were not to take Care of you. You have given a Lease of your Lands, and the People to whom you have given the Lease have promised to pay you an annual Rent. If we were to suffer them to come & settle on your Lands they would soon be stronger than you, and if they should then refuse to pay the Rent, how will you compel them? If we were to suffer them to take Advantage of the Lease against you, you would then have parted with your Lands and have no Security that you will receive any Compensation. By this Time we suppose that you are sensible that you have not any Means in your Power to compel the Payment of the Rent. These People at the Time they took the Lease knew that it was not in their Power to give you any Security, and they also knew that you were ignorant of this Matter and suffered you to remain in Ignorance. Thus these People have deceived you, and Nothing but the Interposition of our Great Council the Legislature, can defend you against such Injuries. You will always be exposed to Impositions unless they protect you. Your whole Dependence must be on them, and it will not be in their Power to assist you unless you agree to what we have proposed to you.

A Belt.

Upon which Good Peter rose, and after recapitulating the Substance of the Governor's Speech, he observed as follows:

I need not on this Occasion descend to every particular in the Governor's excellent Speech; it is perfect in itself, and none of us can find Fault with it.

You observed, Governor, that the Design of this Council Fire was to remove the Confusion that had taken Place in our Landed Affairs (which has indeed become one continued Scene of Confusion and Disorder) and not to purchase Lands

for your People, for that you had Lands enough and more than sufficient for the People you yet had to settle on them. We comprehend every Word of your Speech; it is true indeed, for we see you possessed of an exclusive Territory, and but here and there a Smoke. We thank you for your excellent Speech. You never can be charged with Falsehood.

Brother Governor attend while I speak a few Words. In the Course of your second Speech, equally excellent with your former, you observed that you had even in *your* Government, disorderly People who did not obey the Voice of their Chiefs. That therefore to avoid Confusion you were obliged to ~~take~~ our landed Affairs under your Care and us under your immediate Protection. This I have experienced the Truth of; I have felt it. These People will continue to seek after our Lands, and if any one of them dies, another will pursue the same Object. This I have experienced the Truth of. We too have disorderly People in our Nation; you have a Keg here and they have their Eyes upon it, and Nothing can divert them from the Pursuit of it. While there is any Part of it left, they will have their Eyes upon it, and seek after it, till they die by it, and if one dies there is another who not deterred by it, will still continue to seek after it. It is just so with your People. As long as any Spot of our excellent Land remains, they will covet it, and if one dies, another will pursue it, and will never rest till they possess it. These disorderly People must bear their own Punishment.

Brother! You also observed in the Course of your Speech how often you had given us good Council and warned us against cunning and intriguing Men, that we should suffer by them. This is true. You have also disorderly Men; they are so shrewd, they come to our Fire Place, and make us believe that they come out from the great Council of the State and thereby gain our Belief, and we listen to them and they deceive us. It is so too with us. You have a Keg here, and how often have some of our disorderly Men come to you and said they were sent by their Chiefs for a Part of it, and you have believed them and complied with their Request and have been also deceived.

I have made this Observation merely to shew that the whole Blame of being deceived on the present Occasion, ought not to lay upon us.

Brother! In the Course of your Speech, you have exhorted us to look well for the good of Posterity; that they were an Object of your Attention; also that we should consider well what would be the Consequence of your abandoning us to ourselves and leaving us to Bargains we had made with some of your People, without your Authority, and that we might in Time be plunged into such Difficulties that it might not be in your Power to give us Relief.

Brother! I know the Truth of this Sentiment, that after repeated Warnings to a People, they may be given up as incorrigible.

Brother! You have also repeatedly remarked that it was for our Good that you kindled this Council Fire and the one at the German Flatts. But Brother hearken a Moment. It may be that these disorderly Men in your Government have occasioned both. They come to us and tell us: The one says give me a Piece here, another says give a Slice there; another says I am poor, give me a Slice of Bread; and so they have bewildered our Minds, and thrown our Measures into Disorder.

Brother! You may possibly think that your Brother the Oneida has no Consideration, but it will take me a long Time to tell you all my Thoughts and Contemplations: They are extensive; my Mind is perplexed and pained, it labours hard. I expected when I returned to my Country to have sat down in Peace and enjoyed pleasant Days. I was even encouraged to hope this, Brother, from you, from your own Declarations. You welcomed me home on my Return. The United States there planted the Tree of Peace with four Roots, spreading Branches and beautiful Leaves, whose Top reached the Heavens.

Brother! I said that I was pained in my Mind. The Wind seems always to blow and shake this beloved Tree, this Tree of Peace. I fear that by and by some Twig of this beautiful Tree will be broken off. I love this Tree of Peace as my

Life, and my Protection. I know you love it. I must request you to extend the Powers of your Government to punish these disorderly People. I know your Chiefs have Power and can do it.

Brother! The Case is quite different with us, our Powers are nominal; it is utterly vain to say these are the Chiefs. We Chiefs are trodden down and little ones arise above us. I can say no more, for it would take me a long Time to express to you all my Thoughts. I therefore conclude by thanking you for the Advice you have given, and for all you have said to us. I thank you particularly for informing us that it is in your Power to punish all your disorderly People.

He then sat down and Colo. Louis arose and spoke as follows :

Brother! You will now attend while we (alluding to himself and Peter Otsèquette, who stood by his Side) endeavour to adjust these Matters.

Brother Governor! You are the Person who heretofore employed me (alluding to his being an Officer in the American Service). I am now employed by all here present to speak and set these Matters right, for I am charged with being the Person who have occasioned the present Distresses of this Nation. Upon the Return of Peace you told us that the French Nation were your Brothers, and were to be considered in the same Light with you.

Brother! I perfectly remember all your Words and all your Councils. You will also recollect them. You said I see over all your Land and shall by and by secure it to you, and for this same Business have I myself been continually travelling backwards and forwards.

Brother Governor! You counselled us to Industry and Care, so that thereby we might be made happy in the Enjoyment of our Country, and not be going out here and there, and wanting every thing. But Brother what shall we do. You have the Controul of our Land, altho' it is said to be ours. Had you given us a Writing to confirm it as our

Property, as the French Governor used to do, we should have been in the quiet Enjoyment of it. But now what shall we do to rectify Matters. We two are delegated in Behalf of the whole Nation, to measure out the Lands which we mean to reserve, and to divide that, not equally, between the meritorious and unworthy; this would not be right; but to give to each according to his Merits, and Standing in Life.

Brother! We Oneidas, have a kind and generous Mind. We are disposed to live in Peace and Friendship. You have some good Men also among you; one wants a little Place, and we give it to him; another comes with the like Application, and we compassionate him also, and give him a Piece. This we do because we have a generous Mind.

Brother! If you find in any Instance that we have done unjustly, let us not profit by it.

Brother! I must insist upon your considering well the Proposals we shall make, so that we come to a fixed Agreement, and there be no Altercation or further Dispute upon the Subject. There are three Brothers of ours that must be established in their Settlements by you. The Tuscaroras in theirs, and the Stockbridge Indians in theirs. The third Brother, who lives beyond the Stockbridge Indians (alluding to the New England or Brotherton Indians), is like the White People; he has long Arms: we gave him a large Piece of Land, and he was not contented with it. We contracted it, and he was not contented yet, and we then cut it off shorter and left him sufficient still. He has now a Tract of three Miles by two. This let him enjoy, and secure it to him forever. We have Nothing further to do with him.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Brothertons, made up of Remnants of Tribes from New England and Long Island, settled near Oriskany. In 1786, 192 Persons emigrated under the Rev. Sampson Occum, a Mohegan. In the Treaty of 1788, the Oneidas reserved for them a Tract two Miles by three, in Marshall and Kirkland, Oneida County, on both Sides of Oriskany Creek, their main Settlements being in the Vicinity of Deansville and Dickville.

The Stipulations of this Treaty occasioned the following Clause in an Act passed February 25, 1789:

§ XVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Surveyor General shall lay out for the New England Indians, all that Part of the Tract of Land formerly given to them by the Oneida Indians which is included in the Cession lately made by the Oneida Indians to the People of this

Brother! We never had any Part of the Land that Nation possessed, not so much as one spoonful, so that we are under no Obligation to them. What we do for them is an unmerited Favor.

Brother! I have said that we are of a generous Mind. We are disposed to do right; we are the Proprietors of our own Land. We shall depend upon having our Agreement reduced to Writing, and that it may be established forever, for we mean to settle Matters now once for all.

Brother! There is one thing we have omitted; we have marked the Lines of the Land we have given to our Brothers the Brothertown Indians, which we wish secured to them forever; and we now insist upon it that the old Writing which we gave them be delivered up at this Council, before we part.

Louis then sat down, and Peter Otsèquette addressed the Sachems and Warriors of his Nation, and requested Tenderness and Compassion towards him as a young Man, while he was speaking.

He told them that 4 Years ago at the Treaty at this Place at which the Marquis Dela Fayette was present,<sup>1</sup> the Marquis proposed taking one of his Sons of the Oneida Nation with

State, and laying Southward of the Lands hereinbefore directed to be granted to Samuel Kirkland, John T. Kirkland, and George W. Kirkland, which Tract of Land so laid out shall be called *Brother Town*, and shall remain for the Cultivation, Improvement and Use of the said New England Indians and their Brethren consisting of the Tribes called the Mohegan, Montague, Stonington, and Narraganset Indians, and the Pequots of Groton and Nehanticks of Farmington, and their Posterity; but without any Power of Alienation or Right of leasing the same Lands or any Part thereof, for any longer Term than ten Years; and without any Power of granting such Leases where there shall be any subsisting Lease, including the same Lands; and that the Tract of Land confirmed

by the Oneida Indians to the Stockbridge Indians at the said Treaty shall be and remain to the said Stockbridge Indians and their Posterity, under the Restrictions and Limitations aforesaid.—*Folio Laws. 12th Sess., 52; Gr., II, 265.*

These Indians having no Language in common, adopted the English, and some Families made considerable Advances in Civilization. In 1822, a Portion removed to Wisconsin, and in 1849 the last of these People removed West.—*Census of New York, 1855, 516.*

<sup>1</sup>The Marquis DE LA FAYETTE did not remain till the End of the Treaty, but returned to Albany on the 7th of October, and the next Morning set out for Boston to embark for France.



him to France; that he with Reluctance left his Country, and his Companions, of whose Amusements and Diversions he was very fond, and undertook the Voyage; that it was unjustly reported that the Chiefs had sold him. That when he crossed the Great Water, the Marquis received him with Kindness; that he was naked and the Marquis clad him; that he was restless for a Year after he arrived in France, but when Light or Knowledge flowed in on his Mind, he felt distressed at the miserable Situation of his Countrymen that from want of Opportunity of acquiring Knowledge they were so little informed of their true Interest.

Brothers! Please now to open a candid Ear. After two Years more Residence in France, my Views were enlarged and I was distressed at the wretched Situation of my Nation, that they were no higher than the Shrubs, and I wished to return to endeavour to reform them, and did request the Marquis their Father, to let me come over to attend to the Concerns of my Nation, as I did not mean to desert my Country.

While I was still in France, I heard frequently of the Situation of my native Country, and of the Conduct of many of our Chiefs & Warriors, that they began to cut their Land in Pieces, in one Part and another, and that they were divided among themselves, and each tenacious of his own Opinion, and I saw that their Ruin was approaching.

Brother Governor! Let not this be done. Look back to former Days, when you first landed in New York. We then took you under our Protection. You were then small and we were great, and we are now sunk down even to your Ankles, while you are so risen that your Hands extend over the whole Island and reach the Stars.

Brother! Pardon this puerile Speech; my Mind is young and not yet formed for Reasoning. I hope I shall encrease in Knowledge and attend to the Affairs of my Nation. He then sat down.

Upon which the Oneidas nominated a Committee of their Chiefs and Warriors, to wit: Odatsighte, Gaghsaweta, S'ho-noghleyo, Tekeandyakhon and Thaaghnyongo alias Big Bear,

to advise and assist Colo. Louis and Peter Otsèquette, their Agents for settling the Terms of an Agreement with the Commissioners, who spent the Evening with the Commissioners on that Business.

In the Course of these Negotiations they delineated their Boundaries & pointed out the Reservations they wished to make for themselves, to wit: "All the Lands on the North Side of the Wood Creek and the Oneida Lake, with a very large Extent of Country on the South Side of the Lake."

Whereupon the Governor, by the Desire of the Commissioners, informed them that the Terms proposed by them would not be acceded to, and by a Train of Reasoning attempted to convince them of the Impropriety of their reserving so large an Extent of Territory, and requested them to take the Matter into Consideration and to advise with their Nation on the Subject.

On Sunday Morning the 21st, the Committee and Agents again attended the Commissioners at their Quarters, and introduced the Business by informing the Commissioners that they were satisfied of the Impropriety of their reserving so large an Extent of Territory, and declared that they were willing to give up the Lands on the North Side of the Wood Creek and the Oneida Lake, on Condition that the Commissioners would agree to make a Compensation to Mr. Penet out of it for his Benevolence and Services to them.

They then delineated a Tract they proposed to reserve to themselves on the South Side of the Lake, to which the Commissioners continued to object on Account of its Extent.

After some Time spent in conversing on the Subject, the Agents of the Oneidas expressed a Desire that the Governor and Commissioners would point out what they considered as a proper Reservation.

Which was immediately done by the Governor, with the Advice of the Commissioners, to wit, nearly the same with that described in the Deed of Cession, except that the Commissioners insisted that the eastern Boundary of their Reservation should be "a South Line from the Confluence of

the Canada Creek and Wood Creek, instead of the Line of Property, as was insisted on by the Oneida Agents," but that for the Sake of Accommodation the Eastern Line, as delineated in the Deed of Cession, was finally agreed to.

The Bounds of the Reservation being ascertained, the Commissioners then conferred together and agreed upon the following Consideration to be given to the Indians, to wit: The Sum of two thousand Dollars in Specie, two thousand Dollars in Goods and Clothing, and one thousand Dollars in Provision, to be paid down at the Execution of the Deeds, and a Payment of six hundred Dollars annually forever, which Offer was immediately communicated to the Oneida Agents and Committee, who declined coming to a final Conclusion of the Agreement until they could advise with their Nation, and departed for that Purpose.

Some short Time after they returned and informed the Board that their Nation acquiesced in all the Proposals made by the Commissioners except the annual Payment, which they conceived too low, and insisted it ought to be increased from six hundred to one thousand Dollars.

Whereupon the Governor, after conferring with the Commissioners, informed the Agents and the Committee that the Commissioners could not consent to any increase of the annual Payment, but as the Business was so nearly completed to our mutual Satisfaction, the Commissioners as a farther Testimony of the Friendship of the State for their Brethren the Oneidas and a Regard for their Welfare & Happiness, would Consent to give them five hundred Dollars towards erecting a Grist Mill and Saw Mill at their Village.

This Proposition was readily agreed to with Marks of perfect Satisfaction, and they requested the Commissioners to prepare the Deeds and their Nation would attend the next Morning to compleat the Execution of them.

On the 22nd the Oneidas attended the Commissioners at their Quarters. Previous to the Execution of the Deeds, Good Peter arose and addressed the Commissioners as follows:

Let all here present attend while we the Oneidas open our

Minds, and you particularly Governor of the State of New York and your Chiefs with you, attend!

We are this Day come together with our Pipes in Peace. We have been deliberating upon Matters of the greatest Importance respecting us all here present. We now return you our Thanks, Brother Chief, that you have brought to a happy Close the Business of this Treaty. My Nation are now restored to a Possession of their Property which they were in danger of having lost. Had not my Father the French Gentleman discovered it we should have been drowned; had it not come to your Ears, we with all our Property would have been buried very deep in Ruin; therefore we do heartily congratulate you this Day upon having accomplished the Treaty and thereby secured to us so much of our Property which would otherwise have been lost.

Brother Governor! Now know our Minds. When our Business is completed and we take Leave of each other, whatever we have to say to you, we will always communicate to you through our Father the French Gentleman (pointing to Mr. Peter Penet), and we request that you'll make him the Channel of Communication of whatever you have to say to us. He is a just and righteous Man; he will deceive us in Nothing, but will always declare to us the very Truth; had it not been for him we should have been ruined.

We know that you have entered into a firm Covenant and Alliance with our Father the French King, and that you have one Heart and one Mind, which you have told us often, and now we see it verified.

A String of six Rows black Wampum.

Brother our Chief! I now call for your Attention that you will in very deed open your Ears and hear our Speech. I have already congratulated you with the cordial Thanks of all the Nation, that you my Brother of New York with my Father the French took us hold by the Hand and drew us out of the War, and now you see us settled here in Peace.

Brother! It is beyond a Doubt that the great Spirit above put it into the Mind of my Father the French to assist the injured and distressed in a critical Moment. You also my

Brother have partaken of the Advantages of an Alliance with that Nation equally with us the Oneidas, his Children.

As we have Nothing to give our Father the French Gentleman, but our Mind and our Thanks, by this (presenting a large Belt to Mr. Penet) we express our Gratitude and return him the Thanks of our Nation.

Suffer me now to express our Wish to both of you representing, as I may say, Nations, that you exert yourselves to preserve the Friendship and strengthen the Alliance between you. I know that you have respectively that Power, and that Government which will bind Nations together. I also know that every Nation throughout the World is liable to Changes and Subversion, and it is possible that at some future Period the Evil Spirit may destroy this Connexion between you. It requires therefore your utmost Circumspection to preserve it.

Brother Governor with your Chiefs! You are now continuing to hear as we close our Business from one Step to another. At our first Meeting our Minds seemed to be at a Distance, but have perfectly united, and in that Union we respectively declared that we would fully unbosom ourselves to each other.

Brother with your Chiefs! The Design of coming here with your various Speeches may be considered as precious Medicine to our disordered State; you have acted the Part of a very skilful Phisician; you have already cured that which would have proved our Ruin with the Destruction of all our Property. Still there are some Pains and some Disorders which hang about us, besides that which you have healed; even a Brother can not find out the Complaints of another, unless he inquires of the Causes.

Brother! I just now observed to you that there were some internal Disorders among us which have no immediate Relation to the one you have cured. Hear me while I mention one. In ancient Times the Orisca Tribe first settled near Old Oneida, but seeing a fine Field at Orisca, they removed there until the Line of Property was run. In that great Transaction, which laboured for a long Time, I was present,

and at the Conclusion of it, it was declared that if any Lands to the Westward of that Line had been purchased by the White People, it should again revert to the Indians, and on the other Hand, if there should be any Fire Places or Settlements of Indians on the East Side of that Line they should be permitted to remain there as long as they pleased, and when they removed they were to be permitted to sell the Lands to the Extent of four Miles round each Settlement. We considered these Fire Places or Settlements of 4 Miles in Extent as the Property of the whole Nation, and we never knew that our Ancestors had sold them. Now Brother we wish that you would inform us what you know respecting this Transaction.

A String of three Rows White Wampum.

The Governor then told him he would now only reply to what respected the Orisca Indians, and when the Agreement was explained and executed by both Parties, he would then make a short Answer to the Residue of his Speech.

The Governor observed that two different Applications had been made to him respecting those Lands, the first at the Treaty at this Place in 1784, and the last at the Treaty at Fort Herkimer in 1785, and that he promised to make Inquiry into that Business and had accordingly made himself acquainted with the Subject, and would now inform them respecting it.

That when he returned to New York he had searched the Secretary's Office and examined the Records; That he found a Licence from Government to Schuyler and others, the Proprietors of the Oriskany Patent, to purchase those Lands from the Indians; That in Consequence thereof they were purchased of the Oneida Nation upwards of 80 Years ago, and the Deeds proved, deposited and recorded in the Secretary's Office;<sup>1</sup> that the Records of these Deeds had been shewn to a Committee of Indians who were with him at the

<sup>1</sup>The Oriskany Patent was granted April 18, 1705, to Thomas Wenham and others, extending on both Sides of the Creek up about five Miles from its Mouth, and along the South Side of the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix and Wood Creek.

Secretary's Office in New York some Years since; That from the Receipts upon the Deeds it would appear that the Purchase Money had been honestly paid, and the Presumption was from the Length of Time, that that was really the Case.

That these Lands having been purchased from the Indians were granted by the late Colony to the Individuals who had so purchased them, whose Property they now were.

That from the Nature of our Government, Individuals holding Lands can not be divested of them without their Consent, that to take from a private Person what he had paid for would be contrary to our Ideas of Justice and Morality; that if the Lands had remained ungranted by the late Colony and belonged to the State, it might be returned as a Matter of Favor to the Oriskandas for the Accommodation of our Brethren the Oriska Indians who were settled on them, but this not being the Case, that the State could not interfere.

The Governor however promised to submit the Matter to the Legislature at their next Setting, without encouraging them to hope that any Thing would be done.

In the Course of the Speech Good Peter attempted to shew that the Lands at Oriska were secured to the Indians, it being at that Time actually possessed by them. The Governor therefore in his Answer repeated the Substance of the Treaty respecting that Matter, and shewed that such Reservations extended only to Lands that were actually possessed and which had not been granted by the Indians, on the East Side of the Line of Property.

Good Peter then again addressed the Governor as follows:

Brother! I have one Word more. I am exceedingly pleased with the Attention you have shewn to us. I have but one Word; but what the others may say I know not. When the War was over you laid Hands upon the Property of those who took Side with the King of Great Britain; these poor People of Oriska faught with you. We submit it to you whether it would not be reasonable to take some Care of them and let them possess that small Spot of Land at Oriska.

The Governor again repeated that it was private property and our Government could not take it away from the Proprietors, but he would represent the Situation of the Indians at Orisca to the Legislature.

Good Peter then proceeded as follows: I told you, Brother, I would mention to you all our Complaints. We have now one more. Our Nation many Years ago granted to the Sister of our Brother Schonondo a Piece of Land at the Indian Fields; she has since that Time removed to the Westward, and she had wrote to her Brother to dispose of it, and requested the Governor to inform them how that Matter was.

To which the Governor replied that this Matter was in the same Predicament with the former, and when the one was the other would be presented to the Legislature.

Then Good Peter sat down, and Peter the Beech Tree rose and addressed the Commissioners as follows:

Brothers attend! and open a generous Ear! You are here on Works of Righteousness. You have corrected the Mistakes which have happened even as far back as Queder Corlaer. It concerns us on our Part also to do what shall be just in future and lay a Foundation for Righteousness between us. We have long beheld the hard Labor and Service of your Interpreter Mr. Bleeker, who stands here. He has served us and you during the whole War; he has always borne with us patiently even when we have lived upon, vexed him and eat up all his Property, and yet he was patient with us. We wish all here present to attend and hear what we say concerning him.

We Oneidas in the three Tribes give to him one Mile Square on the West Side of Dean's Lot and request you to confirm it to him notwithstanding any Agreement which may have been entered into between us.

Good Peter again rose and said:

Brother! There are some little Pimples yet that may maturate and become Boils if not healed in Time. It is wise therefore to take Notice of them.



Brother! I must beseech you to exercise Patience, as we have promised to communicate our Minds freely. Here is one of our Men (Hans Joost)<sup>1</sup> who has obeyed your Voice and faught for his Country. Here is a Man (Genl. Gansevoort) who will bear Witness that he faught with him in yonder Fort (pointing to Fort Schuyler). He is a Cayuga by Birth. His Request is that when you treat with that Nation you will preserve a Piece of Land for him on the West Side of the Cayuga Lake; the Extent thereof he submits to you.

To which the Governor replied that the Commissioners had not yet treated with that Nation, but when they did they would attend to his Claim.

Good Peter then proceeded.

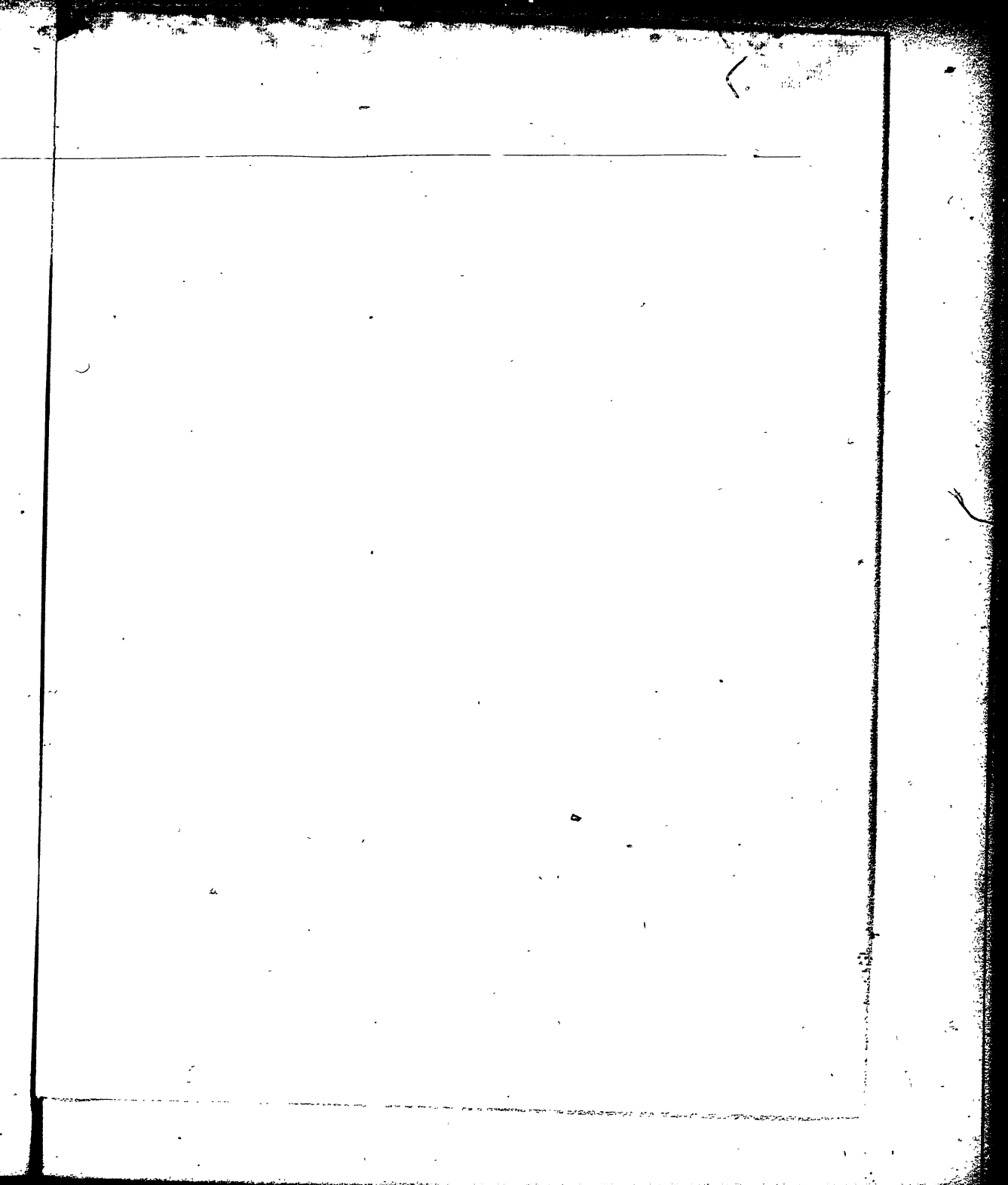
Brother! One little Complaint more, as I have already observed you come with an excellent Medicine to make us whole. There are two Families of Onondago Extract (alluding to Captn John's and another Family) who reside among us; they are in the same Predicament with our Cayuga Brother; they all but one refused to take any Money on your Settlement with the Onondagoes; they request that you will set apart a Piece of Land for them on the East Side of the Onondago Claim, so that they may be near us and strengthen us.

The Governor answered that the Commissioners would attend to his Claim also.

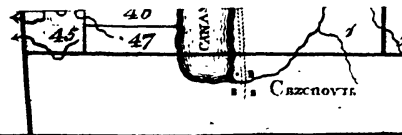
Peter the Beech Tree then arose and observed that the Man who purchased German Town (naming Peter Hansenclever) had promised Money for those Lands which he never paid to them, and requested to know how they were to obtain Satisfaction. He also requested to know whether any Answer had been received from the Governor of Pennsylvania about the Lands at the Cookhouse within his Line, for which some Part of the Consideration Money had never been paid

<sup>1</sup> HAN JOOST, an Oneida Warrior, died suddenly in Albany on the Evening of Jan. 14, 1798. He distinguished himself under Gen. Gansevoort at the

Seige of Fort Stanwix, and was highly esteemed by the Whites. He was regularly commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Continental Service.







to his certain Knowledge. As to the former the Governor informed Peter it was a Transaction under the British Government, of which he was ignorant, and that Hansenclever was either Dead or gone out of the Country; and as to the latter, he had received no Answer from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The Governor then informed the Oneidas that he would reserve the Answer to that Part of their Speech which more immediately related to the Business of this Meeting, until the Writings were executed, when he would deliver them his closing Address and present them with a Belt agreeable to their ancient Usage, in Confirmation of the Agreement now entered into between us.

The Deeds were then produced and executed by the Parties respectively, and delivered. The Consideration Money was counted down and the Goods and Provisions placed ready to be delivered to the Oneidas; but the Indians requested the Commissioners to take Charge of the whole till tomorrow Morning, at which Time they promised that their Agents and Committee would attend to receive them.

The Deed being executed is in the Words following.<sup>1</sup>

At a Treaty held at Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix, in the State of New York, by his Excellency George Clinton, Governor of the said State, & William Floyd, Ezra L'Hommedieu, Richard Varick, Samuel Jones, Egbert Benson & Peter Gansevoort, Junr. (Commissioners authorized for that Purpose by and on Behalf of the People of the State of New York), with the Tribe or Nation of Indians called the Oneidas, it is on the twenty-second day of September, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, covenanted & concluded as follows:

<sup>1</sup> An Original of this Treaty is preserved in the Secretary's Office on a Sheet of Parchment about two Feet square, with thirty-five Seals of the Parties, and appended to it is a Belt of Wampum made of six Rows of cylind-

rical White and Blue Beads strung upon Deer Skin Cords. The Belt is about two Inches wide and nearly two Feet long. The Treaty is also recorded in Book of Treaties, Vol. II, p. 154, in the Secretary's Office.

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

Secondly, Of the said ceded Lands the following Tract, to wit: Beginning at the Wood Creek opposite to the Mouth of the Canada Creek, and where the Line of Property comes to the said Wood Creek, and runs thence Southerly to the North West Corner of the Tract to be granted to John Francis Perache, thence along the Westerly Bounds of the said Tract to the South west Corner thereof, thence to the North west Corner of a Tract granted to James Dean; thence along the Westerly Bounds thereof to the South west Corner of the last mentioned Tract; thence due South until it intersects a due West Line from the Head of the Tianaderha or Unadilla River; thence from the said Point of Intersection due West until the Deep Spring bears due North; thence due North to the Deep Spring,<sup>1</sup> thence the nearest Course to the Caneserage Creek, and thence along the said Creek, the Oneida Lake and the Wood Creek to the Place of Beginning, shall be reserved for the following several Uses. That is to say, the Lands lying to the Northward of a Line parrallel to the Southern Line of the said reserved Lands, and four Miles distant from the said Southern Line, the Oneidas shall hold to themselves and 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. The Oneidas may from Time to Time forever make Leases of the Lands between the said parrallel Line (being the Residue of the said reserved Lands) to such Persons and on such Rents reserved as they shall deem proper; but no Lease shall be for a longer

<sup>1</sup> The Deep Spring, called by the Onondagas Teunghsatayagh, is on the present County Line of Onondaga and Madison Counties, near the Seneca Turnpike, and three and a half Miles East of Manlius Village. It is Circular, about sixty Feet in Diameter, Funnel-shaped, and about Thirty Feet deep. A copious Stream flows from it, except in Seasons of great Drouth, and it is en-

roned by Trees of great Size, upon which many Visitors have carved their Names. There are many traditional Associations connected with this singular Spot, and its Importance as a Landmark made it well known to Surveyors, and led to its being marked on most of the old Maps of this Region.—*Clark's Onondaga County.*

Term than twenty-one Years from the making thereof; and no new Lease shall be made until the former Lease of the same Lands shall have expired. The Rents shall be to the Use of the Oneidas and their Posterity forever; and the People of the State of New York shall from Time to Time make Provision by Law to compel the Lessees to pay the Rents, and in every other Respect to enable the Oneidas and their Posterity to have the full Benefit of their Right so to make Leases and to prevent Frauds on them respecting the same; and the Oneidas and their Posterity forever shall enjoy the free Right of Hunting in every Part of the said ceded Lands, and of Fishing in all the Waters within the same, and especially there shall forever remain ungranted by the People of the State of New York one half Mile Square at the Distance of every six Miles of the Lands along the Northern Banks of the Oneida Lake, one half Mile in Breadth of the Lands on each Side of the Fish Creek,<sup>1</sup> and a convenient Piece of Land at the Fishing Place in the Onondago River about three Miles from where it issues out of the Oneida Lake, and to remain as well for the Oneidas and their Posterity as for the Inhabitants of the said State to land and encamp on. But notwithstanding any Reservation to the Oneidas, the People of the State of New York may erect public Works and Edifices as they shall think proper at such Place and Places at or near the Confluence of the Wood Creek and the Oneida Lake as they shall elect, and may take and appropriate for such Works or Buildings lands to the Extent of one Square Mile at each Place; and further, notwithstanding any Reservations of Lands to the Oneidas for their own Use, the New England Indians (now settled at Brotherton under the Pastoral Care of the Revd. Samson Occum)<sup>2</sup> and their Posterity forever, and the Stockbridge

<sup>1</sup> The Indian Name of this Stream was Tegesoken, *between the Mouths.*—*Jones's Oneida County*, 871.

<sup>2</sup> SAMSON OCCUM, a Mohegan, was born in Connecticut in 1733, and was the first Indian Pupil in the Rev. Mr.

Wheelock's School at Lebanon. After spending several Years among the Shinnecock Indians of Suffolk County, N. Y., as a Minister, in 1766, he visited England, where the Novelty of his Race and Mission attracted Crowds to his Meetings. With the Funds raised, the

Indians and their Posterity forever, are to enjoy their Settlements on the Lands heretofore given to them by the Oneidas for that Purpose, that is to say, a Tract of two Miles in Breadth and three Miles in Length for the New England Indians, and a Tract of six Miles Square for the Stockbridge Indians.

Thirdly, In Consideration of the said Cession and Grant, the People of the State of New York do at this Treaty pay to the Oneidas two thousand Dollars in Money, two thousand Dollars in Clothing and other Goods, and one thousand Dollars in Provisions; and also five hundred Dollars in Money to be applied towards building a Grist Mill and Saw Mill at their Village (the Receipt of which Monies, Clothing and Goods and Provisions the Oneidas do now acknowledge), and the People of the State of New York shall annually pay to the Oneidas and their Posterity forever, on the first Day of June in every Year at Fort Schuyler aforesaid, six hundred Dollars in Silver; but if the Oneidas or their Posterity shall at any Time hereafter elect that the whole or any Part of the said six 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 Oneidas and their Posterity shall elect, and at the Price which the same shall cost the People of the State of New York at Fort Schuyler aforesaid; and as a further Consideration to the Oneidas, the People of the State of New York shall grant to the said John Francis Perache a Tract of Land, Beginning in the Line of Property at a certain Cedar Tree near the Road leading to Oneida, and runs from the said Cedar Tree Southerly along the Line of Property two Miles; thence Westerly at right Angles to the said Line of Property two Miles; thence Northerly at right Angles to the last Course two Miles, and thence to the Place of Beginning; which the said John Francis Perache hath consented

School of Mr. Wheelock was removed to Hanover, N. H., and Dartmouth College was founded. He removed to the Oneida Country in 1788, and died among his People on the Brotherton Tract in July, 1792.



to accept from the Oneidas in Satisfaction for an Injury done to him by one of their Nation. And further, the Lands intended by the Oneidas for John T. Kirkland and for George W. Kirkland, being now appropriated to the Use of the Oneidas, the People of the State of New York shall therefore, by a Grant of other Lands make Compensation to the said John T. Kirkland and George W. Kirkland. And further, that the People of the State of New York shall as a Benevolence from the Oneidas to Peter Penet and in Return for Services rendered by him to their Nation, grant to the said Peter Penet of the said ceded Lands lying to the Northward of the Oneida Lake a Tract of ten Miles Square, wherever he shall elect the same.

Fourthly, The People of the State of New York may in such Manner as they shall deem proper, prevent any Persons except the Oneidas, from residing or settling on the Lands so to be held by the Oneidas and their Posterity for their own Use and Cultivation; and if any Person shall without the Consent of the People of the State of New York come to reside or settle on the said Lands or on any other of the Lands so ceded as aforesaid, except the Lands whereof the Oneidas may make Leases as aforesaid, the Oneidas and their Posterity shall forthwith give Notice of such Intrusions to the Governor of the said State for the time being. And further, the Oneidas 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 in apprehending not only such Intruders but also 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.

In Testimony whereof, as well the Sachems, Chiefs, Warriors and others of the said Oneidas, in Behalf of their Tribe or Nation, as the said Governor and other Commissioners of the People of the State of New York, have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and affixed their Seals the Day & Year First above written.

ODÀGHSEGHTÉ  
KANAGHWEAYA

*Proceedings of the*

PETER OTSIQUETTE  
 THÀGHNIYONGO  
 THONIGWEAGHSHALE  
 TEHEAND'YAKHON  
 OGISTALALE alias HANYURRY  
 OTSETOGON  
 TEYOHAGWEANDA  
 ONEYANHA alias BEECH TREE  
 THAGHNEGHTOLIS alias HENDRICK  
 S'HONOUGHLEYO alias ANTHONY  
 THÀGTAGHGUISEA  
 KANAGHSALILGH  
 GAGHSAWEDA  
 TEAGHSWEANGALOLIS alias PAULUS  
 AGWELENTONGWAS alias DOMINE PETER  
 JONEGHSLISHEA alias DANIEL  
 THANIGEANDAGAYON  
 ALAWISTONIS alias BLACKSMITH  
 KEANYÀKO alias DAVID  
 KAKIKTOTON  
 SAGOYONTHA  
 HANNAH SODOLK  
 TEHOUGHNIHALK HANWAGALET  
 KASKONGHGWEA KANWAGALET  
 HONONWAYELE  
 SKENONDONGH

GEORGE CLINTON  
 WM. FLOYD  
 EZRA L'HOMMEDIEU  
 RICHARD VARICK  
 SAMUEL JONES  
 EGBERT BENSON  
 PETER GANSEVOORT, JUNR.

[The Indians all signed this and the preceding Instruments by making their Mark, a Cross, at the end of their Names, which had been written for them.]

*Witnesses Present.*

The Words (and the Stockbridge Indians and their Posterity forever) after the third Word in the last Line of the second Article, and also the Words (For the New England Indians and a Tract of six Mile Square for the Stockbridge Indians) at the End of the same Line, & also the Words (two thousand Dollars in Money) in the first Line of the third Article, and the Words (Except the Lands whereof the Oneidas may make Leases as aforesaid) in the third Line of the fourth Article being first interlined.

Before the Execution hereof the Oneidas in Public Council declared to the Commissioners that they had in Return for his frequent good Offices to them given to John I. Bleecker of the Lands reserved for their own Use, one Mile Square adjoining to the Lands of James Dean, & requested that the same might be granted and confirmed to him by the State.

SAML. KIRKLAND, Miss'y & Interpreter.  
J. B. CHR'S. DEST. TRYS,  
ABM. ROSEKRANTZ,  
SIMEON DEWITT, Survr. Genl.,  
SAMUEL LATHAM MITCHELL,  
JOHN TAYLER,  
WM. COLBRATH.

This Business being adjusted, the Governor addressed the Nation as follows :

Brothers! We have now concluded the Business for which this Council Fire was kindled. Our Conferences have been public, so that every Person who chose might be a Witness, and we have spoken our Minds freely to each other. The Result is a Covenant between us; which we are happy to find from your Speech, is perfectly satisfactory to both Parties, and for their mutual Advantage. We hope it will be faithfully observed by our Great Council, as well as your Nation, and that it will endure forever. This Covenant is

executed between us in Form, by your and our setting our Hands and affixing our Seals to it, according to our Usage, and we give you a Belt according to your Usage.

Brothers! We have given you at this Time in Money, Clothing and Provisions, sufficient to answer your present Occasions. You have a very large Tract of Country for your own Use and Cultivation; you are to have the Rents of a very large Tract, and you are to be allowed by our Great Council to the Amount of six hundred Dollars annually forever. We also give you five hundred Dollars towards building a Grist Mill and Saw Mill for you. You have therefore more than sufficient for the comfortable Support of yourselves and your Posterity if you are prudent and sober. If you have not Prudence and Sobriety, these very extensive Advantages reserved to you, will not secure you from Distress and possibly Ruin.

Brothers! listen to our Advice. Endeavour to take Care of yourselves, be prudent, be sober. Do not suffer any of our People who lead disorderly Lives to come and reside among you. They will not only constantly defraud you, but they will also by their Example and Conversation make you as bad as they themselves are. If you are not able let us know and we will oblige them to remove. Pay a due Respect to your Chiefs. Attend to the Advice of good Men in your own Nation, and observe such Regulations as they propose for preserving Peace and good Order among yourselves; observe this Advice and you will enjoy all the Happiness which we sincerely wish to you and your Posterity.

Brothers! We are sensible of the Importance of our Alliance with the French. We shall always endeavour to preserve a strict Friendship with that generous Nation, and we are pleased to find that it is a Connexion agreeable to you. The mutual Communication between you and us, shall always be in a Manner most agreeable to you.

Brothers! I now deliver you a Belt, in Confirmation of the present Covenant, and also of a perpetual Friendship between us.

A Belt.

Brothers! I now cover up this Council Fire, and after

smoaking a Pipe and drinking together, we will retire in Friendship to our respective Homes.

Before executing the Deeds, it was also declared in Council by the Oneidas that Archibald Armstrong possessed a Mile Square at the Mouth of Canada Creek, one half of which would now be on our Side of the Line; that they had agreed to leave him for 21 Years clear of Costs on their Part, and requested the State to do the like on their Part.

The Oneida Indians having expressed a Desire that the five hundred Dollars in Specie, this Day stipulated to be paid to them, as Part of the Consideration Monies, for the Lands ceded by them to the People of the State of New York to be applied towards building a Grist Mill and Saw Mill at their Village should be left in the Care of the Commissioners or such Persons as they should appoint, to be paid on the Order of the Governor; It was thereupon Resolved that the same be deposited in the Hands of John Tayler, Esquire, Agent to the Commissioners, to be paid and applied in Manner aforesaid.

The Money was accordingly paid by Mr. Varick to Mr. Tayler, in the Presence of the Commissioners, and a Duplicate of the Commissioners' Resolution for that Purpose and of Mr. Tayler's Receipt of this Date thereon indorsed, was delivered in full Council to the Agents of the Oneidas.

The Governor then by the Advice of the Commissioners presented a Fowling Piece to Ogistalale, the young Sachem, who had been presented to the Commissioners as Successor to the Grass Hopper.

The Board having found it expedient in their Negotiations with the Oneidas to propose such a Boundary for the Lands to be reserved to their Use as would also include the Lands heretofore given by them to John T. Kirkland and George W. Kirkland, and the Oneidas declining to assent to such Proposal, without a Stipulation by the Board that the Legislature would by a Grant of other Lands compensate the said John T. Kirkland and George W. Kirkland. A Stipulation for that Purpose was accordingly at the Request of the Oneidas inserted in the Instrument of Cession from them, and the

Rev. Samuel Kirkland having at this Treaty rendered meritorious Services to the State, and some of the Oneidas having expressed to his Excellency the Governor, a Disinclination to make a Cession of all their Lands without a Benevolence to Mr. Kirkland for his pastoral Care of them for many Years, the Board having conceived it requisite to give them Assurances that they would recommend it to the Legislature to grant to Mr. Kirkland two square Miles adjoining to the Lands to be granted to his Children. Therefore,

Resolved as the Sense of the Board, that it be recommended to the Legislature to grant to the said John T. Kirkland and George W. Kirkland,<sup>1</sup> in Lieu and Compensation of the said Lands heretofore given them, each a Mile Square, and to the said Samuel Kirkland two square Miles, the whole to be contiguous, forming a Square of two Miles, and to be bounded on the Line of Property and adjoining to the Southern Bounds of the Lands granted to Colo. Wemple.

N. B. A Copy of this Resolution signed by all the Commissioners was delivered to Mr. Kirkland.

The Board deeming it expedient to forward a Messenger into the Cayuga Country to invite their Chiefs and those of such of the Seneca Tribes as are connected with them to meet

<sup>1</sup>JOHN THORNTON and GEORGE WHITFIELD KIRKLAND, Twin and eldest Sons of Samuel Kirkland, Missionary to the Oneidas, were born at the House of General Herkimer, August 17, 1770. Their Mother returned to Oneida a few Weeks after, and was joyfully received by the Indians who adopted the Boys into their Tribe, naming John *Abganowiska*, and George, *Lagoneost*. The Former was educated at an Academy at Andover, and in Harvard University, where he graduated with much Honor at the Age of nineteen. He was settled as Pastor of the Summer Street Church, Boston, where he acquired great Distinction, his Sermons being characterized "by great Depth of Thought—by the broad and all embracing Philosophy which shone

through them—by the Energy and Richness of their Language—and above all, by that profound, intimate and Soul-searching Knowledge of Man—of the tortuous Mazes of the human Heart, and the hidden Motives which control human Actions—which, more than any other Man, he had at absolute Command." In 1810, he was elected President of Harvard University, and filled this Office with Dignity and Efficiency until 1828. Having spent several Years abroad, he returned in 1832; and having been enfeebled by Paralysis several Years, died at Boston, April 28, 1840. He married late in Life, and left no Children. His Brother, George W., died single, at Jamaica, in 1806.

the Commissioners in Order to effect an Agreement with them respecting their Lands; It was resolved that Mr. Kirkland be employed for this Purpose, and that Instructions be prepared for his Conduct, which was done and signed by the Governor, and are in the Words following:

Sir: On your Arrival in the Country of the Cayugas, you will take every Opportunity of explaining to the Chiefs of that Nation, the Nature of the Settlement which has taken Place with the Onondagoes and Oneidas, and to impress upon their Minds the absolute Necessity of their coming to some similar Settlement with us, and to this End to invite them to attend at New York this Fall or at Albany early next Winter. It is unnecessary to particularize to you the Reasons to be urged to induce the Indians to a Compliance, as you have heard them repeatedly at the present Treaty. It is sufficient to observe that the Peace of the State and the Existence of these Indians as a People, depend on coming to some permanent Agreement respecting their Lands with the State so as effectually to frustrate the Designs of a Set of disorderly White People who have lately intruded among them for wicked Purposes.

As a small Part of the Lands of the Senecas is supposed to lie East of the Line of Cession to the Massachusetts, it is the Wish of the Commissioners that the Chiefs of the Tribes connected with the Cayugas may be informed of the Nature of our Settlement with the Oneidas and Onondagoes, and that a sufficient Number of the Chiefs of such Tribes to transact this Business should attend with the Cayuga Chiefs; but as the latter Object is small we cannot be justified in putting the State to any considerable Expence to procure the Attendance of the Senecas. If the Indians can come to New York the Commissioners think it would be best for them to pass by the Way of Esopus.<sup>1</sup>

The Commissioners rely upon your Attachment to the Interest of the State, and trust much to your Prudence in

<sup>1</sup> Now Kingston, Ulster County.

the Execution of this Business; I have therefore only to add that I am with great Respect,

Sir, Your most obedient Servt.

Fort Schuyler, }

GEORGE CLINTON.

21st Sept. 1788. }

The Rev. Mr. SAMUEL KIRKLAND.

Mr. Kirkland being paid for his Services as Interpreter, and furnished with Provisions for his Journey set out immediately for the Cayuga Country.

The Commissioners then also resolved that Mr. Varick pay to Mr. Tayler the Sum of one thousand three hundred Pounds to be applied by him for the Purpose of paying for Provisions and other Necessaries for the Treaty at this Place, 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 he had by Order of the Board paid to the Onondago Indians the Sum of thirteen hundred and seventy-eight Dollars on the twelfth Instant, and to the Seneca Indians the Sum of forty-one Dollars and five Shillings on the sixteenth instant, and to the Oneida Indians on this Day the Sum of two thousand Dollars; which three Sums in the whole amount to three thousand four hundred and nineteen Dollars and five Shillings.

The Remainder of this Day was spent in auditing and adjusting the Claims of the Inhabitants of this Place for Damages sustained and other Accounts for Articles furnished and Services performed, and in making Preparations to set out for Albany the next Morning.

On the 23d Day of September the Agents & Committee of the Oneidas attended agreeable to Appointment, to whom the Money, Goods and Provisions were duly delivered and Waggon provided to transport the same to their Camp: When it being about 8 o'Clock A. M., the Commissioners embarked on Board of Batteaux for Albany, where they arrived on the 25th.



At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of John Tayler, in the City of Albany, on Friday the twenty-sixth Day of September, 1788.

Present: His Excellency the Governor.  
William Floyd, Samuel Jones,  
Ezra L'Hommedieu, Egbert Benson,  
Richard Varick, Peter Gansevoort, Junr.

The Accounts of John I. Bleeker, who had acted as Commissary of Provisions, and as one of the Interpreters to the Commissioners, and Capt. John Thornton, who was sent into the Indian Country with the second Letter from the Commissioners adjourning the Treaty till the 1st Day of September and inviting them to attend at that Time, and who was also employed in other Services, with some other Accounts, were audited and adjusted.

The Board also took into Consideration the Allowance to be made to John Tayler, their Agent, for his Services; Whereupon it was Resolved that he be allowed a Commission of five pr. Ct. upon all the Sums of Money by him received and expended in the Course of his Agency; and an additional Sum of fifty Pounds as a Reward for his Care and Services in effecting a Meeting of the Indians with the Commissioners and while attending the Treaty.

It was further Resolved by the Board that Mr. Varick pay to Mr. Tayler the Sum of four hundred Pounds to be applied by him for the Purpose of paying for Provisions and other Necessaries for the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, for which Sum he is to be accountable to the People of the State of New York.

It was also determined that it would be most expedient for the Governor and Commissioners who were returning with him to New York, to hire a Sloop for their own Accommodation, that they might with the greater Conveniency employ their Time on the Passage in arranging the Papers and completing their Minutes.

Capt. Garret Ryckman's<sup>1</sup> Sloop was accordingly engaged, on Board of which the Governor and Messrs. Floyd, L'Hommedieu, Varick and Jones embarked at 4 o'Clock P. M.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners on Board of Capt. Ryckman's Sloop, on Monday the twenty-ninth Day of September, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
 William Floyd, Richard Varick, &  
 Ezra L'Hommedieu, Samuel Jones.

Resolved that Mr. Varick be requested to have the Minutes transcribed in a proper Book to be by him provided for that Purpose, and that he deliver the same to his Excellency the Governor, to be by him laid before the Legislature.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners at the House of Richard Varick in the City of New York, on Tuesday the fourth Day of November, 1788.

Present: His Excellency Governor Clinton.  
 John Lawrance, Samuel Jones.  
 Richard Varick, &

Resolved, that the Board deem it proper that the Sum of five thousand Pounds be drawn from the Treasury for the Purposes of making Purchases from the Cayuga and Seneca Indians of their Lands lying between the Western Bounds of the Lands lately ceded by the Onondagoes to the People of the State of New York and the Eastern Boundary Line of the Lands ceded by this State to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for discharging the Contingent Expences of holding a Treaty or Treaties with those Indians for that Purpose, and that his Excellency the Governor draw that Sum by Warrant payable to Richard Varick, one of the Commissioners.

<sup>1</sup> Capt. RYCKMAN was a Brother of preter of Canadasaga, frequently mentioned in this Work.  
 Peter Ryckman, the Trader and Inter-

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All which is respectfully reported to the Legislature, at  
Albany this 11th Day of December, 1788.

*Geo. Clinton*

*Peter Gansevoort Jun<sup>r</sup>*

*Samuel Jones*

*John Laurance*

*Ezra Hornmedien*