

Quebec March 7th 1750

530.

Since I have been in Possession of the general Government, with which the King my Master has entrusted me, I have had a sincere Desire to procure an entire Liberty to all your Prisoners, who are detain'd in it; My Sentiments have reach'd your Excellency to whom I have had the Honour to write several Letters as well as to M^r Clinton Governour of Newyork; I had abundant Reason to hope that this Earnestness on my Part would contribute to excite you to do all you could to procure the same Advantage to the Subjects of my Government, to the French who are detain'd among the Agnès, & to the 16 Abenakis who are on an Island near Boston.

Nevertheless I see with Grief an Affair of this Importance drawn out into Length, without being able to penetrate into the motives of it, I see no Difficulty in it, would your Excellency but act with the same Zeal that animates me, of which I have not cease to give you Proofs. And I am persuaded, S^r if my Letter of the 26th of Sept^r last had been

Delivered you by Mons^r Launier you would have
engage with cheerfulness to facilitate the Inquiry
after the 26 Abenakis, of whom I sent you a
List. And if M^r Clinton had join'd with me, as I
desir'd him, I am certain by his Care & yours, the
respective Subjects of the two Governments, would
have enjoy'd at this Time the ~~the~~ sweets & Tran-
quility which the two Crowns regarded as the prin-
cipal object in their Treaty of Peace.

I can't conceal from you, S^r, the sincere Part
I take in the Condition which these poor People
have the misfortune to undergo, and I should think
my self worthy of Blame if I had contributed to
it, M^r Clinton is the Sole Occasion of it, I am
forc'd to say it, for if he had permitted the Sieur
Launier Interpreter of the Abenakis to execute
my Orders, this Nation would have been as quiet
as they are now actually animated with rage,
and ^{as they} will be, 'till such time as they are positively
informed of the Condition of their Brethren.

This Reason join'd to y^e Desire I have of maintaining
Peace & a good Understanding, induces me to
Depute the Sieur De Beaubassin an officer
in y^e Troops of this Colony whom I send to
you together with an Abenaki Indian, and
have given them Orders, to make, with your y^e
Leave, all imaginable Search and Inquiry in
order to come to a Discovery of the P^o

Indians. As I should be glad this were the last step I had to take in this affair, and that it might be attended with better Success than the former, I shall communicate to you, ~~for~~ the Answer made ^{me} by Mr. Clinton of 28th of Oct: last, this is the more necessary as you will see from it what Grounds I have for Complaint, and for using all means to come to it. Sight of the P. Abenakis.

Mr. Clinton who had never said anything to me of these Abenakis, informs me,

1st That their Chief had impos'd upon me, and to justify it, he joins with his Letter, one that Col: Wendell of Boston wrote to him:

2nd That M^r. Sieur Laurier Interpreter with the Indian who accompanied him, Satisfied with reading this Letter, judg'd they might dispense with going to Boston to deliver you my Letter, agreeable to M^r. Order which I had given them.

I could wish the Answer of Mr. Clinton had operated the Effect he ~~promis'd~~ himself from it, but on the contrary I find the Abenakis firmly resolv'd to use all their Force to recover their Brethren, and they persist in maintaining with a great deal of Firmness that they are detain'd ~~on~~ an Island near Boston.

These are their Proofs.

In the first Place Mr. Wendell allows in his Letter

that at the beginning of the War the said 26 Abenakis were in a Fort of Newengland, and Demanded to live among the English, and when the War was proclaimed, these Indians were carried to Boston.

That these Indians ~~were~~^{were} to have been sent to Casco Bay to be present at the Treaty of Peace which was to be concluded last Spring between the eastern Indians and the English, and should be at Liberty to retire were they pleased, or to return to Newengland.

But the Sir Wendell does not positively say the Indians in fact went to Casco, much less does he say they went to their own Homes, nor even what is become of them.

In the 2^d Place the Abenakis to whom I communicated that Letter, have made me several Observations upon it.

First that it is so false that their Brethren went into the English Fort with a Design to take Refuge there, that they were invited to trade there, and without Regard to Faith they were carried by Force to Boston. This Violence lies much at their Heart.

2^d That they are inform'd by ~~some~~^{several} of the Chiefs who assisted at the 1st Treaty at Casco that their Brethren were not there present

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and that there was not even any mention made of them. This fact has been just now further certified to me, by a malecite Chief.

Thirdly they can so little doubt that the ^{S^r} Abenakis ~~are~~ in your Government, that 2 Indians who some ^{little} time since came out of your Prisons, & the chief Gunner of the Vigilant have told them positively, that they knew for certain that the said Abenakis are still ~~in your~~ detained in the Neighbourhood of Boston. Several Frenchmen worthy of Credit have told me the same thing.

In the 3^d Place, What most shocks the Abenakis is the Relation which their Brother, who went to Newyork with the S^r Launier, made them of the ill treatment he underwent, and the Obstinacy of M^r. Clinton to not suffer them to go to Boston.

I did not expect such a refusal, and I should have flattered my self that M^r. Clinton far from giving any hindrance to the Execution of my Orders would on the contrary have joined his Authority with them, especially as they tended to the common good both of the Subjects of New England, and those of New France, and as I have shown all the Regard and Civility possible to Officers and others who have come with a Passport from him into my Government.

And, what is still worse, the S^r. Sieur Launier

having embarked with his Indian on board a Sloop for Albany by Order of Mr. Clinton, the Sailours abused the I. Indian, and the master of the Vessel never thought fit to hinder them, which obliged the Indian to run away thro' the Woods. He travelled in a miserable Condition, and it was with a great Deal of Pains he was found.

Such a Proceeding is not to born, I doubt not, but so soon as I shall have inform'd Mr. Clinton of it he will cause the I. Sailours to be chastised, or rather the master, for not having Done it to his Crew.

This Punishment is of very great Consequence, in as much as the Abenaki Nation might revenge the Insult ~~Offered~~ their Brother, and I must tell you that when this Indian came near his Village, he thundered out the War Song, and having inform'd the Chiefs of his Adventure, they held a Council, and deliberated about sending a Party of their young men to cut the Throats of a Clerk and several English men at the great carrying Place, which I happily prevented by my Authority.

The Capt. Mr. Benj. Poddard whom Mr. Clinton Deputed, & sent about the Exchange of Prisoners is arriv'd in this City Days since,

I had yesterday a long Conference with him
 In which he must have perceiv'd, how much I ~~shall~~
 have been charm'd ~~to~~ having concluded the ~~st.~~
 Exchange, He will give you an Account of the
 Reasons which have hindred me, which are the
 same I have the Honour to observe to you. He
 was a Witness of the Representation made me by
 the Malecite Chief and of all the Sieur Launier
 told me with regard to M^r. Clinton's Refusal. I
 having given Order to provide this Deputy all the
 Conveniences he can desire in my Government,
 and on my Part I shall show him all the
 Civility which I owe to Officers who represent
 your Excellencies.

He has the Liberty to see your Prisoners
 as well English as Indians, My Deputies have not
 had the same Permissions, I flatter my self
 M^r. Clinton will allow them to M^r. Beaubassin
 whom I have ordered to visit him as often as
 he can. I have wrote for this End to M^r. Clinton
 And my Letter will not be delivered him by M^r.
 Beaubassin till after he has had the Honour to
 fulfill his mission to your Excellency.

All the Facts of which I ^{have} now had the
 Honour to give your Excellency the Particulars
 must convince you how impossible it is for me
 to do any thing in Prejudice of the Opposition

of the Abenakis, you can't but think it just, & I am certain, you will leave nothing undone to enable me to give them the Satisfaction which is their Due.

Confident of this I send away the Sieur Beaubassin with a Chief of the Abenakis, I have the Honour to pray you to forward him in every thing necessary to his labouring to purpose for the Discovery of the I. Abenakis, according to the Directions I have given him.

I doubt not he will meet with them, he will accompany their Chief in order to speak with them in whatever Part of your Government they are. The I. Indians will take such Measures as they judge proper, being free & independent, and it will be sufficient for me to ^{have} answered the Views of the Abenakis, who have always been very faithful to I. French Nation.

So, S^r if these Indians require to return to their Country, you will be so good as to permit them, and it will be sufficient for one of them to go away with the Sieur Beaubassin to give an Account to their Nation, that their Brethren are at Liberty, or have chose to remain in your Government.

M^r Clinton might at the same Time cause all the French, whom I have in

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Newengland, and those who are now in the Power of the Agnies, to be brought to y^e great Carrying Place. The ~~Sieur~~ ^{Sieur} Beaufassin will come away with all Diligence to inform me of it, as well as of the Place where it shall be agreed to make the Exchange, and immediately I will cause all your Prisoners in general to meet at the Rendezvous.

Moreover, S^r, I must ^{not} conceal from your Excellency that I am very much surpris'd to find a Crowd of English Traders scattered about over the Lands of my Government, who distribute their Goods at a low Price in all the Villages of the Indians of the upper Country which are on the Lands of the King of France, which causes ^{so} great Prejudice to the Trade of this Colony, that I can't avoid informing the King my Master of it.

It is not difficult to penetrate into the Designs of the English in preventing all the Wanks of the Indians, It is, I shall be answer'd, to draw them over to them, and this is not forbidden, since these Nations are Dependent upon no Crown.

But all the World knows, the King of France is Master ^{upon} his own Lands, as the King of England is upon his, and of Consequence I have a good Right to drive those away, who shall pretend to settle a Trade there contrary to the Kings Interest, and to cause their Goods to be

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confiscated.

Ah! Ought I not to do it without hesitating, since separate from motives of Interest the English seek to Debauch the Indians, and inspire them with Sentiments of Hatred against the French.

you will be astonished to hear me complain with Justice, I have in my Hands the Proofs of what I advance, and to evince it, I make no Difficulty of sending you herewith a Copy of the Speech which the English of Chouaguen have passed among all the Nations. These English taking Advantage of the Plenty which they cause every where, are not afraid to tell the Indians alone, that they exhort them strenuously to make use of the Tomhawk I sent them, against me and my French; they accompany this speech with Belts of Wampum dyed red, Calumets, English Flags &c all of these were sent to me I showed them to M^r. Goddard, and I can't think without shuddering, that they have carried their malice even to the Destruction of the French.

You will easily perceive, I that I can't conceal my Resentment from you, it is not so great perhaps as you may think, and far from desiring to let it break out, I repeat to you, on the contrary the assurances of my application to maintain

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a most perfect Understanding with you and the
Subjects of your Government, ^{so that} far from hurting them
I would afford them in all Cases all the assistance
in my Power.

But as all Attempts, untimely made, to induce
the Indians to shed the Blood of the French, might
give Occasion to some unhappy Affair, and as
~~it~~ would also be disagreeable for me to be oblig'd
to go into Reprizals, it is necessary your Excellency
should cause the Authours of these Speeches to be
severely punished and should forbid under heavy
Penalties, by an Order to all the English under your
Government, any Persons going upon the Lands of
the King of France, to trade with the Indians
who reside there; On my Part I will issue a
like Order, that none of the Subjects of my
Government go to trade upon your Lands,
and I will cause it to be published in all my
Ports & Settlements.

I see no surer method to maintain
that ~~that~~ Tranquility which we ought to be fond
of; you will do me a great Pleasure to send me
a Copy of your Orders on this Subject.

You have, S^r, a long Letter, I can't
enlarge too much upon affairs of so great
Consequence.

The Papers of the Treasurer of this Colony

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not being ready, I can't proceed to a Settlement of
the Accounts of ~~the~~ several Prisoner's Expences.

I have the Honour to be
with as much Esteem as Respect.

J.

your most humble and
obedient Servant

La Jonquiere

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