

CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND THREE CHIEFS OF THE MOHICANS, WHO ASK THAT PEACE MAY BE MADE WITH THE ESOPUS INDIANS.

24<sup>th</sup> May.

Present the Honorable Director-General, *Ulaes de Ruyter* and *Jan Darech* as interpreters.

To-day appeared in the Council chamber three *Mohican* chiefs, namely

*Eskuvias* alias *Aepjen* (Little Ape)

*Appamet* and

*Kesseway*.

Whereas it was stated, that they came as envoys, they were asked, whether they came for themselves or in the name of others.

They answered in substance, that they came in the name of the *Esopus* Sachems to ask for peace, because they were no longer willing to make war, but wished to live as friends and that they would leave the *Esopus* altogether and convey it to the *Dutch*.

They were asked, what security they brought with them or could show, that the Sachems desire peace and that we must also know, whether the savages generally wanted peace too and would not go to war any more, because the Sachems had declared, that they cannot punish them, but must let them do as they please.

The Sachem *Aepje* put down two strings of wampum, saying, that is as security, that the Sachem, barebacks, young and old, squaws and men desire peace and ask for it; putting down two more strings he said, that this was as security, that they were sent to make peace. The strings of wampum were taken up and they were answered, we believed willingly, that they had been sent and had come, but that no peace *can* nor *shall* be made, before and until the Sachems of the *Esopus* came themselves here or at least to *Fort Orange*, to consider the conditions of the peace.

They put down again two strings and requested, that the Indian prisoners should be released.

The aforesaid two strings were handed back to them with the answer, that we would not accept them, as we did not intend to release the aforesaid prisoners.

They offered twelve strings again asking that the prisoners should be released. The same answer as before was given and the strings returned to them.

Whereupon they inquired, what we would do with the said prisoners.

The answer was the question, what they had done with our prisoners.

After the said three chiefs had spoken to each other for a while, one of them laid down a string of wampum before the Honorable General's feet, saying, that they requested, we should not carry the war farther than to the *Esopus*; the answer was: As long as they kept quiet and lived in peace with us, we would do the same and not make war against them. They put down another string of wampum, saying, that we must not be angry with them, if it should happen, that the *Esopus* savages were to injure or capture some Dutchmen along the river and near *Fort Orange*. The answer was, that as our friends they should prevent this as much as possible and if they should receive any information of it, they must warn our people; if they did that, there would be no reason to feel angry with them. They again put down a string, saying that thereby they cast away the remembrance of the refusal of their present, which they had offered for the captive savages and that they had no ill feeling on that account.

Giving still another string, they requested that the Sachems or chiefs of *Esopus* should accordingly to promise, have a safe conduct to *Fort Orange*, on which the aforesaid string was accepted.

They were further told, that we were willing to live with them as friends and brothers, (as