

To Governor John Winthrop,  
ca. 9 September 1637<sup>1</sup>

[Providence]

Much honoured Sir

I was fearefull that those dead hands were no pleasing Sight (otherwise then a remarkeable vengeance had seized upon the first Murtherer of the English *Wauphanck*) yet I was willing to permit what I could not approve least [lest] if I had buried the present my selfe I should have incurd suspicion of pride and wronged my betters, in the natives and others eyes. I have alwaies showne dislike to such dismembring the dead and now the more (according to your desire) in your name.<sup>2</sup>

I was also fearefull that mine owne hand (having no commission from my heart, wch is not in mine hand but in the hand of its maker the most high, to write you ought of mine owne returne in spiritualls) I say fearefull that mine owne might not be so gratefull and pleasing to you: but being calld upon by your message, and your love (your paper) I am emboldened.<sup>3</sup>

Concerning the Pequots, the Souldiers here related to me that *Okace* the Mohiganie Sachim had about 300 men with him on Pequet river Some 16 mile from the howse,<sup>4</sup> wch I believe are most of them Pequots and their confederates the Wunnashowatuckoogs and their Inlanders (whome he charged under paine of death not to come to Canonicus) and with whome he hath made him selfe

great. This man is but a litle Sachim, and hath not above 40 or 50 Mohiganeucks, wch as the English told me were all he could make.

It is generally confirmed that Thomas Stanton<sup>5</sup> (as himselfe allso confest to me at my howse) was grossly cousend [i.e., cozened] and deluded by one Wequashcuck, (a Nayantaquit Sachim)<sup>6</sup> who sheltred 4 Pequts Sachims and 60 Pequts at long Iland where now they are.<sup>(\*)</sup> This Wequashcuck was the man (to my knowledge) that sheltred Audsah, the murthrer of Mr Oldham, and kept his head so long upon his shoulders.<sup>7</sup> Yet to this man Thomas Stanton (as it

appeares) did to [too] much listen, slighting I feare to [too] much, the Nanhiggonicks.

I find our neighbours very eager to pursue these 4 Sachims and the 60 Pequots there. I presse them to patience till Mr Governours mind be knowne and Miantunnomu (to my knowledge) doth all he can to restreine them or els [else] long since they had bene there. They plead that Mr Governour may please to accompanie, or send himselfe against them, but can not by any Article in the leauge bind them to suffer so many of their enemies in a knot so neere them.<sup>8</sup>

I presse them to humane Consideracion of so much blood spilt. They answer if they have the Sachims heads, they will make the rest Nanhiggonicks, and for the Long Ilanders themselves and Wequashcuck they will not medle with them because of the peace Mr Stoughton made with them.

Concerning the ketles: Miantunnomu answeres, that he hath bene much wronged by the Reports of enemies and false friends to whome some of us (as he saith) have hearkned, before himselfe.

He saith he never knew of more then 2, one of wch the English used at the [Possession] howse, and the other as he heares is at the Fort [Saybrook?] still. He sayth he hath many of his owne and indeede when I came first hiether I saw neere 10 or 12 wch himselfe and Canonicus had.<sup>9</sup>

He repaid me with a grievance about a Pequot canow wch he desired might be ordred by your owne hearing, but it was denyed him. His plea seemes very faire, thus: His brother *Yotaash* having taken the great Sachim (Puttaquappuonckquame who was kept in the pinnace alive some time) tooke his Canow, wch sayth he the English Captaines sitting all togeather were very willing unto.<sup>10</sup> This Canow Mr Stoughton afterwards brought about homeward. Miantunnomu and his brother claime it: twas denied. He requested that it might be left at my howse till Mr Governours mind was knowne. Capt. Stoughton would not yeald, but desired him to goe along to me, but sayth he I would not trust my selfe with him seing he would not stand to Mr Governours determination about the Canow. I would not have mencioned this least [lest] it might provoke Mr Stoughton or any: but I know to whome I intimate it: and I have prettie well appeased the matter already.

He answeres all I can object to him with this let Mr Governour have the hearing of it. I will rest in his word and objecting to him

in the particular before divers, that the English complaine he was proud, he desired that I would present to Mr Governour these particulars, that he had cause to mainteine his right, because the Qunnihticut English equalled Okace and the Mohiganeucks with himselfe and his men.

Whereas sayth he these Mohiganeucks are but as a twig[,] we are as a great tree.

They fell to the English but last yeare, we have bene ever friends etc.

Okace and his men had a hand in the death of all the English and fought agst the Rivers mouth (at Qunnihticut). We never kild, nor consented to the death of an English man.

When the Dutchmen and we fought with the Pequits, the Mohiganeucks joyned agst us.<sup>11</sup>

When Capt Endicot came agst the Pequits, the Mohiganeucks receaved the Pequet women and children and kept them; while the men fought with him etc.

Okace brought presents to Canounicus and Miant [Miantonomi] yet at the same time killd 2 of his women treacherously.

They fell to the English this yeare in feare or other policie, and we (sayth he) have continued friendship and love ever since they landed. Thus he pleaded and etc.

And yet proud and Covetous and filthy they are etc. only I was willing to gratifie him in this because as I know your owne heart studies peace, and their soules good: So your Wisedome may make use of it unto others who happily take some more pleasure in Warrs. The blessed God of Peace be pleased to give you peace within at home [and] ceround [surround] about you abroad. So prayes Your Worps [Worship's] unfainedly respective

Roger Williams

To Mrs Wintrop Mr Deputie [Thomas Dudley] Mr Bellingham etc. all respective salutacions.

I have at present returned Rich Collicuts<sup>12</sup> Pequet girle wch Mi-antunnomu found out, and desird me to send home with promise of further enquiring.

[RW's marginal note:]

(a) where peace was made with promise from the natives not to permit one Pequet. Yet Wequashcuck marrying Sasacous his mother hath thus deceived you.<sup>13</sup>