*John Pierce Notes, on a visit to Several Tribes of Indians, 1796*

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# Notes, on a visit to Several Tribes of Indians. 1796

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Fifth month 30th about ten in the morning left my Habitation at Darby; was accompanied by my Friends John Humphreys and John Hunt as far as Casper Hains’ in German-town, where our Company had appointed to meet; who accordingly attended, being as follows, viz. Isaiah Rowland, James Cooper, Joseph Sansom, Henry Symmons & Enoch Walker;

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here we dined; and after Dinner, taking Leave of our Friends, we proceeded on to David Cum-min’s this Evening; where we lodged. \_\_\_\_\_

31st Proceeded on, dined at Oliver Paxtons, near Curruls Ferry on Dalaware, from Phila-34.delphia about 34 Miles. - Thence up the River, and crossed at Michel’s Ferry, ⟨16.⟩and thence to Kingwood, 16 Miles, lodged at Henry Clifton’s and Jon Allen’s.

Between the last mentioned Stages crossed a commanding Eminence, called Calvin’s Hill which,

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which I supposed to rise more than 200 Feet in perpendi- cular Height, and what was remarkable, on the Top, or near it, was a nearly level Meadow, which appeared to be a cold sour[?] Swamp. \_\_\_\_\_

Sixth mo. 1st. This Day crossed several considerable Moun- tains; on some of which we had a grand prospect of the ma- jestic works of Nature, in an extended view of a large Coun- try, variegated with less, and greater Hills, Valleys, and Plains; producing Reflecti- ons humbling to my Mind \_\_\_\_\_*we*

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we stopped twice at Inns to feed our Horses, at one of which got some dry victuals which served us for a Dinner, and arrived in the Evening at Jacob Lunday’s in Hard- wick County, in the Jersey; ⟨35.⟩from Kingwood about 35 Miles.

This Friend is seated in a fertile Valey almost surround -ed with Barren Mountains, his Wife is public, and has visited many of the Meetings in this Continent; by which means she was both known and nearly esteemed by some of us; that meeting with

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her here under her own and Husband’s hospitable Roof was reviving.\_\_\_\_\_

2nd. Continued up a kind of a Valey, between two considerable Mountains, stoped twice at Inns to feed, at one of which dined, and got to an Inn at Chester in Orange County, in ⟨50.⟩ the Evening; where we lodged 50 Miles.\_\_\_\_\_

3rd. This morning concluded to turn a little out of our direct Course, for the purpose of fall- ing in with some of our Friends, rode about 7 Miles to Breakfast[?], and about 13 more to Daniel Byrns’ on the North River,

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where we dined, and rested ourselves Several Hours; –– - Thence up the River about 12 Miles, to Edward Halluck’s, where we lodged, and were kindly entertained, he being an Ancient Friend of a very kind and hospitable Disposition. ⟨32.⟩Travailed this Day but 32 miles.

Here we Stand two Days & rested ourselves, wrote some Letters Home, and attended their Meeting on first Day.

6th. Being Second Day, left our agreeable Quarters, and pro- ceeded on our Journey, our Gd. Friend Edward Halluck, accom- paning us Several Miles;

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⟨20.⟩dined at Eusopus, about 20 Miles; This Town was entirely burnt by the English in 1777; and has now a Considerable Num- ber of good Houses; then rode to Cats.kill where we ⟨24.⟩ Lodged; 24 Miles. \_\_\_\_\_

Here we were entertained at a private House; for com- ing to the Creek after Night, and finding no Inn on this Side; the Creek not rideable, and no Boat to be had, things wore a disagreeable Appearance, but a friendly Man, Jacob Bogarder, being privy to

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our Distress, very compli- santly offered us Entertain- ment, which we gratefully accepted; and found him to be a Man of Intelligence, and some Consequence, andliving in considerable State, for this part of the Country.\_\_\_\_\_

7th. Staid Breakfast this Morning at our Lodgings, and while it was preparing, took a walk with our Land- lord to view the following curious Phaeno- menon, on his Farm, from 60 to 100 Perches from his

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dwelling House; A Hill which laid in the Northwest Angle, formed by the Meeting of the North River & Cats.Kill Creek which raised, as I supposed from 100 to 150 feet of perpendicular Height, from the Bed of said Waters, three Days since, broke near the Extre- mity of the Ellivation; and one part of it sunk almost perpen- dicularly down between 50 & 60 feet, next adjoining the great- est Elevation, and gradually up toward the Declivity of the Hill, leaving the ground almost level; the Quantity moved was about two Acres; we walked over the Ground, and

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indeed it was an amazing and Solemn Sight, the Stupendous Cracks and broken Earth made an awful appearance; The Inhabitants of a small town over the Creek saw it going, and were much alarmed, supposing it to have been the Beginning of an Earthquake, but they heard no rumbling, nor discovered any Shock: there was also on this Hill when it sunk a flock of Sheep grazing, which appeared much frighted with the first Motion of the Earth, and(as it sunk gradually) and ran vio- lently several Courses at first, but quickly gathered all close

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together, near the Center, and went down with the Ground, and received no hurt. \_\_\_\_\_

After Breakfast ferried over this Creek, and proceeded on, dined at Edward Halluck Junr. at a small Town, on the North River, called Baltimore, from our Last Stage about 22 miles ⟨42.⟩thence to albany, about 20 miles, here we put up our Horses at an Inn, and lodged some of us at a Friend’s House, and others of us at a friendly Man’s named Thomas Spencer, where we were kindly entertained. \_\_

This we are informed is the oldest City in the Conti- nent, but it appears a poor

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place; they have no regular Market; the Streets are ex- tremely irregular, crooked and dirty; the walks on each Side, are paved with very indifferent Stone, the middles generally not paved at all: They Say there are better than 1000 Houses in this place, and some of them are three Stories and otherways good and handsome Buildings; but the greater part appear to be old & inconvenient, of one, one and an half and two sto- ries, mostly of brick on *Wood.*

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Here we received Informa- tion from a Man who had been in the Indian Coun- try that the greater part of the Oneida, Onondaga & Cayuga Reservations had been lately purchased by the State of New York: This Information a little alarmed us, and we concluded it expedient to wait on the Surveyor General at his Office in this Town; and two of us being named for that Ser- vice, we accordingly went to his Office, and found him a very obliging and inteligent man,

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Man, and he marked out on our Map, what had been pur- chased, and what was still reserved; by which we were fully satisfied with Regard to the Quantity of Land still in possession of the Indians: This Interview was on the Morning of the 8th Instant; and in the Afternoon we concluded to move forward; and accordingly rode to Sche-nectady a Town on the ⟨14.⟩Mohawk River 14 Miles from Albany.\_\_\_\_\_

Here we lodged at a good Inn kept by English people; our

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Entertainment and Attendance excited Admiration, being equal, especially in the Womans de- partment, to almost any thing in that way, in the City of Philadelphia: This is a Smart Town containing, as they say, about 600 Houses many of them good Buildings: from here the Mohawk is boatable upwards of 100 Miles; but the Navigation is so extremely difficult, by reason of Shoal Water and Rapids, that, if the Roads were good, Land Carriage would be preferable: Between here and the North River is a large falls, which occasions a

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a carrying place from Albany here of 14 miles.\_\_\_\_\_

9th. This Morning crossed the Mo- hawk in a Boat, continued up the River between two Moun- tains; the flats on each Side the River appeared fertile, but narrow; in about 20 miles came to old general Jonstons Seat; it was a large Stone House, for this part of the Country; and had Some out Houses of a curious Structure; dined at Cagnawago, ⟨25.⟩ from Schenectady 25 miles: This is an Indian Name, the Etymology of which is, *Caginthe Wagon.*

Here John Jonston, son of old William Jonston, with about

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600 Indians and Regulars, did much mischief, in the Time of the American War; they burnt the Country for about 40 Miles up and down the River, and many of the Inhabitants lost their Lives, amongst which was the parents, and other Connections of our Present Landlady, which has tended to embitter her Mind against the Natives to this Day.\_\_\_\_\_

Thence up the River to Jacob Spraker’s, who keeps a ferry over the Mohawk, where we lodged: He has a gracious House

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House on the Outside, but within, in most respects, below indifferent; from our last ⟨10.⟩ Stage 10 Miles.\_\_\_\_\_

10th. Crossed the River in a ⟨9.⟩ Boat, and rode about 9 Miles to Breakfast: here, and for Some Miles back, the fertile Flats are much wider than they were for Some Distance, where we rode yesterday morning:\_\_\_\_\_

In the Course of this Stage, riding up the River, and ob- serving the fertility of the Land, and particularly that of the

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Flats on each Side of the River, which a few years ago were occupied by the Indians, my Mind was tendered in reflecting on their Situation; how they are tossed from place to place, and deprived of their Lands, almost as soon as their fertility becomes known to the white people; and it settled in my Mind, that it could hardly be the Will of the great Founder of the Universe, that this valu- able Country should remain unimproved; and that therefore, the only Means, whereby the

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Natives can secure to them- selves their possessions, is to endeavor to improve in Civilization, and in the holy fear of the Lord; becoming gradually a religiously organ- ized Body.\_\_\_\_\_

Thence up the River about 18 Miles further and dined ⟨18.⟩ at a place called the German Flats; here we were informed, that these Flats, for Several Miles back of this place, have been settled with white peo- ple for near 80 years, and we observed in the Course of our last stage several old

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Houses, and Orchards, the Ap- pearance of Which accorded with this Information:\_\_\_\_\_

We also saw many Sugar Maples in this Day’s ride, one of which was four feet over; but generally from *one* to *two*, and two and a half.\_\_\_\_\_

We are also informed, that notwithstanding the fertility of the Land here, there is ve- ry Little Grain of any kind raised for Market: the Land being generally in possession of the [...] Dutch, and their De- scendents; who have a Character here directly opposed to that of their

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Country People in Pennsyl- vania.\_\_\_\_\_

Thence up the River to a little Village called Fort-Schuyler 18 Miles from our last Stage; here we crossed the Riveron a Bridge, and pro- ceeded on to White’s Town 4 Miles further, where we ⟨22.⟩ lodged.\_\_\_\_\_

Twelve or fifteen Miles of this last Stage was through a new Settled Country; the Land appears good, & the Settlements rapid and thriving; the Set- lers mostly from New England, but some from New Jersey:

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These people generally build their Houses contiguous to each other, and are content with small Farms; many of them not more than 100 Acres with the Allowance that the Country for many Miles together along the great Road resembles a scattered Village.\_\_\_\_\_

11th. This morning had a Conference together at our Lodgings and being now near the Indian Country, we felt our Minds seriously impressed with an increasing weight of the Business we are

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engaged in; and united in the expediency of keeping Minutes of our proceedings therein; and one of our Number was appointed to that Service.\_\_\_\_\_

After which we had a satisfactory Conference with Col. Floyd, one of the Superintendants appointed by the Government of New York to the Special Care and Oversight of the Brothertown Indians; and he informed us, that this Tribe is sufficiently provided for, in all necessary agricultural Implements &c. and that they

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Stand in no need of any Assis- tance from us, except in Ad- vice, Instruction &c. and also that it would be very desirable to him, and those connected with him, that one of our Friends should reside for Some time with this tribe in the Capacity of an In- structor in Husbandry &c. which proposition is re- ferred for future Considera- tion, when we may be more fully acquainted with the Situation of the neighbour- ing Tribes.\_\_\_\_\_

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This respectable Man also informed us, that he believed the general Disposition of the people in those parts, tho’ so near the frontiers, would be very favorable to our Bu- siness; which was to our En- couragement; as we had met with Evincements of a contrary Disposition about 40 Miles further down the River.\_\_\_\_\_

After Dinner agreed to go forward into the Indian Country; we were informed it was about 20 Miles to the Stockbridge Settlement, where we wished

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to go this Evening: We rode about 9 miles through the white Settlements, and stopping at a House to enquire the way, we found it to be the last belonging to white people:~

Here we met with an In- dian, who knowing, or at least mistrusting us, by our Appear ance, shewed great Friendship, calling us Brothers & Quakers, and offered to pilot us to the Indian Settlement; but being much in Liquor, and having a Gun and Hatchet, it appeared some Trial to accept his Of- fer; more especially as the Evening was approaching;

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but understanding the Road was difficult, and not a single House to be found on it, we at length concluded to Submit to it: He was one of the Oneida’s, and appeared very wild and sa- vage, and would frequently make a loud, and frightful shouting as he went through the Woods; but he brought us Safe to a Small Indian Settlement of the Oneidas, within about three Miles of Captain Hendricks, Chief of the Stockbridge, where we had proposed going, but Night being come upon us, we concluded to take up our Lodging here; which we

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accordingly did, having rid- den about 17 miles, of Such ⟨17.⟩ Roads, particularly the last half of it, as none of our company excepting our Indian Guide, had ever seen before.\_\_\_\_\_

Here we began our Indian Fare, took our Blankets for our Beds, and Saddles for our pillows[?]; and supped on Milk, with a little Indian Bread in it, having wooden spoons, or Ladles to sup it out of a large general Reservoir:

But I believe we were all favored with quiet and easy Minds; though we were cold in the Night, and Sore and

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Stiff in the Morning. \_\_\_\_\_

The Name of our Host was Hendrick Smith, who with his Brother in law, a Stockbridge, could talk a little English: He had 18 Head of horned Cattle, Several of his Cows were excellent; he had about three Acres of Indian Corn planted, and enclosed, and a grass Lot of nearly equal Dimensions also enclosed; and had made some preparations for building a new House; but he said he was afraid to build; for by and by his Chiefs would sell the Land to white people, and then he should have to leave it; he wished we would make their Chiefs divide

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the Land and let every one have his own Share; and then, he said, he would clear a great deal: This he and his Brother-in-law informed us, was what the Indians wanted; but their Chiefs would not agree to it.\_\_\_\_\_

This Sentiment appeared to be accompanied with Rationality, and some of us were ready to adopt Se- cret Conclusions, that it would be our Duty to give it our Interest; but upon further acquaintance with those people, and more minute- ly investigating the Subject, we found, that it

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had its origin, perhaps with the greater part who approved it, in a Disposition very contrary to what we would wish to encourage amongst them; viz. that of being indivi- dually able to sell and lease Lands to the white people; which power had been heretofore suf- ficiently proven prejudicial to several of the Tribes, now living in this reservation, by tending finally to root them out of their native possessions.

There nevertheless appears great Room for prudent Exer- tions to encourage and assist these people, in falling up- on some safe plan of securing

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to Individuals, and their Offsp Offspring, the Fruits of their Industry: for whilst Improve- ments remain in the present precarious State, the reflecting Mind must inevitably feel a Strong blunt[?] to the Stimulus of Action.\_\_\_\_\_

12th. This Morning our Indian Host, came in and told us his Horse was dead, he had been ailing about three weeks; and that this was the eleventh Horse which he had lost within five years: this Accorded with an Account we had before received of the Mortality of Horses in this Country.\_\_\_\_\_

About eight o’clock clock Cap. Hendricks p. 34 Aupaumut, principle Chief of the Stockbridge Nation, and to whom we had sent a Runner the Evening before, came, with two others of his Tribe, to meet us, and conduct us to his Town; with whom we went, and ariving at his Habitation, we were a little surprised with the smalness[?] and meanness of it; but having no prospect of bettering ourselves, we very deliberately lit, and after some time ventured in, but our surprise was soon turned into astonishment, when we saw the Table spread for our Break- fast; the Tea Tackling was brought out; good wheat Bread,

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and Butter of a superlative Qua- lity made their appearance; that, in short, we had a first Rate Pennsylvania Breakfast.\_\_\_\_\_

This being first Day, we felt our Minds engaged, to set down together, to feel after inward Stillness, and ability to perform Spiritual Worship; and about eleven OClock, having obtained leave of our Host, who appears a serious, sensible Man, we sat down, in Company with him, his Family, and Several of his Indian Neighbors, who, without any Invitation from us, came in; they sat[?] in a good Degree Solid[?], and appeared thoughtful

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thoughtful; but, as I conceived, shewed some Uneasiness with our Silence: A few Words were Spoken, informing that none of our Number were public Ministers, and pointing out the necessity of inward and Spiritual Worship.\_\_\_\_\_

In the Evening of this Day had a Conference with several several of the Chiefs and Coun- selors of the Stockbridge nation, at the House of our Host Cap. Hendrick; in which he made us a speech, expressive of their Gladness to See us; and that we were heartily welcome to their Town; then proceeded to inform

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us of their former and present Situation, which he did with great Clearness, and precision:

We then briefly informed them of our motives for coming to their Country; and adjourned to meet their whole Nation, in general Council tomorrow Morning at 10 OClock.\_\_\_\_\_

13th. Within about an hour of the Time appointed, the Indians generally met, made us a Short Speech, expressing their Gladness to see us, and apolo- gising for their Deficiency with regard to the Hour ap- pointed; we then proceeded to inform them of the Nature of our Business, and read our

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our Certificate to them; after which we were enabled, pretty clearly to point out to them many of the obvious Causes of their present Inferiority, in point of Living, to the White people; together with the means whereby this disparity might be removed, greatly to the Advan- tage of them and their posterity, with which they appeared to be satisfied; and after a short Consultation amongst themselves, they informed us, ‘that they had Listened to us with Attention, and had, as it were, swallowed down our Words, and should deeply consider them;’ after

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which they would give us their Mind on the different Subjects recommended to th*em.*

From several private Con- ferences with some of their Chiefs we learn, that the Stockbridge Indians (who are not of the five Nations) consist of about sixty Families, and 300 Individuals; The possess 23040 Acres of excellent Land, which was given to them by the Oneidas; about the Close of the American War; and was confirmed by deed, containing a Clause baring against their selling or leasing to white people: They divide their Land into 100 Acre Lots; and every Family has one Lot;

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and every Son is to have a Lot, laid off by a certain Order un- til the whole is Occupied: They have a sawmill, three Carts, three pair of good Oxen, and perhaps some other Things which they enjoy in common; but in gene- ral they possess their Improve- ments, and other Fruits of their Industry as private property; and even buy and sell, of and to the white people and one an- other; sometimes giving their Notes and Obligations in like Manner with them: and we are informed our Host, Cap. Hendrick, raised near 100 Bus. of wheat last year, besides a Quantity of Indian Corn.\_\_\_\_\_

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They have also an Income from general Government of 350 Dollars a year: They do not appear ignorant in any considerable Degree, of good Matters of tilling their Ground: most Families have one Cow, and some of them have Several; that little appears to be wanting here but a spi- rit of Industry, Sobriety and fru- gality, to make these people, not only tolerable, but easy in their Circumstances: and to this End a skillful provision for the Security of private In- terest might much contribute.

Here it may be seasonable to

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to remark, that we have found, since we came to this Place, serious Occasion for the Necessity of Friends, both in a collective and private Capacity, being scrupulously guarded in the Letters they send to these people; for we find them very ingenious in construing them to their own advantage; and they appear to hold them little inferior, in point of Obligation to the most absolute Contrasts.-

14th. Attended a general Coun- cil of the Oneida’s, at their

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Town, about four Miles from the Stockbridge Settlement; and in about two Hours after the Time appointed they collected; and the Business was opened by a short Speech on their part, ex- pressing their Gladness to see their old Friends the Quakers, that we might speak Face to face. We then briefly informed them of our Errand into their Coun- try; and finding that we had a very imperfect Interpre- ter, we confided to adjourn the

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the Council ‘til 5th Day the 16th. at ten OClock in the morning, and re- quested the Attendance of their Women and young people: then returned to our Lodgings at Stockbridge.

15th. This morning three of our Number attended with several of the Stockbridge Chiefs and principle men, in consulting the best me- thods of repairing their Saw- mill Dam, whilst others of our Company were employed in a useful Improvement at our Lodgings.\_\_\_\_\_

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In the Afternoon attended a general Council of a small Body of the Tuscororas, who live on sufferance upon the Oneida Lands; these people consist of twelve Families, about 58 In- dividuals, have 43 horned Cat- tle, 2 Yoke of Oxen, and one plow; and have the Offer of 200 Acres of Land to a family by the Oneidas; but only three of their Number have yet taken up with the Offer; they be- ing generally too indolent to enclose, clear and till Land when given to them; although the Land here is of an excel- lent Quality, and easy of Culture.

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They also conceive themselves under some Difficulties with Regard to the Oneidas Offer of Land; as they refuse to se- cure any Quantity to them in a National Capacity; but merely admit them to indivi- dually enjoy the aforesaid Quan- tity in like Manner with their own people; and sub- ject to the future disposal of the Oneida Chiefs.\_\_\_\_\_

These people reminded us of an Expectation given them by Friends at a late Treaty, of a Compensation for some Lands settled by Friends

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and others in a certain place in Virginia; where they sup- pose themselves to have some Claim: this led us into a particular Enquiry into the Nature of their Claim; but we found them very imperfect in their Knowledge of the Matter, so that we could get no Light from them on the Subject.\_\_\_\_\_

16th. Again attended the ge- neral Council of the Oneida’s; they assembled as usual, more than an hour after the time appointed; and opened the Council with a short welcome; we

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we now had Cap. Jacob Reed for our Interpreter, who had been educated in an English School: We again opened the Nature of our Business; and read our Certificate from our friends to them; after which we proceeded to shew them the Advantage and necessity of a Change in their Manner of Life; that their young Men ought to work, and be indus- trious to plow and sow their Land, to raise Grain to make Bread for themselves; and for their old People and Children who could not work; and that they should get many Cows to give them Milk; and keep Sheep and

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Such Things like the white people do; and that their Women should learn to spin the wool that would come off their Sheep, to make them Blankets and Clothes, to keep them and their Children warm in cold Weather; and that we were willing to shew them how to do those things; that some of our young men would stay a while with them, (if they were willing,) to instruct them how the white people tilled the land (for we had before united in the Belief that this was the most fruitable place to make our Settlement) but

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but informed them withal, that they ought not depend too much on their Brothers, the Quakers, for help; but that they must try to help themselves; that we were willing to assist them a little in the Beginning; but as we wanted to help all their In- dian Brothers a little, and as there was a great many of them, they could not expect that we could do a great deal for any one Nation; and more- over, as we saw they had a great deal of very good Land; an as we were willing to shew them how to work their good Land,

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that they might live comfortably, and have plenty of every thing, if they would but take our Advice, and learn to work, and to be in- dustrious, sober, and saving; but if they would not be persuaded to help themselves, but would still continue to live in their old way, that their Brothers the Quakers would soon grow tired of helping them: after we had thus fully opened our Prospects, and relieved our Minds to them, they gave us a short answer expressing their Willingness to comply with our Advice: The Council then braking up they mostly

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withdrew; but the Chiefs, & old Men soon returned, and desired to speak a few more words to us; which when we had agreed to, and were seated down, they proceeded to inform, that their Women had heard the good words that we had said to them; and that they had now exorted their Husbands & all their Men, to mind all the good Words that their Bro- thers the Quakers, had said to them; and that every thing that they had said was good; and that they ought to do it all.\_\_\_\_\_

Here it may be proper

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to remark, that truly the women have great Cause to be on our side in this Bu- siness; for in proportion to the Rudeness, and uncultiva- tion of these people, are the Hardships and Difficulties of their Women greatly increas- ed; for where the Men think it a reproach for them to work, all the Chopping, Howing &c. necessarily fall upon their Women: and as they increase in Civilization, as is evident in the Stockbridge and Bro-thertown’s, the women are gradually relieved from this Drudgery, and their Labours con

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confined more of their Houses, and amongst their Children, where they ought to be.\_\_\_\_\_

And such has lately been the Case, as we are creditably informed, among the Oneida’s, that if a Man was catched caught by his friend cutting off a stick of wood, or how- ing a Hill of Corn, he would appear as much ashamed, as if he had been caught in a dis- honorable or wicked Action.\_\_\_

At the Close of this Council we had a Conference with the Chiefs; from which, and our own Observations, we learn, that the Oneida’s possess a large Tract of excellent Land,

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supposed to be about 12 miles by 20: They consist of about 620 Individuals, have an In- come from general Govern- ment of 700 Dollars a year; out of which Government has Liberty to furnish them with a Smith and Materials; which has been done at the Expense of about 200 Dollars a year; they have also Liberty out of this Sum to furnish them with a School, by employ- ing a Schoolmaster, which is not done, said to be from the Difficulty of getting a suitable Teacher; which we regret, as such

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an Institution, if rightly under- taken and prosecuted must cer- tainly be much more advanta- geous to these people than the Money.\_\_\_\_\_

They have also about 5000 Dollars annually coming in from the State of New York; they have also a Sawmill built by Govern- ment; and a Gristmill begun; which Government are under Obligations to complete.\_\_\_

They have a considerable Num- ber of horned Cattle, Horses, and some good working Cattle.\_\_\_

From the above Delineation

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of the Circumstances and Si- tuation of these people, it must evidently appear; that their Chance for a comfortable Sub- stance far exceeds that of the majority of the white Inhabitants of Pennsylvania and parts adjacent. - That in short there appears but little in the way of their becoming good Livers but their excessive Indolence, want of Oeconomy, and Love of Strong Drink; in the latter of which Some Exertions have been made by the old Men and Chiefs here, as well as

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amongst the Stockbridge’s, and we understand no strong Drink is allowed to be sold in their Towns; and we have, at each place, been concerned to Strength- en these Exertions; yet it is Sorrowfully evident, that they too frequently find Means to get this baneful Article by applying to the frontier retail- ers: \_\_\_\_\_

After obtaining the above, we returned in the Evening to our Lodgings at Stockbridge.

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17th. The forepart of this Day some of our Company were en gaged in writing and digesting our Concerns, whilst others were usefully employed in the completion of a domes- tic Improvement, some Days ago begun. \_\_\_\_\_

In the afternoon two of us, at the request of the Indians, attended a Council of the Oneida's, Tuscorora's & Stockbridge's together, which we found to be on Business of their own unconnected with ours: The business was con- ducted with great Decorum &

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and Formality and a clear and decisive Judgment passed upon some disorderly Walkers of unruly spirits who were endeavoring to disturb and lay waste the internal Govern- ment of one of these nations.

The principle Leaders of this Faction are Jacob Konka-pot, John Konkapot, and Moses Sonkankeheh: these Men had complained to the Oneida Chiefs against their own chiefs, viz. the Stockbridge; and had requested of them some Seperate Lands, that they might live independant of their Chiefs; who they said had required them to sign

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some piece of writing, contrary to the Custom of Indians; and that they did not understand the writing, and therefore would not sign it; and because they had refused to sign this writing, their Chiefs had taken away their Lots and had deprived them of several national priviledges; and divers other Charges they had brought against them. \_\_\_\_\_

The Oneida Speaker, Cap Peter, opened the Council with the customary Formality of Thankfulness to the great Spirit for being favoured to meet Face to Face in that

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Council; then proceeded, in substance as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers:

You remember your former situation when you were in Distress, having leased all your Lands, at old Stock-bridge in New England, one piece after another, to the white people, 'till at last you had no Land left for yourselves. You know; Brothers, in this Distress, we your elder Brother took pity upon you, and gave you this Dish, that you might put a spoon into it and live; and in order

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that our younger Brother should never get such trouble again, we made this Dish of steel, that it might last foreverx, and we thought, Brothers, that you had put a steel spoon into this good Dish; we admire then, that our younger Bro- thers should get to differing about the spoon, but we are astonished how you should breake a steel spoon, so that you cannot all get a Living together out of this good Dish that we have given you; but

x This steel Dish very aptly[?] alluded to a clause in their Deed of Gifts, barring against their selling or leasing to white people.\_\_\_\_\_

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that any of you should pretend asto [?] A new Dish to themselves: Brothers, we can’t agree to this; for if we should give some of you a new dish, it may be that Dish may be made of Wood, and then it will soon get broke, and you will have no Dish againt: No Brothers, we will not do this, but we will try to mend your spoon for you, so that you may all \_\_\_\_\_

This wooden Dish represented the Disposition of the Complainants to sell and lease Lands to the white people, for which they have been noted.\_\_\_\_\_

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live happily together out of this good steel Dish that we have given you; and maybe the spoon is not broke yet, but only bent a little, and we will try to straighten it for you: \_\_ And now Brothers, in order to straiten the Spoon you must dig a Hole in the Ground, and you must dig it deep, and in it you must bury all these old Contentions and Complaints, and you must cover them so deep, that they can never get up again; and then the Spoon will be mended; and you will all eat together comfortably out of this Steel Dish again; Now Brother

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we have done, think of these Things; and the Chiefs, and young Warriors who complain, have liberty to speak for them- selves. \_\_\_\_\_

Then the Oneidas and Tus-cororas withdrew to smoke a Pipe, and eat their Din- ners; \_\_\_\_\_

During which Time Cap. Hendrick repeated the substance of the foregoing speech, in the Stockbridge Language; to his own people; it having been delivered in the Oneida Language and interpreted into English; After which they consulted toge- ther and not being able to recon- cile

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cile and restore the Compain- ants; On the Return of the Oneidas and Tuscororas; Cap. Hendricks, on behalf of him- self and his Brother Chiefs, made the following Defence; viz.

Brothers, we are happy that the great Spirit has al- lowed us to smoke a pipe together on this Occasion; and we understand perfectly well all what you have said to us: now we will answer as far as concerns us.\_\_

Brothers, it is true we have agreed to help one another

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especially when one Brother meets with any Difficulty the other shall help him out; Brothers, All what you have said to us and to our young Men, we like it well, and you know, Brothers, it is a common thing for the Chiefs of all Nations to endeavor to promote the Good of their Nation; and you also know that they al- ways receive as a sallery therefor the Reproaches of some of their people; because, that in every nation

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there are some bad people, that will not regard good and wholesome Rules, but will always be wanting to have their own way; We have such: \_\_\_\_\_ And now, Bro- thers, we shall begin to speak to the Accusations, which those people bring against us; and we are glad you have had such Wisdom, as not to judge in this Mat- ter without a general Coun cil, and giving us Leave to speak for ourselves, that so the Truth may come out; The

p. 70

The first thing we Shall ob- serve; they have told you Brothers, that we have done them Injury; and they say that we have let out Lands to white people, and that we have taken away their Lots from them; now Bro- thers, we deny this; we have done no Such Thing: you know very well, Brothers, that we have maintained our Covenant which we made with you at Schenec-tady about this Land, this Dish; you are our Witnesses that we have never took trouble

p. 71

to ourselves, by giving Lease of any of this Land to white people; and also the great men of the State of New York are our witnessest; and our writ- ings testify the same thing; By these Things, Brothers, we are able to deny this part of the Accusation: \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, now we will speak on the other Hand; these our young Men have been trying this two years to take away our spoon and breake this Dish; Some-

\_\_\_\_\_

This appeal to the Great Men of the State of New York, had reference, to a petition taken in by the Complain ants for Liberty to sell and lease Lands to white people; which was opposed by the Chiefs

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Sometime, the white people will lay hold of the Spoon, and try to bend it, and pull it this way, and that way; and these our young Men will join with them, and take hold with their Hands, and try to bend it; now when we saw that our spoon was in danger, we the Chiefs would take hold; and our orderly young Men would take hold, and try to bring it back again, and to straiten our Spoon; to this you are our Witnesses, and the great Men of

p. 73

of the State of New York, are our witnesses; And you know, Brothers, that we have kept our Dish and our Spoon, that they are not broke yet, but are kept bright; and we in- tend to keep them bright for the use of our Children. \_\_

Brothers, The next thing we shall observe, They say we take in Strangers; to this we acknowledge; because our Covenant we made with you was such, as to open a Door to take in Strangers of our own Colour; Because, Brothers, you

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you know, that it is natural amongst all nations, to have Compassion towards one another; for Instance, Brothers, you your- selves have done Such Thing many Years ago; for these Tuscororas, who are now at this Council, were Strangers, and ye took them in, and gave them a Dish; and we ourselves were also Strangers, and ye took us in and gave us a Dish; now Brothers, in keeping the same Rules among us, the Chiefs of our Nation, who can find fault with us, in that Respect.\_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers, We will observe another thing, our young Men have told you, that we draw writings, and these writings are signed by many; and they could not understand these writings; and therefore would not sign them: you also, Brothers, seem to be astonished yourselves at these things; you say, you do not know how these writings should come, and why they should be signed: Now Brothers, we acknowledge we have such writings, and if you desire, you shall hear these writings, that ye shall rightly understand them; but

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before I read you this wri- ting, we shall let you know, that our Chiefs always had in their Hearts the welfare of the Nation, and often con- templated what would be most for the welfare of the whole nation; and about twelve years ago, before we come to your Country, we found it would be for our Welfare, to make a Strong Covenant, to keep us together, and draw writings to keep out Memory bright; so long as we maintain that agreement, we find it

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do us good, and five years ago, since we come to this town, we renew that Covenant; and since that, now lately, we be- gin to see the same spirit which had made Disturbance amongst us before, and which must inevitably bring ruin both to the spirituals and tem- porals; therefore the Chiefs was alarmed, and believe it their Duty to use their law- ful Endeavour to frustrate that Design; and they called the Nation together in general Council, to consult what shall be done, and they agreed to enter into

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into Covenant, and draw writings, and sign them: now Brothers, I will read you the writings: viz. Article 1st: The Union of the Nation which was established at old Stockbridge in the year 1784 and afterwards renewed at different Times is hereby again confirmed, that the same shall remain inviolable.

2nd. As many as are thus unit- ed shall abide firm in all the good Agreements heretofore made in our public Meetings; which are recorded in the Town Book; but more especially in

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in keeping our Lands; and that we never should take trouble to ourselves, in Endeavouring to lease Land to white people. \_\_\_\_\_

3rd. The Said united Inhabitants of this town, shall equally par- take of all the privileges confered on us from abroad, and in like manner shall equally bear all the public Business incum- bent on the nation.\_\_\_\_\_

4th. All those who refuse to join in this happy Union shall be positively excluded from all the aforesaid privileges, except preaching and School; these two shall remain free as usual; yet if any of them should see

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see his folly, and disadvantage by it, and be disposed to comply with the Articles of this Agree- ment, he or they shall be ad- mitted, by signing the aforesaid agreement to enjoy equal pri- vileges with the others.\_\_\_\_\_

5th. Public meetings shall be free and open, the Sachems and Chiefs of the Nation shall be respected and obeyed in all the good Counsels they give. \_\_

6th. If any of the members of the Union be in distress, his Business is to inform his Situ- ation to the principle men, and he shall be afforded all pos- sible Relief. \_\_\_\_\_

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7th. And if any man shall do a public service he shall be entitled to a Reward.\_\_\_\_\_

8th. If anyone, whether a mem- ber of this Union or not, should brake either of the Articles of this agreement, and persisting to do contrary, or making direct Opposition against it, as to excite others to transgress with him, he shall be under penalty of the Law.\_\_\_\_\_

Witness our Hands this 3rd Day of June 1796.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, you see, and understand clearly, what writ- ings we have drawn, and why we should sign these writings;

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that we may know how many of us are of one mind: By this Agreement you see, that we do not take any mans property, or do any Injury to any; the matter is free to every one to act as he pleases; if anyone is excluded any privileges, he does it himself, of his own Choice; but it is not the Choice of the Chiefs or of the orderly young Men: \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers, we have now informed you every Thing, particular; now you are able to judge who are in the fault; whether the

p. 83

Chiefs, or these our young men; now you must be plain, if you find fault with us, tell us plainly; we are ready to make up, if there is any thing against us; but we think we can say this, that in stead of doing them hurt, we have ever endeavoured to promote their happiness:\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, this is all what we have to say at present; only one of our young men will speak a word to you; if you are willing. \_\_

Which being admitted, John Quinney spoke on Behalf of him- self, &

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and the rest of the orderly young men, as follows; viz.

Brother, Chiefs of the Oneida and Tuscorora’s, \_\_\_\_\_

I would inform you, that I believe it is not the will of the great Spirit, that we the young warriors should usurp Authority over the⟨our⟩ Chiefs; but that it is our Duty to obey our Chiefs, in all their good Counsels, be- cause we know, and have ex- perienced that our Chiefs have more wisdom and Knowledge than we have; and that they have been faithful in promot- ing our Happiness; so that we

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think it is a great Shame for any of us to rise up against them; and indeed there are only a few who have done such thing; now Brothers, we also declare that all what our Chiefs have related to you, is true: \_\_\_\_\_

This is all I got to say \_\_\_

After a short pause Cap. Peter, the Oneida speaker, replied in Substance, as follows. \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We are very glad that you have opened your Minds to us so fully, that we understand clearly all these Circumstances that you have mentioned; we are glad to find

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find that you have maintained all our agreements, so that the Spoon is safe and bright; and all what you have related to us, is very agreeable to us; and also the writing which you have shewn us is good, we like it very well; and we do not find any fault on your side; and we now understand where the Blame lies; that it lies upon your young men there; Brothers, now we hear- tily thank you Chiefs; and all our Chiefs thank you, for the Information you have given us

p. 87

us; and we will now speak a word to your orderly young Warrior, who spoke a few words to us, we like all his words well; we are glad to find such Disposition in young warriors to obey their Chiefs; and we are very glad to hear him; and we thank him for letting us know that there are very few young menwarriors among you that disobey their Chiefs; and we should be glad all our young War- riors would be so disposed; then addressing himself to the young Men who had com- plained, he said, Brothers

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Brothers, We are sorry to find that you yourselves have created all these Difficul- ties that you complain of; and now we wish you to make up, and Shake Hands with your Chiefs before our Face, that we may see it done, and then we will be very glad and Satisfied: So Brothers that is all we got to say to you:

\_\_\_\_\_

The Complainants refused to comply with this Advice, so the Council broke up; all satisfied to appearance, except- ing these Disturbers of the public Tranquility.\_\_\_\_\_

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18th. This Day attended a general Council of the Bro-thertown Indians, at their Town, about 9 miles from the Stockbridge Settlement; who, as usual, were a long Time in getting together; we opened our Business without any Interpreter, these people mostly understanding English, and using no other Language in their families; after which and reading our Certificate to them; we desired their pa- tience, reminding them that we had come a great way to see them in Love, without any prospect of

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worldly Advantage to ourselves, and that we were desirous they should endeavour to still and quiet their Minds, as well as their Bodies, that they might be in a proper Situation to hear and understand, if we should have any thing to say to them: this seems to be too little understood by these people generally where we have been; they appear hardly to know how to compose themselves many Minutes at a Time, unless we

p. 91

are speaking to them: but we were here favoured with a Solid Opportunity; being enabled with great planning, and Love to labour with them; pointing out with Clearness the pernicious Effects of the Use of Strong Drink; and the necessity of avoiding every Occasion of Temptation thereto; as well as the Ad- vantage of improving in In- dustry and Application to their Farming, in order to pro- cure to themselves and their families a comfortable Living; and

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and also shewing them that by Industry and At- tention to their Business, they would be preserved from the frequent Temptations, which a more indolant and wandering Life would expose them to, with regard to this Bane of their Happiness, *Strong Liquor*. Some of these people appear to be indus- trious, and in general, their Dress and manner of Life, approaches nearer to that of the white people, than any of the other Tribes where we have been; and notwithstan

p. 93

notwithstanding the Gloo- miness of some of our for- mer, as well as present prospects relative to the Concern which we are en- gaged in, we are in measure encouraged to believe in the Rectitude of our Undertak- ing; both from the solid Co- vering graciously vouchsafed at several of our Conferen- ces, and particularly so this Day, to the stilling, if not tendering many of the minds of these people; and also from the Observance of an

p. 94

Advancement in Civiliza- tion amongst these differ- ent Tribes, in proportion to the Serious Exertions which have, from time to time, been made by white people towards some of them, for we understand, that, even the Oneida’s, who now appear to us in a very Rude and uncultivated State, were still much more so, a few year ago, before their Ac- quaintance with the other more civilized Tribes.\_\_

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The Brothertown Indians are under the particular Care of the State of New York; there are three men appointed by Government as Commissioners, or Superintendents of their Lands &c. Two of whom are friends, viz. Edward Prior and Thomas Eddy, both of New York; the third is Col. Floyd, a repu- table Man, and friend to these People: Four of these In- dians, viz. David Fowler, John Toohie, John Skesuck, and Isaac Wauby, have received Com- missions of the Peace from

p. 96

Government; and they have a Counsellor at Law, ap- pointed for their Assistance in difficult Cases; viz. Joseph Herkland. \_\_ They consist of about 56 Families, have 9900 Acres of Land, which is secured to them by Law, in such a Manner, that no Individual of them has power to sell or lease any part of it to white people; but it is divided into Lots, some of an hundred & some of fifty acres, and they possess their Land and other Things as distinct and private property; They

p. 97

received this Land, in the first place, with considerable more, by Gift from the Oneidas; who afterwards sold the whole, with other Lands, to the State of New-York; but the State discovering the prior Right of the Brothertown’s, repurchased the greater part of them, and secure the above quantity, in manner aforesaid: \_\_\_\_

They have one Saw mill on their Land, which is private property, and there is a grist- mill belonging to white peo- ple within about two miles of

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of the Center of their Build- ings; they have some good Cattle, Cows & working Oxen; and they have £800 a year coming in from the State of New-York; as Interest for the purchase Money of their Lands: That they ap- pear to be in a very promis- ing way to do well as to world- ly Affairs, if their Industry & Sobriety keep Pace with their Knowledge and Op- portunity. \_\_\_\_\_

19th. Being first Day, and un- derstanding these people made

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made a practice of meeting together to worship, without any Hireling, or set Minister, we felt our Minds easy to attend with them; which we accordingly did; and altho’ they conformed to our Manner, yet we had reason to believe Silence was not very acceptable to them; nor their Minds sensible of true inward Stillness and Quietude in worship; their manner being, for some or other of them, either Man or woman, to be almost Constantly em- ployed in preaching, praying, singing of Psalms or some other outward and visible Acts of

p. 100

of Devotion. **\_\_\_\_\_**

20th. This morning we sepe- rated; three of our number going for fort Schuyler, to look after our Goods, and to wait on some man in that Neigh- bourhood, to whom we had a Letter of Credit, whilst the Remainder of our Company concluded to make themselves better acquainted with the Situ- ation and Circumstances of these people, by paying them a friendly Visit in their Cottages; in which Service the Remainder of this Day was employed, to

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the mutual Satisfaction of the Indians & ourselves.

21st. The forepart of this Day concluded our friendly Visit to the families of the Brothertown’s, having missed but two or three in their whole settlement: After which, upon a Consultation together, we united in Judgment with that of Col. Floyd, here- tofore noted in these minutes: viz. That these people were in a promising way to live comfortably; and that they stood in no absolute need of any present assistance, in the way of farming Utensils &c.-

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After Dinner took our Leave of these people, who had generally expressed their Satisfaction and thankfulness, for the brotherly freedom we had manifested amongst them in visiting them in their Houses; then proceeded to our Lodgings at Stockbridge; where we arrived in the evening.

22nd. This Day about noon met at Oneida Town, at John Sho-nandoah’s with our friends who had left us two Days since to go to fort Schuyler; they inform, that they have done the Busi- ness for which they went; but have heard no Tidings of Jacob Taylor: \_\_ We now concluded it

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necessary to make ourselves better acquainted with the different Situations of the Country belonging to this Tribe, in order to form some Idea where of the best Place to make our Settlement; and a place about four Miles from this being recommended to us, we proceeded to view it; and after examining the nature of the Soil, situation &c. we United in Opinion that it was not a suitable place for our purpose: Here four of us took up our Lodgings at the House of a white Man, who had settled on an hundred Acres of the Indian Lands, under a

p. 104

a Licence from Government, given to his Brother, who is Black smith for that Nation: This House being on the great Road leading to the Genesee Country, and keeping Liquor and other things to sell, is be- come a place of much Re- sort; and we doubt not much to the Advantage of the Indians, who we understand are uneasy with his Conduct: We had a very uncomfortable Night; and left there in the morning, being, \_\_\_\_\_

23rd. Went to Shonandoah’s, this being at the principal Town, and particularly viewed the

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the adjoining Lands; after which united in believing somewhere near this place, the most suitable, on divers accounts, for our Stand: we then proceeded to our Lodgings at Stockbridge: and in the afternoon, confered together, and entered upon a plan the Digestion of a plan for our Settlement.

24th. Resumed the Consideration of our plan of a Settlement at Oneida; and after several Conferences, in which the weight and Importance of our Undertaking was very sensibly felt; and much Harmony and brotherly condescension experienced, we

p. 106

we were enabled to unitedly a- gree on the following proposi- tions to the Oneida Nation.\_\_

viz.

Brothers of the Oneida Nation, You now know that we are sent to you by your old Friends, the people called Quakers, of Pennsylvania and parts adjacent, not merely to make you presents, which would soon be spent; leaving you poor and needy; but to shew you how the white people manage to raise a great deal of Food and Clothing off of a little Land, that you may become able to support your- selves, and your Children

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comfortably without being beholden to any body, and have something to share for the old and infirm, as well as to lay by, against Times of Scarcity.\_\_

Brothers, remember that we have left all that was dear to us at home, not to get your Lands from you, or any thing that is yours; but to visit you, and to stay with you, if happily we may put you in the way to enjoy the manifested Blessings of the all bountiful Creator; now we have seen and reflected upon your Situation, and consult- ed one another for the future prosperity of your whole Nation and

p. 108

and the three Tribes you have kindly permitted to settle on your Lands; and we have put our Conclusions in writing, that it may be known what we are willing to undertake for you, and what we desire you to do towards it yourselves; for we mean to set you a clear ex- ample if you will agree to follow it.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, We trust that we possess your Confidence un- mixed with any Jealousy and fears; and we request you to listen patiently and attentive- ly to what we are a going to propose

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propose to you, for your own Good; and if any part of it displeases you, tell us so and we will reconsider it. \_\_\_\_

Brothers, Three of our Friends intend to stay with you for these purposes, namely Ja-cob Taylor, Henry Simmons, and Enoch Walker; but they are not bound to remain by any thing but good Will; Neither are they obliged to work more than they think necessary; nor to be altogether amongst you, as they are to go sometimes to Tuscorora, Stock-bridge, and Brothertown: We earnestly desire, that none of you may discourage them by

p. 110

by Swearing, Idleness, Drunken- ness, or misbehavior, for these things are very disagreeable to us; as you know they are to the good Spirit.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, We must have some Land to work upon; and we should like to begin upon that part of the Common which lies west of the Path from Shonan- doah’s to Stockbridge, South of the Road to Onondago, East of the Boundaries of the old Fort, and north of Shanandoah Creek, excepting any part thereof now occu- pied by your Families. \_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers, If we think there is Encouragement to undertake more another year, we shall ask you for it seasonably, and agree together where it shall be. \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, You know it is hard- ly practicable for all to learn at once together; we will begin with a few, who much stick to the work; the rest will see how they get forward, and be ready to take their turn when it comes round; we want to engage five or eight Sober young Men as Apprentices till next Spring. \_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers, We suppose you will be willing, that we should feed our Horses, Cattle &c. upon the Commons, and that you will allow us some Suitable grass Lots to provide Hay for them in the winter; to cut fire-wood, railing, and Timber for building in your Woods; have the use of the Saw- mill, and Smith’s shop, when we have occasion for them; and sometimes work your Horses and Oxen when they are not wanted by you. \_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers, You are to under- stand that our Friends are to live plentifully, as their own people do at home, and their live stock are also to be kept by the pro- duce of their Labour in the first place; then the eighth part of the Remainder is to reserved for the relief of your old Men” and infirm people; and the rest is to be divided amongst the young Indian Apprentices; that they may enjoy the fruit of their Labour; and have some-

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something to begin with for themselves, when other Apprentices are taken in their Stead; provided they behave well; but in case of continued Idleness, Drun- kenness, Swearing, or other Misbehavior in any of them, our friends must not keep bad Company; and we request you to appoint three of your Chiefs to unite with our Friends as Judges, that if four of them agree, the person offending may be justly discharged.\_\_\_\_

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Brothers,

Our stay amongst you will depend upon several Circumstances, and particu- larly the Encouragement we may have to hope that your Nation will become, in time Sober, industrious and frugal, laying up something for themselves against Sickness and old Age: Whenever we leave you, the improvements we make on your Lands will belong to you; but the Cattle and other Things we bring with us, we shall con- sider as our own. \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Joseph Sansom | James Cooper |
| Henry Simmons | John O'eirn |
| Enoch Walker | Isaiah Rowland |

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25th. After copying the above propositions it was agreed that three of our Number should go to the Oneida Town, collect as many of their Chiefs together as they conveniently could; read and explain the above propositions to them; and leave them under their Consideration; informing them that we should expect to meet a general Council of their Chiefs and principle Men on Second Day the 27th. in order to fully consider, and agree upon the Several particulars mentioned in Said propositions.\_\_\_\_\_

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The rest of our Company were employed in writing, and paying a friendly Visit to Some of the Families of the Stock-bridge’s: which was to mu- tual Satisfaction.\_\_\_\_\_

26th. Being first Day, we kept together at our Lodgings, and had a Time of private retire- ment, which was somewhat trying; and we hope excited profitable self examination into the Cause.**\_\_\_\_\_**

27th. This morning as we were preparing to go to the Oneida Town, agreeable to the Conclusions of seventh Day

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Day last, we received a Letter from Nicholas Schuisick Chief of the Tuscorora’s informing that we need not go to Oneida this Day, for their Chiefs in- tended to come to us at Stockbridge, we were at a loss to understand the Motives for this Change in the State of our Business; but could readily perceive Patience to be a very necessary Attainment whilst we have any Concerns to transact with these people; We therefore concluded to wait for their Reception at our Lodg- ings; which we accordingly did, but heard no more of them

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this Day. \_\_\_\_\_

28th. This morning dispatched a Runner to Oneida Town, to bring us Word of the Reason of our Disappointment yesterday; and also to know when and where we might soonest meet them in Council: \_\_

About Eleven OClock our Messenger returned, brought us word that the Oneida Chiefs went yesterday to Fort Stan-wick to meet the State Com- missioners relative to some Land which they had sold, and they they intended to come to us at Stockbridge, after

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after their Return; which is expected this Evening: so that it appears we can have no Opportunity with them before tomorrow Morning.\_\_\_\_

29th. Notwithstanding the Information of yesterday re- specting the Oneida Chiefs coming to us, we thought it best to go to them; and accord- ingly we went to Schonandoah one of their Chiefs, where we before met; but to our Surprise, found no preparation making either to receive us there, or to come to us at Stockbridge:~

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One of us went after Jacob Reed, their Interpreter, who when he was come, together with the Chief Schonandoah, concluded to try to collect the most of their Chiefs to- gether or at least pretended so to us; and that they had dispatched Runners for that purpose: we waited ‘till about two or three OClock; when we were informed, they were out at work, and could not be collected this Day: but that they would meet early tomorrow Morning: this was somewhat trying; and

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and notwithstanding we have met with various Instances, in each of these Tribes, of un- feigned Regard and Affection, yet it appeared now Seasonable to shew some marks of the Discouragements naturally consiquent on the present seeming Ingratitude; and to hint to them our Sensibility of such Treatment; which, it is hoped, will have some effect upon their minds:\_\_ We then agreed to meet them tomor- row morning; and returned to our Lodgings, at Captain Hendricks:

In the Evening resumed the

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Consideration of some propositi- ons to the Stockbridge Nation, which at Intervals of Leisure, for Several Days past had been seriously before us: We now unit- edly concluded upon the follow- ing. Viz.**\_\_\_\_\_**

Brothers of the Stockbridge Nation, we are very glad to find, that through the Blessing of the great Spirit, and your honest Industry, and frugal Sobriety, you may soon be in a way to live comfortably, without being beholden to anybody *for help.*

Brothers,

As you cannot but thankfully acknowledge this to

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to be the Case with your Nation in general; and as you know we want to help many of your Indian Brothers a little, who stand in much more need than you do; we trust you will not think hard of us, if we do not do a great deal for you at this time:\_\_ But, Brothers, in order to encourage you to be Still more industrious and Saving, and to set a good Exam- ple to your indian Brothers and neighbors, who are far behind you in point of Civil- ization, we have agreed to help you a little, as follows; \_\_\_\_

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Brothers, We agree to give you our Smith’s Tools all complete; and one of our Friends can instruct you a little in using them; and also a share of our Implements of Husbandry, which we expect[?] up by our Friend Jacob Taylor, whom we left behind, in order to bring them up by water. \_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We also are willing to en- courage you in building a Grist Mill, by agreeing to advance three Dollars to your one, of all the mo ney actually to be paid for materi- als, mechanical Labour, and victu aling the Workmen; you finding the

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the Timber, and delivering it on the Spot, and doing such other parts of the Business as you may be capable of, with- out bringing it into the gene- ral Charge, of which we have agreed to pay three fourths: We also agree that the 100 Dol. lent to Captain Hendrick by our Committee, together with 40 Dollars, lent to John Serjant, by us for the use of your Nations, shall be considered as a part of this Advance; and left in your Hands for the aforesaid purpose: provided always, that

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if the Government sh[?] at any time pay the Expen of said Mill, agreeable to an Article which you say is con tained in a late Treaty, then, in that Case you are to refund to our Committee all and every part of the Advance made by us towards said Mill. \_\_\_\_\_

And we propose our Friends Jacob Taylor and Enoch Walker to take the special Care and Su- perintendence of building said Mill, without making any Change on you for their Trou- ble: and we further propose,

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that when said Mill is erected, that you call a general Council, and choose a Suitable man amongst yourselves to take the Care of this Mill, and to grind all your Grain; and to keep the Mill in Or- der; and that you agree on some certain and fixed pro- portion for this man to have, out of every Grist that shall be ground, sufficient to pay him well for his Trouble Time and Trouble, and to ena- ble him to keep the Mill in good repair; which he ought to do at his own Expense, out of his profits which you allow

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him: and we further propose, that you admit your Brother, the Tuscarora’s, to enjoy a part of the Advantages of th*is mill.*

Brothers,

We also to propose to encourage you, in keeping up a School for the Education of your Children, by agreeing to pay a part of the Salary to your former Master, John Quinney, if he will agree again to teach we are willing to pay 25 Dol- lars a Quarter, for our year, at least, if you will agree to make up as much more as to encourage him to keep steadily: Our Friends[?] who stay amongst you, will pay the Money punctually,

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when a Certificate is produced to them signed by two our your Chiefs, certifying that the School has been kept steadily for the Length of Time above mentioned for Payments; the Tuscorora’s being admitted to partake e- qually of the Advantages of this School.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We further propose, for your Encouragement in Agriculture, Industry &c. that, for the Term of two years from the third month next, we will give the following Premiums to any Individual Indian of the Stockbridge or Tuscorora Nations, living in this Reser- vation, upon the Conditions

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herein after mentioned\_\_\_\_\_

1st. For every 50 Bushels of Wheat raised in any one year within Said Term, by any one Farmer, of either of these two Nations, on his own Land, not worked by white people, the Sum of two Dollars.\_\_\_\_\_

2nd. For every 100 Bushels of Indian Corn, raised in like Manner aforesaid, the Sum of two Dollars. \_\_\_\_\_

3rd. For every 100 Bush. of Pota- toes raised as aforesaid, the Sum of one Dollar & an half.\_\_\_\_\_

4th. For every three Tons of hay raised as aforesaid, and put into a Stack or Barn, the Sum of two Dollars.\_\_\_\_\_

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5th. For every 12 yards of linnen Cloth made by and Indian Woman out of Flax raised on her, or her Husband’s Land, and spun in her own House, the Sum of one Dollar, to be paid to the *woman.*

6th. For every 12 yards, of Wollen Cloth, made as aforesaid out of the Wool of her own, or her Husband’s Sheep, spun in like Manner aforesaid the Sum of one Dollar, to be paid to the woman.\*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Now the Conditions of ob- taining the above premiums are,

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Note, The Stockbridges having an Inclination to apply a part of their Annual Income from Government, to the Encouragement of Industry

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that the person applying, shall produce a Certificate signed, at least, by two of the Chiefs of his or her particular Tribe, certifying the particular Quan- tity of Grain, Cloth &c. for which Said premium shall be demand- ed, and that it was raised or made in the manner above particularly specified; and also that the appli- cant has not, to the best of their knowledge, been intoxicated with Strong Drink, at least, for the Space of one full year before such Application be made.

\_\_\_\_\_

by premiums, defined one of us to draw them a plan for that purpose; which gave rise to the above; this will ac- count for the smallness of the Sums annexed to each Article.\_\_\_\_\_

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And we further propose, that any man or woman of these two nations, by producing a Certificate from two of the Chiefs as aforesaid, that he or she is highest or foremost in any one or more of the above particulars, of any other person in that nation, he or she shall be entitled to a double premium for the particular in which he or she shall be so highest or foremost.\_\_\_\_\_

And our Friends Jacob Taylor, andHenry Simmons, and Enoch Walker are hereby authorized, and desired to pay the above mentioned premi- ums, agreeable to what is herein

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above particularly mentioned.

Sixth mo 29th. 1796.**\_\_\_\_\_**

John Peirce

James Cooper

Joseph Sansom

Isaiah Rowland

Henry Symmons

Enoch Walker

\_\_\_\_\_

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30th. Again attended the Oneida Council, agreeable to the Conclusi- on of yesterday; met at Schonan-doah’s between 10 & 11 OClock, and Jacob Taylor being arrived this morning attended with us; we found the Chiefs &c. Collected and waiting for us; so that we soon got to Business: Which was opened by their speaking particularly to our propositions of the 25th. Instant, and left under their Confederation; to the following Effect; viz.

Brothers,

We find no Difficulty in accepting your proposals, in anything but the place you choose. *See 5th. Article.*

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many of us are against part- ing with any of our Commons, because we have hardly pasture enough for our Cattle now, and if we lessen it, they will be famish- ed, and brake down our fences to get at our Corn. Besides which we are afraid our young men will disturb you there, some- times when they get in Li*quor.*

Brothers,

We think it right to propose another place to you, which we think will suit you better: we will go and shew it to you.\_\_\_\_\_

Upon this the Spot was viewed, and mutually agreed to, bounded as follows; Beginning

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at a Gut or Run South, South east of Anthony Shononghleya’s House, and running nearly South by a couple of noted trees to Shan- andoah Creek, extending eastward into the woods without Limi- tation; and one of their Chiefs Anthony Shononghleya being willing to rent his house, which appeared in a good Degree suit- able for our purpose; we agreed to rent it at 20 Dollars a year as long as we should stay in this Country under the present Con- cern, paying him one years Rent down and covenanting to make some Repairs: This House is Frame, about 38 feet by 18, one

p. 139

story high; and with a small Expense will be pretty warm and comfortable; and is well situated, on an Eminence, com- manding a view of nearly all the aforesaid Trait.\_\_\_\_\_

They next objected to a part of the eighth Article relative to the Oxen and Horses and Oxen being worked, saying, “We have but two pair of Oxen be- longs to the Town, and some bo- dy is always using them, but therefore we can’t spare them; but there is a pair of Steers, you may have them to break and work: and our Horses we can’t spare them; because they a'n't[?] good for anything to work.\_\_\_\_

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And as to they Hay you asked us about, say they, you may have as much as you want at such and such certain Flats, about three miles off, which they described to us, and which several of our Company had seen and believed to be good. **\_\_\_\_\_**

The above being all the Variations they wished to make from our proposals; we agreed to the Amendments; and they appointed John Scho-nandoah, Anthony Shononghleya, and Nicholas Shagorakorongo to unite with our Friends agree- able to the 9th. Article.\_\_\_\_\_

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We then desired the Copy we had given them of our proposals in order to insert on them the foregoing Excep- tions and amendments; to the End that we might dearly understand one another; and that we might have it all in writing to keep our Memo- ries bright: we then broke up, after informing them that we should expect one more general Meeting with them before we went away, which we wished their Women and young people to generally to attend.\_\_\_\_\_

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We next executed a memo- randum of agreement between Anthony Shononghleya and our Friends respecting the House, paid him the 20 Dollars for the first years Rent, took his Reecit[?] therefor; and returned to our Lodgings at Cap. Hendricks \_\_\_\_\_

Seventh mo. 1st. Early this Morning three of our Num- ber set off for fort Schuyler, & that Neighbourhood, in order to buy a pair of Oxen, and make some other necessary prepara- tions for our new Settlement; and to endeavor to get up some of our Good; whilst others were

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employed in writing, and arang- ing different parts of our Business; and a proposition for the writing of a Letter of general Information to our Committee at Philadelphia being made, the Expediency thereof was agreed to, and our Essay[?] made.\_\_\_\_\_

2nd. Resumed our writing and Arangements; and the Essay[?] of a general Letter being read and considered, was united with, and transcribed; being as follows: viz.\_\_\_\_\_

Stockbridge7th. mo. 1st. 1796

Dear Friends,

We are all pretty well

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at present, and through the Blessing of Superintending Good- ness, have been mostly preserved in a good Degree so, since we left home, tho’ not without some Exceptions: We feel ourselves now a little revived in our spirits, by the arrival of our friend JacobTaylor; of whom we had heard nothing since we left home, ‘till he came to us yesterday, at Stockbridge: It appears he has had a safe, tho’ tedious passage; has safely landed, at fort Schuyler about 22 Miles from this place, all the Goods committed to his Care: and notwithstanding we have been between two and

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and three weeks amongst the different Tribes in the Oneida Reservation, we have not been able, with the greatest Assiduity and Address that we have been capable of, to bring our Business into any tolerable State of fix- edness and arangement until the present Time; for we have indeed found it tedious, to a trying Degree, in doing Busi- ness with these people. \_\_\_\_

We have attended general Councils of the Stockbridge, Oneida, Tuscorora, and Brother-town’s, as there are these four distinct Tribes living on this Reservation; and have spared no reasonable pains to make our-

p. 146

ourselves thoroughly acquainted with their individual and relative Situations in various respects; having visited many of them in their private Huts: And as we have kept regular Minutes of our proceedings since our Arival in this Country, which was on the 11th. of last month, we hope, if favoured to get home, to have the Satisfaction of laying them before you: In the mean time, trust it will be acceptable to you to receive the following Sum- mary of our Sense of things here.\_\_\_\_\_

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The Brothertown's are a mixed people from various parts of the eastern Governments, set- tled here on a Tract of Land giv- en to them by the Oneida’s, and forming themselves into a kind of national Compact under the Appellation of Brothers, and calling their Settlement by the Name of Brothertown, they are considered as a distinct Tribe under that Name. \_\_\_\_

They consist of about 56 Fa- milies, have 9900 Acres of Land now, but their Original Gift from the Oneida’s was much more, which has been reduced, much through their own mismanagement, by

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leasing &c. to the white peo- ple, ‘till Government out of friendship to them, took notice of their Situation, pur- chased the greater part of their Tract, and secured the above Quantity to them by Law, in Such a manner that no Indi- vidual of them has a right to sell or lease any part of it to white people;\* but it is divided into Lots of different

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Note. The Information in minute, of the 18th of last mo. p. 97. respecting the Oneida’s selling this Land to the State of New York, was obtained after writing this Letter, and added to that minute; yet does not contradict the Reason here given for the Loss of their Lands; the State

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Sizes, which they possess, as they do other Things, as distinct and private property: They have one Sawmill on their Land, which is private Property; and there is a Grist Mill belonging to white people about two or three Miles from the Center of their Buildings; they have some good Cattle, Cows and working Oxen, and about ₤800 a year com- ing in from Government; so that they seem to be in a promising way to live comfortably, being under

\_\_\_\_\_

having acknowledged the prior right of the Brothertown’s, they might cer- tainly have retained their whole Land, had not their own Imprudence rendered the above measure eligible.\_\_\_

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under the particular Care and Superintendence of three Men reputable Men ap- pointed by Government, two of whom are friends of New- York, T. Eddy and E. Prior, to- gether with Col. Floyd, who appears a true friend to them, and with whom we have had a very satisfactory Conference, relative to our Business, par- ticularly, as far as it concerned this Tribe; and after visiting them in general Council, & in many of their private private Habitations, we united with the aforesaid Col. Floyd, in believing this Tribe

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not necessarily objects of Friends Help at this Time, in the way of Farming Utensils &c. they being well provided for, by their Super- intendants, out of their Annual Sum aforesaid.\_\_\_\_\_

The Stockbridge Indians con- sist of about 60 Families, and 300 Individuals, these are not of the Six Nations, but came generally from a place called Stockbridge in New England, in the year 1784: They pos- sess 23040 Acres of Land, of a good Quality, given to them by the Oneida’s, and which they divide into 100 Acre Lots, and every family has one Lot, and every Son is to have a

p. 152

a Lot laid off by a Settled Order ‘till the whole is occupied; they have a Sawmill, and sundry other Things which they enjoy in common; but they possess their Land & the fruits of it, as distinct and private Property; but no Individual can sell or lease Land to the white people; they have 350 Dollars a year coming in from General Government; but they are yet in debt for their Saw- mill: but, in general they also appear in a promising way

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way to live comfortably in a few years, having made con- siderable Improvements in farming &c. tho’ they have great room still to improve, especially in Industry: –

We united in believing this not to be the place to make our Settlement, tho’ the people appear to us much more deserv- ing than the Oneida’s, the place we have made choise of for that purpose: we nevertheless thought it right to give them Some Encourage- ment to move forward, and set a good Example to their less

p. 154

less civilized Neighbors; we therefore agreed to give them our Smiths Tools, besides their Share of the Implements of Husbandry; and to encourage them in keep- ing up their School, (as they have a pretty suitable Master amongst themselves) by agree ing to pay 25 Dollars a quar- ter as part of his Salary for one year at least: and we have also agreed to give them some assistance in building a Grist Mill upon certain stipulated Conditions, too lengthy to be par- ticularly mentioned in this Letter

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Letter, together with several small conditional premiums as Encouragement to Industry and Sobriety. \_\_\_\_\_

The Tuscorora’s are an in- considerable Remnant of that Tribe, the main Body of them being removed, as we are informed, to grand River: They consist of about 12 Families, appear very poor and heartless, almost without a Leader and without Hope: we propose to consider them largely in the Distribu- tion of the property sent up; and have considered them in the aforesaid proposals to the Stockbridge, they living on the

p. 156

Oneida Lands within about one mile and an half of Cap. Hendricks.\_\_\_\_\_

The Oneida’s are, by far the most considerable nation, being the Original proprietors of all this part of the Country; They consist of between six and seven hundred Individuals, have yet a large quanty of Land of a good Quality, tho’ they are frequently making it less by Sales to Government, one of which is now a surveying, and has been some in our way, by engaging their Attention. They appear to be a declin- ing People, not only in their Land going one piece after

p. 157

another; but we are informed that they actually decrease in Numbers; and there is reason to believe they will continue so to do, unless some reform can be happily effected a- mongst them: \_\_\_ They are in a much less civilized State than the Stockbridge or Brothertown’s: they have many horses and some Cattle; a Sawmill, and Smith’s Shop, with a smith hired by the year, by Government; and about 700 Dollars a year from general Government, and about 5000 from the State of New-York. \_\_ Here we

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we have unitedly agreed to make our Settlement, and have agreed with them respecting the place, as well as the Terms and Conditions; which we hope is now pretty clearly understood by them and us; but we have had divers Meetings with them on the Occasion, and in seve- ral Respects a trying Time, before we could get our plan fully established: We have a considerable Tract of un- cultivated Land now allotted to us near the Center of their Settlement, and

p. 159

about four miles from Stock-bridge, and ten or twelve from Brothertown: We have also rent[?] a House in a good Situation commanding a view of nearly all our Tract; it is a frame Building about 22 by 18 one story high, with two Rooms down stairs, and a good Loft; and with a small Expence can be made a comfortable Dwelling: It belonged to one of their Chiefs, who to oblige us, as well as in consideration of a handsome Rent, has a- greed to move out and give us possession next Second Day

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Day: The Obtaining of this House we considered as a favorable Circumstance to our Business.\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends, neither the Room nor Leisure allotted for this Letter will admit the Insertion of the various propositions and conclu- sions which have occured relative to this Settlement, we must ask your patience for the particulars until we are able to furnish you with our Minutes.\_\_\_\_\_

Three of our Friends are this Day gone out for fort p. 161 Schuyler and that Neighbour- hood in order to purchase Ox en, and some other Necessaries, for our new Settlement, and to attend to getting some of our Goods up; so that we have a Hope to see our Friends settled in their new Habi- tation by secondthird Day next, and that we shall be able to satisfactorily leave them in a couple of Days after.\_\_

We have been kindly received by the Indians in general, and have received many marks of unfeigned Regard and Af- fection amongst them; and have had the Satisfaction to

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observe a very agreeable Disposition amongst the white Inhabitants on the frontiers, relative to the In- dians and our Concern; and we may thankfully acknow- ledge, that in several of our public Counsels in particular, we have been graciously favoured with the overshadowing wrong of holy Help to our humble Encouragement; and to the Strengthening of our minds in the Belief of the rectitude of this Concern; and that its Origin is from the Univer- sal Father of the great family of

p. 163

of mankind; who cannot but be graciously mindful of what- soever his Hand hath made; yet we have had some pretty close and Exercising Seasons to pass through, more parti- cularly amongst the Oneida’s; who had suffered their Expec- tations to be raised to an un- reasonable Height before our arrival; so that our pro- posals, especially at the first, instead of exciting Gratitude, appeared rather to be received with those Sensations attendant on disappointed Expec*tations.*

We expect to move towards Conandarque, taking two small

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Tribes on our way; viz. Onondago, about 30 miles from Oneida; and Cayuga, about 30 further; by the foregoing friends will be able to form some Idea, when we may be expected to reach Conandarque; at which place we should be very glad to hear from our Friends, not having received any In- structions since we left home.\_\_\_\_\_

With near Love and affection to you and our friends and Connections in general we remain, &c.

* John Peirce
* Isaiah Rowland
* James Cooper
* Enoch Walker
* Joseph Sansom

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In the afternoon of this Day we attended a farewell Council of the Tuscorora’s, which was opened by informing them in what Respects we had considered them in our propositions to the Stockbridge’s, and also that we meant to give them a large Share, in proportion to their numbers, of the Goods which we should have to divide, after which we were favoured renewedly to open before their view the Serious necessity of a Change in their Manner of Life; together with the probability that as they increas- ed in Industry and Sobriety,

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they would partake more plentifully of the Blessings of the great Spirit, both in Temporals and Spirituals: \_\_

They appeared in a good Degree serious; and Nicholas Schusick, their Chief, answered on Behalf of the whole, in Substance, as follows, viz.

“Brothers,

We sha’nt say much, only a few words, we thank the great Spirit, that has put it into your Hearts to come so far to see us: We acknowledge that we are poor, and weak & ignorant, and don’t do as we ought

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ought to do; but we have some Feelings; and we heartily thank you for your good Advice, and help to poor Indians, both for our Bodies and for our Souls: and we promise you, we will try to follow your advice; and we are glad you are going to leave some of your friends with us, that they may in- struct us, and put us in Mind of your words: for though we desire to do what you have told us , but we are weak and should forget; but now they will put us in mind, and we hope we shall *improve.*

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In the Evening two of our friends, who went yesterday to the white Settlements, returned, and informed, that they have bought Oxen, a Cart and some other necessaries, and that the other Friend was gone to Brothertown, in Company with our friend Joshua Evans, whom they met with at fort Schuyler. \_\_\_\_\_

They also inform of the fol- lowing melancholy Accident which happened last Evening at the aforesaid fort Schuyler: The House of one Jonston an Innkeeper, who had been

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settled there about two years, took fire about Eleven OClock at Night, and in less than an Hour was burnt to the Ground; together with much of the pro- perty in it; and what was still abundantly more trying, one of his Daughters a Child of about twelve years of Age also perished in the Flames: This House was a great Re- ceptacle for Travelers, many of whom were now here; but our Friend who lodged in this Village, was fortunately at the Adjoining Inn; but saw the frightful Scene. \_\_\_

The poor Child who suffered, had

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had been imprudently left up the last in the House; and going to Bed in the Garret, where they deposited their flax and Tow, and carrying a Candle with her, this Accident is easily accounted for: \_\_\_ There were two other Children in the Garret, one of which ran through the Flames & got safely down, being only a little singed about the Head & face; the other had the Composure to recollect that the Garret Floor was loose, and therefore lifted up one of the Boards and sliped

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down, and was saved; but the poor Child who had been in- strumental to the Scene was so confused, as not to know how to get down, altho’ her Brother had opened the Way: and what was more extraordinary the poor Mother, reflecting on the desperate Situation of her Child, most earnestly endeavoured to press the same on the Men, with the possibility of relieving her, by means of the floor being loose; but the Confusion was so great, that all were deaf to her most moving Entreaties; even the Child’s Father himself. \_\_\_\_\_

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3rd. This being first Day it was considered whether we should all go to Brothertown to meet our aforesaid Friend Joshua Evans, but resulted in the negative, that as we had made a practice of hold- ing Meetings regularly amongst ourselves, on this Day, it was thought best not to decline it on the present Occasion; and therefore concluded, that one of us only should go to Brothertown, to give our Said Friend a welcome, and if con- venient, conduct him to our Lodgings, which was accordingly

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done, in Company with Cap. Hendrick; returned in the Evening, together with the afore- said Friend, whom we were all glad to see in *this Country.*

Besides the above acceptable visit, we had also had the Com- pany, a few Days time, of two Commissioners departed by the Board of Presbyterians in Boston, and sent here in order to inspect into the Truth of some Charges exhibit- ed by the Oneida Chiefs against their Minister Kirkland; These Men be- sides attending to their own Business, enquired particu- larly

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into the Nature and Design of ours, with which they seemed much pleased, and pased some Encomiums on the Benevolence of our Undertaking; and expressing their hearty Wishes for its Success: \_\_\_\_

One of our Company also, felt his mind weightily im- pressed with some serious Considerations relative to their Business, and took a seasonable opportunity to express it to them; reminding them how deeply the Re- putation of that most ho- ly Religion which we and

p. 175

they jointly profess, must be effected, in the Eyes of the Natives, by the professed Promulgations thereof, living answerable, or contrary to the purity of its Dictates, and also calling to their Re- membrance, the many most glaring and painful Abuses, of this sacred function, which had from time to time, by Missionaries of different De- nominations, been exhibited towards the Natives of America, to the great Scandal and wounding of the common Cause of Christianity: and modestly suggesting to them, our ap-

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apprehensions of the present Charges and Com- plaints before them not being wholly groundless; We earnestly pressed upon them the necessity of great serious- ness and impartiality in investigating and resulting upon this Business: They expressed their Satisfaction with this Interview; and parted with us very friendly; desiring to be favoured with a Line of Information in some future State of our Concern.\_\_\_\_\_

Here it may be proper

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to introduce the following anec- dote, of an Indian Bible, now in the Hands of John Serjent, Minister to the Stockbridge Nation; and which we had the Sight of; it appears to have been entire, containing all the Books of the Old and new Testaments, translated into one of the Indian Lan- guages; and they have a Tra- dition amongst them; that the Translator was so Econo- mical as to use but two Quills in the whole work.\_\_\_\_\_

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4th. This morning about Eleven OClock, again attended a general Council of the Stockbridge’s, in order to in- form them what we had agreed to do for them, and also to take our leave of them; Our Friend Joshua Evans ac- companying us: Our Council was opened by a short State- ment of our proceedings amongst them; and then reading the propositions agreed to on the 29th. of last month; after which, we had a solid Opportunity with them; in which graci- ous Goodness was experienc'd

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to be near, to the tendering of some minds, and furnishing with Ability to labour in much plainness and Love on Several Subjects, but es- pecially on the use of strong Drink; pointing out the Way, and the only way, where- by a Victory might be obtain- ed over this, and all other Temptations of the grand Enemy of our Soul’s Happi- ness; which consisted in Watch- fulness and inward prayer, and faithful Obedience to the voice of the good Spirit in our Hearts, and a careful avoiding of

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of all Places and Occasions of Temptation.\_\_\_\_\_

After which Samuel, an old Indian man, and a Mara-vian, in an affecting Man- ner spoke to us in substance as follows, viz.

Brothers,

I glad to see you in my Heart, and to hear your good words; you use us just like a father; I am old, have lost all my family, and can’t live many Days; but all this Spring I think Jesus will send me some Comfort in my trouble; but nobody say any thing

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to me ‘till now you are come: I wish I was young, then I would do what you say direct- ly, and I will go and see how your Friends work at Oneida, every two or three Days, & tell our young Men how you do:\_\_\_\_\_ He afterwards made a moving and weighty Speech to the Indians in his own Language; the weight of which was sensibly felt, even, by us who did not understand a word of what he said; and we afterwards understood was re- markably so by them; they having never heard the like from him before. \_\_\_\_\_

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After a short but solemn Pause, Cap. Hendrick, in Behalf of the Nation, made, in substance, the following Reply.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We shall speak but a few words: We are glad of your Company amongst us these three weeks, that as you told us in the first Council, you might know what was best for all the Indians here, and now you tell us, what you think pro- per to do for our Nation.\_\_

Brothers,

We rejoice that the good Spirit has put it into your

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Hearts, and into the Hearts of your Brothers at home to do us good, we believe it is from the good Spirit because your Words are weigh- ty, and we feel them so on our Minds.\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

The Offers you make us are great, we did not expect so much from friends at this time; we are thankful to the great Spirit for putting it into your Hearts, and also for giving you the Ability to do it.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

You give us Smiths Tools, for which we thank you, we have suffered much for want of them, having been obliged to go many miles, and sometimes loose

p. 184

some Days to get one Link of a Chain mended.\_\_\_

Brothers,

Your assisting us to build a Grist-mill, will be a great Thing for us; we have suf- fered many years for want of one, as you are sensible of it; and especially our women, who are obliged to pound our Corn; they join us to thank you heartily.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

Your Offer to help us in keeping up our School is very acceptable to us, be assured we will do our part towards it.\_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers,

What you propose re- specting the money lent us, is very agreeable to our minds & also the Encouragement you offer to our Industry by premi- ums: we hope our young men will have Courage to follow those ways you point out to us.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We now freely pro mise, that we the Chiefs, and all our orderly young men, will endeavour to follow your Advice, and with the Blessing of the good Spirit, we hope to live more than ever as white people do; foe we never received such

p. 186

such Encouragement before from any people.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We observe what you tell us, that we must be an Example to other Indians, who are far behind us, and we will try to be so, more an*d more.*

Brothers, We shall remember what you request for the young men you leave behind you; our minds are the same with yours, we will maintain our Friendship with them; and will be always ready to assist them if they get in trouble.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We spoke to you several Days ago about the Difficulties

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We are under in not receiving our annual Income from the United States: We desire your Friends would help us in this Case, and appoint one to take care to get our money sent to us regularly; and we also desire you to try to get Government to fulfil their Agreement with us about building a Mill.\_\_\_

Brothers,

This is all we got to Say.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5th. The forepart of this Day, we were employed in writing Letters home, and making some necessary Arangements; In the Afternoon two of our Number

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Number went to Oneida to give notice, and request a gene- ral Council next Day:\_\_\_\_\_

This Evening received an Account of the fourth Murder committed amongst these peo- ple within these few months past; all of which are sup- posed to have been occasioned by the Use of Spirituous Li- quors; One was of the Tuscoro-ra’s in the 11th. mo. last, One of the Stockbridge’s not long af- ter, one of the Oneida’s in the 6th. mo last; and the lastother of the Cayuga’s a few Days since; Three of these Cases in the very neighbourhood where

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we now are; and the other about 60 miles from this pla place, on our way to Conandar-que. \_\_\_\_\_

Some of the minds of these people are sensibly affected by the melancholy Havoc pro- duced amongst them by this cruel Tyrant: (for so they often call it), as the following Me- morial to the Assembly of New-York will evince.\_\_\_\_

To the great Sachem and Chiefs of the State of New York, now sitting around the great Council Fire at New York.\_\_

Brothers,

Before you cover your Council, we beg your

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Attention to the voices of your brother, the different Tribes living Oneida Country; speaks to you in the remembrance of the friendship you have manifested towards them in all their Treaties.\_\_\_\_\_

We ourselves have held Councils at different Times to contemplate the welfare of our nations because we cannot but groan to see our Situation: It is also melancholy to reflect on the ways of our forefathers.\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_

Brothers

You are sometimes sorry to see the deplorable Situation of your Indian Brethren, for which you have given us many good Counsels; tho’ we feel ourselves willing to follow your Coun- sels, but it has made no Effect as

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as yet.\_\_\_ Our Situation is Still miserable: Our Ancesters were conquered immediately after you came over this Island by the Strong Hero, who does still reign among Indian Tribes with Tyranny; who has robbed us every Thing that was precious in our Eyes: But we not mention every Thing particular how this Tyrant has used us; for your Eyes have been open to behold our doleful Situation; By the power of our Enemy our Eyes have been blinded\_\_ Our young Men seem become willing Slaves to this despotic Heroe so

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so that we displeased the great good Spirit, and could not become civilized people.\_\_ In looking back we see no- thing but Desolation of our mighty men: In looking forward we see the Desola- tion of our Tribes.\_\_ Our Chiefs have used their Endea- vours to reform their respective people, but having seen no Success they seem dis- couraged, and hang down their Heads.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

In remembrance of your kind promises, we unite our Cries to you for

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help: \_\_ perhaps some of you are ready to say; what man that must be that has abused so much of our Bre- thren: never was such Tyrant Hero, or Tyrant heard of, that ever meddled with Indians; but in literally he is your only begotten Son, and his Name you call *rum*, and the names of his Officers are *Brandy*, *Wine*, and *Gin*.

And we know you have power to control him, and as we desire to live in peace, and to become civilized Nati- ons, we earnestly entreat you

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you to use your power and wisdom to prevent all peo- ple, whether white or black, who may cause Rum and other Spirituous Liquors throughout your State, to come into the Hands of our Tribes; except when Sickness requir'd our Chiefs may keep little for that purpose: for your Compliance with this our Request, we will ever acknow- ledge your friendship.\_\_\_

Done at Oneida Village on the 15th. Day of March 1796 Is from your Brothers Chiefs and Warriors of Oneida Nation.\_\_\_\_

John Schonandoah

Christian Thoningivensera

Wm. Thadughgwesera

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Tuscorora

Nicholas Schuysick

David Tydeaseagurnel

Peter Dyongevet Stockbridge

Hendrick Aupaumut

Joseph Quinney

Joseph Shanquithqueth

\_\_\_\_\_

6th. This Day attended the Oneida Council, agreeably to our Conclusions of yesterday; which was opened by the revival of our Plan of a settlement, acording to the variations agreed to at our last; and having it clearly drawn out, it was sign- ed by all our number and six of their Chiefs; we endeavoured to explain the reason of our

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present Offers falling short of the Suggestions contained in our general Letter of last Spring; which we understood they had observed, with Express- ions of surprise; letting them know, that every thing must have a Beginning; and that it could not reasonably be expected, that we should go into all that was mentioned in that Letter at once: They appeared to be pretty well reconciled to our plan; and expressed their Readiness to adopt it; and recommend- ed to their young Men, who were present to engage with

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willingness into the Business: This Council was however not quite so satisfactory as could have been desired, none of their women being present tho’ de- sired by us, and some other Cir- cumstances was not altogether agreeable\*: \_\_\_ In the Evening returned to our Lodgings at Captain Hendricks, where we made out a List, for the Divi sion of our Articles between the Oneida, Stockbridge, and Tuscorora’s, retaining a suf- ficient part for the use of our Friends *who stay here.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\*The Interpreter being in Liquor

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7th. This morning had a very solid and satisfactory parting with the principal men and women of the Stockbridge Nation, at the House of their Chief, Cap. Hendrick, many of their Hearts being tenderly affected at parting with us: we then set out for Oneida Town; and after arriving at our own rented House in that place, we felt our Minds disposed to sit down together to wait, for the renewal of our Strength in inward Retirement, Joshua Evans being also

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with us; and leaving the Door and windows open, the Indians came and looked at us in with silent Admiration, behav behaving in a good Degree Solid, and making no D*isturbance.*

After this Sitting Joshua Evans expressed a Desire to have an Oppertunity with the Indians, many of whom, both of men & women, were now collected together, under an Expectation of the Goods being divided, and some of us also haveing a like Desire, not being fully relieved by the Opportunity of yesterday; it was at length proposed

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to the Indians, and agreed to, the Interpreter Jacob Reed being present, and in a better agreeable Situation for such Bu- siness, than at last Council:-

This proved a much more Satisfactory Oppertunity than that of yesterday; our Hearts being enlarged with unfeigned Love towards them, much Counsel was communicated pertinent to their Situations; which was sensibly felt by some of them, especially of the Women, who are in general much more Solid and reachable than the men.\_\_\_\_\_

After which they

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made us a short Speech, ex- pressive of their Satisfaction with this opportunity; and our Business in general; among them; Observing that all the Time we had been amongst them we had spoken the same Language, and made no Change in our Words or Conduct.\_\_\_\_

After which a venerable old woman, on behalf of her- self and Sisters, observed in substance, That it was not common for their women to speak in Council; but that they were very glad to hear our good Words, and heartily thanked us.\_\_\_\_\_

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After this Opportunity we agreed upon the following Minute; a Copy of which was left with our Friends who stay here; viz.\_\_\_\_\_

At a Conference of the Indian Committee held 7th. mo. 7th. 1796, at our rented House at Oneida Town, it was agreed to appoint Jacob Taylor Trea- surer, for this Concern at this place, who is desired to keep regular Entries of all the mo- ney received, and paid away, and to whom and for what. And there is now left in his Hands, after settling all Expences up to this Day, One Hundred Dollars.\_\_\_\_\_

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About four in the afternoon took an affectionate leave of our Friends Jacob Taylor, Hen-ry Simmons, and Enoch Walker; and set out towards Onondago, lodging at an Indian House Eleven Miles on our way.\_\_\_\_\_

Before we leave this Coun- try it may be proper to note, two singular Advantages, peculiar to these parts above many others; and which the Indians, in Com- mon with the white people, may and do enjoy: viz. The *Sugar Maple* & *Salt Springs.*

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From the Maple, they are able, with a small Expence, to furnish themselves with a plentiful supply of Sugar, Molasses, and Vinegar: And from the Salt Spring they are furnished plentifully with that valuable Article, equal in Quality, and perhaps lower in price, than in any Seaport Town in the United States. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_8th. Pursued our Jour- ney, and in about a mile and an half crossed the In-dian Line; and a few miles further came to a place

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called deep Spring: This place pertinently takes its Name from the following curious Appear- ance: There is a nearly round Hole in the Earth, of about 50 or 60 Feet Diameter at the Top, and tapering down nearly to a point at the Depth of about 50 feet: the Water Springs out of the side near midway from the Top, to the Bottom and trickling down in a small Stream, sinks into a Cavity at the Bottom.\_\_\_\_

Thence through a fertile and well improved new Country; more than one half of the cleared Land

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within sight of the Road, being either in Grain, or Timothy and Clover; some of the latter es- pecially exceeding any Grass that I have ever seen in the most fertile Marshes of Pennsylvania; dined at Asa Danfords, on Onanda- go Creek; from where we lodged ⟨18.⟩ about 18 miles.\_\_\_\_\_

In the Afternoon attend- ed a small Council of the Onandago’s, at their Settlement about two miles up the Creek. There are but a small Body of them here, some of their Tribe being removed to

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Buffalo Creek, in the Seneca Country; and many of those who live here, having nothing to eat, were gone a hunting and fishing with their Wives and families; The few who were now here were very un- willing to hold a Council with- out having their Tribe all to- gether; which, it appeared, could not be effected without a great Detension to us; we therefore proposed, that if they would give us an Opportunity to ex- press our Minds to them in Council, and give us such Information as they could

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respecting their Circumstan- ces, that we would leave the Substance of what we had to say to them, relative to the Business in writing; that their Interpreter might read and explain it to them when they should get all together: This being agreed to the Coun- cil was opened, AbrahamEphraim Web-ster a white man, and friend to them, and who had lived ma- ny years amongst them, being our Interpreter: We let them know the nature of our Bu- siness, and endeavoured to press on the necessity of a

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Change in their manner of Liv- ing; and the Advantage that would arise to them from their Improving in Industry and Sobriety: After which obtained the following Information, viz. That they consist of about 20 families and 135 Individuals, have 12800 Acres of very good Land, secured to them by Law so than no Individual of them can either sell or lease to white people; they have 1250 Dollars a year coming in from the State of new York, besides their share of the Gratuity from general Government to the

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Six Nations: but they have neither plow, Ox, Cow, now Horse; and, we are informed, generally spend their Money in a few Days after they receive it, in Rum, and some Trifles of small Account to them; and even the Blankets which they re- ceive from general Government, are often pawned for Liquor before they get them home; \_\_

They appear to have form- ed great Expectations from our Letter; and shewed evident Marks of their Dissatisfac- tion at their present Disap- pointment: we let them

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know, that our Design was more to try to prevail with them to help themselves, and to make the best use of what they had, as well as to help them a little in the Beginning; rather than to make them large presents, or to hire men to come there to do their work from them, whilst they themselves lived in Idleness, & spent their own Money foolishly, [which seems to be much their Idea of our Intention].\_\_\_\_\_

Upon proposing to them the propriety of their buying Oxen & Cows with their Annual Income, instead of laying it out for Rum, &c. they answered, that they had concluded to buy a pair of Oxen with

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with the money which they received in this month; but when they received our Letter, they thought it not necessary to lay out their own money for that purpose; intimating that they supposed we would find them Teams and such things:

We were deeply affected with the unreasonableness of their Expectations; as well as their extreme Indolence; or rather haughty Contempt of any Thing that bore the name of Labour; together with their apparent utter Insensibility of any thing that was said to them, on the necessity of

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a Reformation in their Life & Manners.\_\_\_\_\_

We parted from them under serious Discouragments returning to the afores’d A. Danfords to lodge and left the following in writing with their Interpreter, viz.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We are sent out by the people called Quakers, who wrote to the Six Nations in the Winter to enquire whether they were desirous to learn how the white people manage their Lands; and to have your Children taught to read and write, and be instructed in useful Trades: They have directed us to visit you in your Towns, and acquaint ourselves with your Circumstan- ces, and so inform them that

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they may judge what to do for you: we have settled Three of our Friends at Oneida; and some Time hence, we could with some of you to go and see them: and perhaps also they may come and see you: But, Brothers, there are so few of you here, and there are so ma- ny larger Bodies of Indians, that it is not likely we can share any of our people to set- tle here soon: But we expect, however that next Spring we can send you some Hoes, Axes, Sythes, and other Tools to work with: and if you have

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a mind to send six or eight of your Boys, from Eight to Twelve years of Age to learn reading, writing, farming & Trades our Friends at Oneida will tell you how to send them, and we will take Care of them, as our own Children; and if they behave well ‘till they are twen- ty one, we will give them some thing to begin with: And then they may return & teach you what they have learned.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We find you have good Land, and we see you raise some Corn; we advise you

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you to plant twice as much next year; and besides you have 1250 Dollars a year, which give enough for each family to buy a Cow in one or two years; we advise every Hous- keeper to buy one with the Money divided to him and his Children: you could keep your Cows easily; and they would give you Milk; & then you might make But- ter and Cheese, for you to eat; and besides your Cows would make Beef when they got old.\_\_\_\_\_

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Brothers,

Take our Advice, and we shall be encouraged to do more for you; for we wish to help you; if you will but be willing to help yourselves.

\_\_\_\_\_

Onondago7th. mo. 8th. 1796

* John Peirce
* Joseph Sansom
* Isaiah Rowland
* James Cooper

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_9th. Pursued our Journey towards Cayuga, rode 15 miles to Breakfast, at Moses Car-penters: most of this Stage good Limestone Land; but thinly

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thinly settled; where there are farms they appear flourishing.\_\_\_\_\_

Thence to Henry Moors where we dined, 16 miles: Thence leaving the Genesee Road, and travailing mostly through the woods for about 6 Miles to Frederick Gerard’s, within about 2 ½ miles of the Indian settlement, on the Cayuga Lake: Thence in Company with the ⟨34.⟩ him to the Indian Town; where we arrived in the Evening; but finding se- veral of their Number were gone out a fishing and this

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being seventh Day, we con- cluded to put off the Coun- cil ‘till Second Day morn- ing; and returned with the aforesaid Frederick Gerard to lodge: This man, with his family, had lived several years amongst the Cayuga Indians; but his place is now, by a late purchase made of these people, with- out their Boundaries.\_\_\_\_

\_\_10th. This being first Day, our Friend Joshua Evans had notice given of a Meeting to be held at the House of our Host for the Benefit of

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of the white Inhabitants; which we attended; as well as about 20 of the Neighbour- ing white people; who be- haved in a good Degree solid.

\_\_\_\_\_

In the Afternoon Accom- panied our aforesaid Friend to the Cayuga Settlement of Indians, where he had also appointed to have a Meet- ing with the Natives, to begin at three OClock: we waited ‘till after four, and not one them came to the place ap- pointed, and even the In- terpreter, John Jourdan, at whose Cabbin we met,

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had himself gone away just before we got there, and returned no more whilst we staid: On our Return, some of our Com- pany met him; and he ap- peared totally insensible of any impropriety in his own, or people’s Conduct, relative to this Matter; alledging that some were gone one way, and some another, and could not well get together.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_11th. This morning agreeably to the Appointment of seventh Day Evening, we again attended at Cayuga; and after wasting several Hours, a few of the prin principal

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principal Indians, of men and women, came together: They opened the Council by producing our Letter of last Spring, and informing that they had answered it by Let- ter to Cap. Chapin: After which we opened the Nature of our Concern in general, having the Aforesaid John Jourdan, for our Interpreter, who was a very poor one, and then informed them how far we had proceeded in it; particularly towards their Brothers the Oneidas; and that our Regard was equally

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towards them all; but that we could not begin with all at once; and therefore our par- ticular Business, at this Time, with them, and all the other Tribes westward of the Oneida’s, was, to enquire into their par- ticular Circumstances, and take word to our Friends, in Order that they might con- sider how they might be most useful to them against another Season; but withal informed them, that as their Number was so small, it was not likely that we could settle any of our Friends amongst them; but that we thought Friends would be

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be willing to take four or five of their Boys, between seven and twelve years old, and learn them to work at farming, and some Trades, and give them so much school- ing, as to learn them to read and write English: And also that we thought they might expect some farm- ing Utensils next spring.\_\_

They expressed their Satis- faction with our proposals, and a willingness to send some of their Children to us, but said they must consult some more of their women, their

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being but few of them present, we closed the Council, after having obtained the following Information, viz. That they consist of about 13 Families, between 50 and 60 Individuals, who live on this Reservation; They have near four Thousand Acres of Land; we think not of quite so good a Quality as where we have been before; they have 2300 Dollars a year coming in from the State of New-York, besides their Share of the Gratuity from General Government to the Six Nations; but that part of this Tribe which has re- moved westward, and which is

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Is about one half; they say has a Right to their Share of this Money if they call for it.\_\_\_\_\_ They have six Cows, neither oxen nor Horses, and raise very little of any Thing, living principally by Fishing and hunting; and par- ticularly the former, the Lake abounding with a large kind of Eel which they catch in great plenty.\_\_\_\_ These peo- ple, as well as the Onandago’s appear totally averse to all La- bour; and very insensible of any thing that could be said to them on the most interest- ing Occasions.\_\_\_\_\_

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After this Council we proceeded on towards Conandarque; and after riding along side of the lake about 7 1/2 miles we crossed in a good sail Boat; and having a lively Breeze we had a short and pleasant passage, being about 20 mi- nutes, in going a mile and a half; we dined at the ferry ⟨9.⟩ House, James Bennet’s; and while our Dinner was prepar- ing one of our Company took up a News paper, printed a few Days since at Whites; Town within about 18 or 20 miles of Oneida CastleTown; in which was an Account of the various Tosts

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Tosts drunk at a Dinner in that Town on the 4th. of this month; amongst which was the following: \_\_\_\_\_

The Enterprising and Bene- volent Quaker Missionaries; may they succeed in civilizing our Neighbours the Oneidas.

However trifling and un- worthy a place in these Notes the above may appear to some; it however speaks a Language Consonant to what is herein before noted, of the favour- able Disposition of the Fron- tier Inhabitants in these parts, to our Business.\_\_\_

After Dinner pursued our Journey, and arived at

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Geneva, a small Town on the ⟨14.⟩Seneca Lake, about 14 Miles; where we lodged.\_\_\_\_\_

This Lake and the Cayuga are said to be nearly equal in Dimensions; being about 42 miles in Length; and from one and an half, to four in Bredth: we rode several Miles up its Banks, and the Wind being high and setting towards us, the Rolling of a large and troubled water, the dash- ing of the Billows, sometimes within a yard of our Horses feet, afforded as an agreeable Sensation both to the Eye and Ear.\_\_\_\_\_

At this place we had the Com-

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Company of a female follower of the deluded Jemima Wilkin-son, whose settlement is a few Miles up this Lake; her de- portment was Grave and Sober; we observed a cautious Guard in her Conversation, & answers to our Interrogations, not to make use of, or any way, directly or indirectly acknowledge the name Jemima Wilkinson, but always termed her ‘*the* *friend*’: We understand this woman is losing her Reputa- tion here; divers of her principal followers having left her: and the following curious Inter view between her and Cap. Brant, an Indian atfromGrand

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River, was related to me as a fact, by Cap. Hendrick at Stockbridge; viz. That the said Brant being in those parts Jemima sent him a message that she had a Desire to see him, upon which he paid her a visit; and upon her asking him a certain Question, he an- swered her in his own Language and she not understanding him, repeated the Question, or asked another; he again answered in another Indian Language; and so the third time: When he observed to him that she had heard of him, that he was a Scholar and a man of Informa tion, and that she had promised

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herself some satisfaction from his Company and Conversation; and that she had now asked him a civil Question; and that he had answered her three Several Times in a Language that she did not understand; and as she knew he could speak English, she could not account for such treat- ment: To which Brant re- plied, with an Interrogation if she did not understand what he said to her; To which she again answered, No; I do not understand your Indian Lan- guages: - To which Very well Madam, replied Brant, then you are not the person you

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pretend to be, for *Jesus Christ* understands *Indian* as well as English.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_12th. This morning rode to Conandarque, about 14 miles. The roads extremely deep and swampy: In the Afternoon had a Conference with Israel Chapin Superintendant for Indian Affairs, from which we learn that Captain Abeel, Alias, Cornplanter, one of the Seneca Chiefs, had sent him an an- swer to our Letter of last spring, that he was willing to receive Friends, and that he would be glad to have them come and settle about him; because he believed they

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they were good people; but Farmer’s Brother, on behalf of the settlement at Buffalo Creek, which is called the main Seneca Settlement, answered that he thought it best to wait, and see our progress with their eastern Brethren, before they recei*ved us.*

After this Conference, hearing of some people who were called by our name a few miles back of this place, we concluded to go and see them; and if conve- nient, rest ourselves a Day or two &c. Accordingly we set out, having a young man, son to one of these people for our Guide; we seperated on the way

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Way, some of us going to Jacob Smiths, and others to Nathan Cumstalks and Abraham Lap-pums: amongst these people we were kindly entertained; they being friends by Education and profession, tho' not one of the men are actually in membership. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ 13th. Staid with our aforesaid Friends, rested ourselves, got our Linen washed, and wrote some Letters home.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 14th. Returned to Conandar-que, had a further Conference with Cap. Chapin; by which we learn, that the Seneca's have various settlements west of the Genesee River, and con- sist

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sist of the following number of Individuals; viz.\_\_\_\_\_

Main Village at Buffolo Creek 381

White Chiefs Village \_\_\_\_ 107

Catauraugurus \_\_\_\_\_ 225

Allegany {Cornplanter’s 2 Villages}\_\_ 331

Tawniwandic \_\_\_\_\_ 104

\* Canawaugus \_\_\_\_\_ 22

\* Ghenesee Village \_\_\_\_\_ 91

\* Bigtree Village \_\_\_\_\_ 80

\* Squakee Hill \_\_\_\_\_ 190

\* Ka-oun-o-de-o \_\_\_\_\_ 113

1644

\* Note such as have this mark are said to unite with Corn-planter’s Answer.\_\_\_\_\_

The Seneca’s have five Hundred Dollars a year from Oliver Phelps; besides their Share

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of the 4500 Dollars from the gene- ral Government, to the Six Nations. \_\_\_\_\_

This Evening we wrote the follow- ing Letter to our Friends at Oneida, viz.

Conandarque7th. mo. 14th. 1796

Dear Friends,

Your Situation and the important Concerns devolved upon you, have often been the Subjects of Serious Thoughtful- ness to us since we left you, and we are free to propose to you; That as you may possibly find some Difficulty in getting as many of the young Indians to undertake, and stick to the Business, on the particular portion of Land alotted us, as was expected; we wish you not

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not to suffer Discouragements too much to take place in your Minds on that Account; but endeavour to get them to divide off particular portions of Land to particular persons, in some convenient places, and bestow the more of your Time in in- structing and helping such; and where any who have un- dertaken with you, on your Farm, shall be discouraged from the Length of Time, which, agree- able to our plan, they must wait for their wages, we are willing you should advance some necessary Goods &c. to such, (which we desire you to purchase for

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that purpose) or actually hire others in Case of necessity; keeping a regular account thereof, and letting them know, that the value of all such Advance and hire is to be deducted out of the product of the place.\_\_\_\_\_

With Love we remain your Friends.\_\_\_\_\_

* John Peirce
* Joseph Sansom
* James Cooper
* Isaiah Rowland

\_\_\_\_\_15th. This morning had a Conference amongst ourselves respecting the further prosecution of the Business before us; but not being able to come to a clear and Satisfactory Judgment relative to any further Movements; and it

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it being now near the End of the week, we concluded to spend a day or two more amongst our Friends and to meet at William EIngles on First Day; where our Friend Joshua Evans had appoint- ed a meeting.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 17th. and 18th. Being first and second Day, We had several seri- ous Conferences on the Nature of our present Concern, and the propriety of our going forward into the Seneca Country at this Time; and two of our number, now approaching they felt a releasment in their minds from any further prosecution of the Business at the present;

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whilst the other two approached the Business not completed for which we were sent out, and that this was the right time to perform a visit to the Seneca's in some of their different Set- tlements; our Situation became trying, and a spirit of Sympa- thy and tender feeling for each other was sensibly experienced, to the tendering of our Hearts; and after various Sittings to- gether, and feeling after our present Situation, and trying our several Concerns and pros- pects, and a Spirit of brotherly Condiscension prevailing, it was at length resulted, as most safe to

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to keep together, and return homewards.\_\_\_\_\_

After this Conclusion we had another Conference with Cap. Chapin; informed him what we had done at Oneida, and other places where we had been; read to him most of our material Entries on Business; and informed him of our present prospect of returning home- wards; and, with his advice, wrote the following Letter to Cap. Abeel, alias Cornplan-ter. viz.\_\_\_\_\_

Conandarque7th. mo 18th. 1796 To Captain Abeel, and the differ- ent Seneca Villages, who answer

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with him to our Letter of last Spring.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

You received a Letter from your Brothers, the peo- ple called Quakers, written last winter, and directed to the Six Nations of Indians; we have now received your Answer by Cap. Chapin, informing that you are willing to receive our proposals.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We who now write to you are a part of your friends who wrote to you last winter, and have been sent out by our Friends to do something for your Brothers the Oneida’s, whose answer answer

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answer to our Letter we had received before we left home; we have accordingly settled three of our Friends there, and furnished them with farming Utensils, in order to instruct, and en- courage your Brothers, the Oneida’s in farming the Land like the white people; that so they may raise a great deal of Grain and Grass &c. off of a little La*nd.*

Brothers, Our Regard is e- qually towards you all our Indian Brothers of the Six Nations; but you know that we cannot begin with all

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at once, nor do every thing at a Time; therefore our friends at home desired us to call and see some of our other Brothers of the Six Nations, in order to en- quire into their Circumstances, and bring them word again, so that they might consider who to help next, and how to do it best; accordingly we have been to see your Brothers the Onandago’s and Cayuga’s, and gave them some advice, and enquired into their Circumstances, and shall carry a true Account home to our Friends:\_\_\_ Now Brothers, we had thought of coming to see you also, for the same purpose; but it is now got late in the season

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before we could get here, and before we got your answer; and as the Road is very long through the wilderness, and the Hot Weather coming on, we think we can’t call to see you now; but we have enquired very particularly into your Circum- stances, of your old Friend Cap. Chapin, and shall carry a true account to our friends at home; and we desire you to enquire of your Brothers the Oneida’s how our Friends behave amongst them, and how they like our plan and Conduct; that so you may be fully satisfied against we are ready to help

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you in the same way.\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers,

We must desire you to have patience with us, if we don’t do every Thing you ex- pect, all at once: for if we settle any Body amongst you, we know they must be good Men, or else they may do you more hurt than good; and we must wait ‘till such offer of their own free Will, to come and live amongst you, out of Love to you, and by the Moving of the good Spirit in their own Heart for good Men, such as would do you good are not to be bought with Money, nor hired to come amongst you, without they feel this good Spirit enfluencing them there.

\_\_\_\_

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Brothers,

In Love, we bid you farewell.\_\_\_\_\_

John Peirce

James Cooper

Isaiah Rowland

\_\_\_\_\_

--- 19th. This Morning left Conandarque, in order to go directly homewards; break- fasted at William Ingles 3 Miles on our Way; thence up the side of the Conandar- que Lake about 20 miles, dined to Nathan Watkins, at the head of it, where we dined: - This Lake is nearly equal in Width to the Seneca or Cayuga; but not much more than half the Length:

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After Dinner continued our Jour- ney and lodged at one Huckers -; about 12 miles: Here we lay on the floor, and our Horses fared badly, having neither pasture, hay, nor grain; A little Grass cut with a Sickle on the Edges of a Wheat Lot, was all that could be procured for them.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_20th. This morning started early; there being nothing here to in- duce any unnecessary Stay, break- fasted in the woods, on Bread and Cheese, which we had with us, about 8 miles on our way; Our Horses having no better repast after a trying night, than what they

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could collect for themselves about/along[?] the Range where we stopped, & which was very poor: thence to a small Town, called Bath, in a very poor Country, where we dined; and got some indifferent Hay for our Horses, but no Grain, about 20 Miles: Thence to one Pattison[?] at Post Town, near the paint[?] ⟨47.⟩post, about 19 miles; here we lodged: our horses faring better having plenty of pretty good Hay but no Grain.\_\_\_\_\_

About a mile from Bath stopped at the House of William Kersey late of little York; On the Bank of a water called little Lake: This Lake is of a circular form,

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about half a mile Diameter, has no visible Inlet, nor outlet; the water nevertheless being clear and fresh, and wearing no appearance of Stagnation; and we are informed no bottom has ever been discovered in some parts of it, though sound- ed with a Line of 40 *Fathoms.*

21st. Pursued our Journey, crossing the Cohocton, Conos- teer, and Shomonga Creeks, which are waters of the Susque- hannah, breakfasted at the Widow Lindsley’s about 14 miles; here we got pasture, and also Grain for our Horses; and got a small supply of Grain to carry with us; against tomorrow Ride; when we are informed we

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shall get no kind of Entertain- ment, either for ourselves or Horses, for upwards of 40 Miles. Thence to William Carter’s about 15 miles, where we lodged out ⟨29.⟩of necessity; there being no other House, of any kind, on this side of the mountains:\_\_\_\_\_This last Stage crossing the New-York and Pennsylvania *Line.*

\_\_\_\_22nd. This morning started be- fore two OClock, proposing, in pos- sible to reach some Quarters on the other Side of the Savage Mountains; breakfasted on Bread & Cheese, which we had previously provided; and fed our Horses, some on the Ground, and others in Holes cut cut for that purpose in the Logs; about 15 Miles on our way. Thence proceed- ing up the Mountain; our Roads

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increased not only in Roughness, but in most intolerable Bogs & Mire, for about 10 Miles, to a place called the Block House: where we dined, and fed out Horses, much in the same Manner as we breakfasted; only that we had better Troughs to feed i*n:*

Here is a tolerable House, and might be of great use to Travail- ors, was there but a suitable per- son living in it: but its present Occupant is not only so unpro- vided with Accommodation that it is seldom anything can be had either for man or Beast excepting a little Liquor; but is

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also of so desperate a Charac- ter, that most Travailers are afraid to trust themselves under his Roof all Night.\_\_\_\_ Then still over the Mountains for about 12 Miles further; where we again fed our Horses at the foot of this Mountain in like manner aforesaid; then to James Thomson’s on Lycoming ⟨46.⟩Creek about 9 Miles; where we arrived before sun set: and tho both ourselves and Horses were much fatigued, the satisfaction we felt from the Reflection of being over the most dif- ficult part of our Journey and near a Settlement of Friends

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was reviving, and tended to sweeten our present Situ- ation.\_\_\_\_\_

23rd. This morning found the Effect of yesterday’s Ride, one of our Horses being badly bruised, and entirely unfit to ride, we were under the Necessity of leading, or at least letting it follow, and one of us walking ⟨20.⟩ by turns for about 20 miles to William Ellis’ in Munsey. This being Seventh Day, we concluded to rest ourselves and Horses here until Second Day.\_\_\_\_\_

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24th. Being first Day at tended Munsey Meeting.

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25th. After Dinner left our agreeable Quarters at munsey and pursued our Journey homewards, lodged at Jesse Haynes’ at fishing Creek; ⟨21.⟩ about 21 miles.\_\_\_\_\_

26th. Proceeded on, crossed Sus quehannah, at Cattawissy, on Horseback, dined at John Lloyds, at said place; about 15 miles: Thence to Frederick Levenburg’s on the east side ⟨28.⟩ of the Little Mountain about 13 miles; where we lodged.\_\_

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27th. This Morning rode about 15 miles to breakfast, to an Inn kept by one George Reevers; thence to Richard Stevens’ about 18 miles; Thence to Francis Parvins at Maiden Creek, to lodge, ⟨46.⟩ about 18 miles.\_\_\_\_\_

28th. Left Francis Parvins after Dinner, rode to Ben-jamin Scarlet’s at Robinson, ⟨16.⟩ about 16 miles; where we lodged.\_\_\_\_\_

29th. This Day, at Several Stages, reached my Habitation ⟨40.⟩ at Darby, about 40 Miles, & found my family all well.\_\_\_\_

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Subduplicate ratio, The ratio of their square roots.

Duplicate ratio. The ratio of their squares

Thus the duplicate ratio of 2 to 4 is the ratio of 4 to 16.\_\_\_\_\_

and the subduplicate ratio of 4 to 16 is the ratio of 2 to 4.\_\_\_\_\_

" f "

1 : 3 ::4

4/12 feet to vibrate in 2 seconds

4 : 2 :

1 1 : 2[?] : 4

*4*

/36/6[?]

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£

School to open this fall, say beginning 11th. mo. \_\_\_\_\_

25 Boys admitted, and no more this winter.\_\_\_\_\_

No Girls admitted till Spring say 3rd mo.\_\_\_\_\_

Acting Commitly appointed. their Instructions.\_\_\_\_\_

Superintendant appointed.\_ Committee to settle the Books, and make a clear statement of Auts.[?]\_\_\_\_\_

Consideration respecting Meeting. Furniture, particularly bedding to be provided, how many sets, whether for 2 Children in a bed, or one. Committee to provide it to be ready by such a time.\_\_\_

School Books necessary. a com.

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after Dinner pursued our Journey lodged at one Hookers about 1236. Miles further: Here we layedlay on the floor, & our Horses fared badly, having neither pasture, Hay, nor Grain; A little Grass cut with a Sickle in the Corners of a wheat patch was all that could be procured for them.\_\_

authorized to set them to the present and compilations.\_\_\_\_\_ mmittee to examine some proposals.\_\_\_\_

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James Hotton, living No 14North Market st\_\_\_\_\_

* Commissioner
* Cap. Brant, & Gimima
* Salt and Sugar.\_\_\_\_
* Indian Bible

We then agreed upon the following Minute, and entered it in the Acer Book of our Friends at who stay here

We then agreed upon the following