(p.11) Albany March 9, 1804

My Dear friend

I am just going to proceed in the stage for New York. However, I must endeavor first to give you some account of my journey this far, through a country which was once the seat of your ancestors; but that is now covered with European settlements, whose persevering industry has greatly changed the face of the country; and forests continue to disappear before the efforts of the laborious woodman. Is there any thing in their change to call for the sensations of sorrow in the breast of the philanthropic patriot? if there is, it is not because the inanimate clod has changed possessors, or that, what was once an unculti-vated waste, is now covered with human habitations, and rendered abundant in productions for the sustenance and comfort of man; but it is because we have not been sufficiently benefited by the example of that which is worthy and commendable in the character of good Europeans and have been greatly contaminated to the contrary - Had the Chiefs, who relinquished this country, acquired more vir-tuous knowledge from their enlightened neighbours, they might have obtained such compensation and retained such reserves which properly disposed of after the settle-ment of the country, when the value of land had raised; might have enabled them to have established a fund for the support and promotion of industrious in our present territory

But to return to my journey – I left Niagara and parted with my friends with I know not what mixed impressions of joy and grief – which seemed to urge me with greater expedition to proceed & rendered it exceeding unpleasant for me to make any delay. However as agree-ably as the situation of my mind would allow of, I passed one day at Canandarque (sp. Canadaque) mostly in the company of Mr. & Mrs. Morris & Mr. Greig, a gentleman from Scotland, who had always honored (p.12) me with every hospitable and polite attention whenever business called me to these parts. My friend Ihaskoghsage was not at home, but I obtained of that which was due a sufficiency to enable me to attempt my voyage from the gentleman who manages his affairs.

At the Inn where I stop a Man put up who told me he was going the way I proposed to go and that I might obtain a passage in his sleigh. When he had satisfied me, that he would be expeditious, and that I might depend upon the goodness of his horses, I agreed to go with him. In consequence of changing my mode of travelling from foot to going in a carriage a young lady from our parts then at Canandarque (sp. Canadaque) with a brother, whom I knew proposed going under my protection, to Icohare where she had another brother. But unfortunately we were both deceived in the capability of the horses that drew us and shortly after our departure it now ap-peared clear, that unless we obtained others, we should be sure of a tedious journey. Had I been alone I would have easily remedied this inconvenience by going on foot; but as the Lady had come under my protection I could not with propriety leave her until we reached her brothers. I endeavored to hire a sleigh, but none was to be had; so we were constrained to remain with the old man and his sorry nags. The first day we slept at about six miles East of Cayuga, and the next day at Ikanyadares, about eighteen miles farther. The snow had fallen very deep, which so increased the difficulty of travelling, that our man with his sleigh could hardly be prevailed on to start again, and all attempts to obtain another sleigh and horses were fruitless. I am apprehend-sive, that contrary to my inclination, my looks betrayed the anxiety of my mind at being detained by the tardiness of our conveyance. The lady observed she had a brother in law about twenty six miles farther, and that if she could get that far, she would tarry until the roads became better – we set off again, but had not proceeded above five miles when our man expressed his determination of not going any farther. Not finding any horses to hire at the house where we stopped (sp. stopt), I was on my way to the next house to inquire if any might be had there, when I perceived

(p.16) We may observe daily, without going from home, that those who have least disposition to acquire by active exertion are generally the most greedy to obtain by other means even although they should not be the most honorable. Active industry appears rather to be an antidote to avarice and an incitement to generosity. The successful hunter has for the most part been found generous; and why, might we not hope, should we become herdsmen, or farmers (for we cannot expect to be able to reanimate the bones of the departed inhabitants of our forests) that he, who has had success with his flock or his crop, would also be generous of that which the bountiful hand of nature had bestowed on him, as a reward for his labor and his care. There is besides a further satisfaction in this kind of employment, that success in it depends more on our own conduct than it does in that of the hunter.

I apprehend my Dear friend, that there is hardly any si-tuation more exposed to the baneful vices of covetousness, and envy than that of our particular Five Tribes. Situate, as they are, in the neighborhood of and among European settlements, their wants to become greater than their industry can supply; for the hunter, however fortunate he may be, cannot at present obtain sufficient peltries to purchase wherewithal to cloth a family amply. Our farming supplies little more than sufficient for our own consumption. What remains consists of the pitiful annuities at two or three dollars per man. Then the bounty of our Father the King is a great support to such as are in favor with the Superintendent; but I fear that in order to enjoy this favor, some are tempted to be mean. To pursue industrious employment with judgement would be much better than all those. For instance, twenty dollars wherewith you may buy a cow and, with care, may every year raise a calf, will be of more service to your family for the present time than three dollars annuity; besides, that at the end of ten years, you may have a considerable stock of cattle.

Indeed there is nothing to prevent us in some degree from imitating the Industry of Europeans, but the want of Will you will say, they are rich, and we are poor; but riches are of no utility in this respect, but as they command the labor of many, and direct their joined efforts to (p.17) a general point. By union a number of men may perform the same labor which a single rich man does by means of his money. In war it has been the custom for our warriors to unite firmly together to support the honor of our tribes and to destroy the human species. In peace can we not as well unite our joint efforts for the preservation and increase of our species, by rendering them comfortable in the abundant supply of all their natural wants? You will yet observe that we are in want of the necessary implements and utensils for carrying on work extensively: this is very true; but when difficulties occur in a laudable attempt, we must not for that season desist, but rather endeavor to remedy them as well as we can. For instance, could we prevail on the people to be content for one year with two dollars instead of three in the division of the annuities, this might contribute considerably towards the furnishing these athidy: and as sometimes a warrior who has been obliged to go to war without any other weapon but a spear becomes possessed of a gun from some of his conquered enemies; so if you persevere like men, finally the fruits of your labors will furnish all that is wanted.

I arrive in Utica at dusk, and find that the stage leaves it at daybreak. Next day I enter it in company with a single gentleman in black; we have a very silent ride, the great fall of snow causing us to go on very slowly and ar-rive in the evening at the Stone Church. The Inn where we put up was formerly the house of our old friend Major Nellis: the present landlord retains a strong remembrance of last war; and perhaps on that account, and the dress I was in did not give me that reception which it was his duty to do, a circumstance which caused me to be the more particular. (p.18) In the morning we again embarked, there were now two additional gentlemen in company. One of these gentlemen being of a social communicative temper we became very well acquainted before we reached Schenectady where we dined, and arrived about ten o’ clock last night at this place. I put up with one of my companions at the city tavern, where we find Lord Selkirk a very respectable Scotch nobleman who has had allotted to him in the western half of Canada a tract of land to be settled by people from Scotland, whom an over-crowded population compels to emigrate; and, as I have heard before I left you, His Lordship benevolently gives them his aid to bring them over & enable them to establish them-selves there; This nobleman is exceedingly pleasant, affable, & intelligent I had the pleasure of a considerable conver-sation with him probably from his desire of being made acquainted with the manners & customs of our people and their connections. I have seen several of the great men here but had not time to see the Governor. I had proposed stopping within this evening, it being wet and disagreeable out; but I find Mr. R sends to let me know that supper is ready so I must set off. – Adieu my dear friend