

A Communication from a Deputation of the Six Nations to the Secretary of War of the United States

Brother,

We are chiefs, and a Deputation, of the Six Nations, for the purpose of making some communications to the Secretary of War, on the part of our respective Nations.

Brother,

We would remind you of a Treaty formerly made between the Government of the United States and the Six Nations: this Treaty was made about twenty years since by a Commissioner appointed by our Father the President of the United States, for that purpose: namely by the Honorable Timothy Pickering. Since that Treaty the terms of it have been faithfully adhered to, both by the Citizens of the United States and by our Nations; in consequence of which, our Friendship has remained unbroken.

Brother,

About six years since, a Deputation of our Nations had an interview with our Father the President of the United States, at a time when differences between the Government of the United States and that of Great Britain were a threatening aspect. – That Deputation was then assured by the President, that if the Six Nations would remain tranquil and not attempt to interfere in any manner whatever in the threatened altercations, they should be regularly furnished, on the part of the United States with the same quantity of Goods of various descriptions, as they were promised by the Treaty and had been accustomed to receive; – but they must now represent that this engagement on the part of the United States, has not been fulfilled: – soon after the time above alluded to, the quantity of goods the received by way of Annuity, was greatly diminished, – and after the War actually commenced, it has been reduced to half the usual quantity, or less; – which has caused them great distress. On enquiry after the cause of this failure, in an essential part of the engagement of the Government of the United States, they have been given to understand that it was caused by the scarcity and high price of the articles specifically promised to them. Now, this is contrary to their understanding of existing Treaties; because as the articles to be furnished by the United States as a portion of the annuity due to the Six Nations, were such as were considered necessary to their comfort & convenience, so the quantity and not the price of the commodities, was the great consideration with them in their Treaty before mentioned.

Brother,

We flatter ourselves that if this fair statement of a grievance of which we think we have just reason to complain, was duly represented to our Father, the President of the United States, he would readily cause the deficiency to be made up to our Nation for the period of three years last past; which is of much importance to them, although a trivial consideration for the United States; and further, that the promised supply of Goods may be regularly furnished in the future. –

Brother,

We wish for some information relative to the Capital formerly held in the Bank of the United States for account of the Seneca Nation: Our Father, the President, had the control and direction of those Funds for its benefit. We have been told that on the dissolution of that Bank, our Father the President past that portion of the Stock into the Public Funds, as a Loan to the United States;- but it is found that the amount they receive for the use of it, annually, is not so great as heretofore when the Bank was in operation: - Our Brethren of the Seneca Nation do not perfectly comprehend why their income is thus diminished, and wish to be informed.

Brother,

this is all we have to say at present upon these subjects.

Colonel Pollard Seneca

Long Board Tuscarora

Cole Onandaga

Schuyler Oneida

Strong Seneca

Washington City, D. C.

20th Feb 1815.

Jasper Parrish

Sub Agent &

Interpreter