

1820
11 Dec. (II)

Two letters of the same date: Gov. Lewis Cass to D. A. Ogden and Cass to Eleazar Williams. Both letters mention treaty made by Col. Bowyer. Cass thinks that Bowyer exceeded his authority in procuring so large a cession. DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY, DETROIT, MICH., BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION, C.C. TROWBRIDGE, MANUSCRIPTS.

Gov. Cass. To the Honorable D.A. Odgen

Detroit December 11th 1820

Dear Sir,

You have undoubtedly learned long since, that the region of the Oneida, to their country proved fruitless, and you probably know the causes which Col. Bowyer acted in making the purchase of the country upon Fox River, I know nothing.

I never heard that such a measure was in agitation, until I heard that a treaty was concluded. I saw Col. Bowyer at Green Bay, who stated that he was authorized to procure a cession as extensive as that embraced in his treaty. But from an observation in a letter to me from the Secretary of War, dated last winter, I have reason to believe, either that Col. Bowyer misunderstood his own authority, or that he acted and a instruction which had been issued long previously, & which were not at that time intended to be carried into effect.

However this may be, should the treaty conclude by him not be carried into effect, I think there is no reasonable doubt, but that a situation can be found in that country, which would suit the Oneidas, and which might by proper execution be procured from the other Indians.

I have this day written to Williams, and to them, stating my opinion upon the subject and recommending the course, which I think should be pursued.

I should have done this and should have written to you also, immediately on my return, had I not expected to receive information respecting the nature of the cession procured by Col. Bowyer. In this I have been disappointed, but I have stated to the War Department that the purchase is, in my opinion, much larger than necessary, and that the ratification of the treaty in total would be impolitic, and would have a strong tendency to defeat the plan for the removal of the Oneidas. What the ultimate determination will be I know not. Should the Oneidas determine to renew the attempt, they ought to reach this place at an earlier date than last year.

With much Esteem

Your Friend,

Honorable David A. Odgen

Oneidas move to
Wis 12/11/1820
UNAUTHORIZED
TREATY made BY
Col. Bowyer
Both letters to Ogden +
Williams

Gov. Cass to Mr. Eleazar Williams

Detroit December 11th 1820

Dear Sir,

I should long since have answered the letter of the Oneida Chiefs, of the 19th of August last, which I received on my return from the northeast, had I not expected to receive information respecting the views of the Government upon the subject of the cession of the country upon the Fox River, made by the Indians to Col. Bowyer.

I know nothing of the instructions under which he acted, nor did I know that such a measure was in agitation. He told me when I was at Green Bay, that he had made the purchase as reported, & that he was authorized so to do.

I have written to the War Department, stating my opinion upon the subject, and that a cession to the extent required by Col. Bowyer is in every point of view impolitic. What decision will ultimately be made I am not able to conjecture. I have little doubt, from a personal inspection of the Country, that a situation might be found, which would be agreeable to the Oneidas, and I presume that with the cooperation of the Agent at Green Bay, the consent of the Winnebagoes and Menominees could be obtained to the measure.

I will thank you to deliver the accompanying speech to the Oneida Chiefs.

I trust they will not think that my delay has arisen from any indisposition to promote their wishes, or from any indifference to the object which they have in view.

Their ulterior measure must depend upon the views of Government. I am only a subordinate Agent, but it shall be ready at all times to assist in the accomplishment of this object which is so proper in itself, and which has been sanctioned by the War Department.

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant,

Mr. Eleazar Williams
Oneida, New York

1820

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to the Hon. D. A. Ogden.

Detroit Dec. 11. 1820.

*I have undoubtedly learned long
before of the Landing of this*

Last winter, I have reason to believe.

*Col. Bowyer misunderstood his own au-
thority that he acted under instructions which
I gave long previously, I regret were
some extent to be carried into effect.
However this may be, should the*

Gov. Capt to Mr. Elazer Williams.

93.

Detroit Mich. 11th 1820.

Sir,

I should long since have answered the letter of the Onida Chiefs, of the 12th of August last, which I received on my return from the Fort Mich. had I not expected to receive information respecting the views of the Government upon the subject of the cession of the country upon the Fox river, made by the Indians to Genl. Bonyon.

I know nothing of the instructions under which he acted, nor did I know that such a measure was in agitation. He told me when I was at Green Bay, that he had made the purchase as reported, & that he was authorized to do so.

I have written to the War Department, stating my opinion upon the subject, and that a cession

28.
Gov. Cap. to the Hon. Sec. of War.

Sir,

Detroit Dec. 11. 1820.

You have undoubtedly learned long since, that the mission of the Esquimaux to this country, proved fruitless, and you probably know the causes which occasioned their return.

Of the instructions under which Col. Bowen acted in making the purchase of the country upon Fox River, I know nothing.

I never heard that such a measure was in agitation, until I heard that a treaty was concluded.

I saw Col. Bowen at Green Bay, who stated that he was authorized to procure a cession as extensive as that embraced in his treaty. But from an observation in a letter to me from the Secretary of War, dated