

The undersigned Chiefs and Warriors of the Oneida Nation having witnessed a printed hand-bill new in circulation in their neighborhood, containing libelous and defamatory charges against the Rev. Eleazer Williams, late a missionary among us, have considered it a matter of duty to make a plain statement of facts in relation to the subject of the said hand-bill, to the end that the odium thereby attempted to be cast on Mr. Williams may be averted, and his character be sustained in that purity and disinterestedness which we consider he has ever maintained without deviation.

In the month of November last, the first and second Christian Parties of the Oneida Nation had called a council of the several persons and parties interested in the two purchases at Green Bay; and a delegation from each of the Six Nations appeared and attended the Council.

There was at that time a small party of the Oneida Nation who had different views of Policy from their Chiefs, and this small party determined to oppose their Chiefs and thwart their views in some way or other, and for that purpose they met with a few of the Onondaga Nation and one young Canadian of the St. Regis Indians.

This small party casting about for the means of opposition to their Chiefs, were in despair of success by pursuing an honest and true course. They therefore seduced and persuaded the said young St. Regis man to make and sign a false and defamatory statement against Mr. Williams, Importing that he had in the spring of 1824 obtained a power of attorney from the St. Regis Indians by fraud and falsehood and deceptive practices; on which he sold a mile square of their lands, on which was a valuable Saw-Mill and Grist-Mill, at 3(8),75 per Acre, and received from the State \$500 of the purchase money for which he refuses to account.

The truth in relation to this subject is, Mr. Williams never had any power of Attorney whatever; and never sold said land; and never received said purchase money from State.

On the contrary said mile square of Land and Mills were sold to the State by one Thomas Williams, Michal Cook, Lewis Doublehouse, and Peter Turbel, the authorized agents of the said St. Regis Nation, who negotiated a treaty for the sale thereof with the late Governor Joseph C. Yates; and the purchase money was all paid to and received by said agents.

In evidence of this statement we have before us a verified copy from the Secretary of States' Office of the said power of attorney, and of the said treaty, and of said receipt; and also, a letter of the Hon. Surv. Gen'l DeWitt.

Another charge against Mr. Williams contained in the said hand-bill is, "That the Oneida Nation when he came first among them, gave him possession of some 150 acres of land, which they intended he should hold as long as he remained with them and no longer; but that Mr. Williams had by some contrivance obtained an absolute deed of the said 150 acres and received the avails thereof and soon after left the Oneida's and went among others of the Six Nations to make disturbance, & c."

Now we the Undersigned Chiefs and Warriors do solemnly declare the truth to be, that the said 150 acres of land was given to Mr. Williams freely and voluntarily; and with full knowledge and consent of the whole of our Nation; nor was there ever any means or practices made use of by Mr. Williams to obtain the same; but the same was given as a testimony of our high respect and esteem for Mr. Williams; and in consideration of arduous and meritorious services of him for us as a friend, a teacher, and a missionary.

And several of us the Undersigned Chiefs were present at Albany when the treaty of cession to Mr. Williams was made and signed the same, and we know these facts to be true. We also refer to the Honourable, the Surveyor General, DeWitt; the Ev. Lieutenant Governor Taylor, and the Hon. Issac Denniston for the absolute verity of this our statement.

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From each of these distinguished gentlemen, the undersigned have now before them letters containing their reminiscences of this our statement, and fully confirmatory of the same in every particular.

And we the said Undersigned Chiefs and Warriors, in relation to the extensive agency ascribed to Mr. Williams in transacting business for us with the General and State Governments; and as to the frauds pretended to have been practiced upon us by him, do certify, that Mr. Williams has never been authorised or accredited as an agent for us in transacting business with the General or State Governments, except in two or three instances; nor do we know or believe that he has ever assumed upon himself any other agency or pretended to be an agent, except in those two or three cases and therefore all those insinuated and imputed frauds must fall to the ground along with the baseless fabric upon which they are attempted to be founded.

Mr. Williams has been among us ever since the year 1816; and his acts of kindness have been constant ever since; and he has gratuitously ever since been doing us many and various services; and among others has written many letters upon our request for us to the General and State Governments; and in all our business and in all our difficulties, we have looked to him as a friend and adviser, and he has conducted towards us with the utmost fidelity and disinterestedness, and yet these his acts, and this his conduct is now to be misconstrued and tortured into dishonest motives, and selfish designs.

The said hand-bill charges Mr. Williams with having made declarations that we was authorized by the president of the Six Nations to contract for land in the Northwestern Territory.

We can only an answer to that charge "that we have never heard Mr. Williams make pretensions to such agencies; neither do we believe that he ever did pretend any such thing to any person or persons whatsoever.

That Mr. Williams has expressed his views upon the subject to us full often is true, and he has interested himself much in such purchase; but in our knowledge or belief, what he has done was out of motives friendly, pure and disinterested; and in our deliberate judgement, we think that he has acted not only with integrity, but with much judgement, foresight and skill, as well in relation to the Green Bay purchases, as to our affairs in general.

We do not believe it necessary to go into further detail in refuting the said hand-bill, suffice it to say, that we consider it a malicious libel throughout; and totally untrue and all the charges that go to impugn the motives that Mr. Williams in his intercourse or dealings with our nation.

To greater consequence to their publication, the party who signed the hand-bill had annexed the title Chiefs and Warriors. The pretended St. Regis delegation are not Chiefs; those of the Oneidas, signing themselves Chiefs, are not Chiefs; and the feigned Chief Peter Williams is wholly an imaginary being; as we know no such person, and we are much surprised to that our bothers, the Onondagas', should have joined the making and publishing a statement, of which, and the nature of the case, they must naturally be ignorant.

Our surprise might however be in some measure abated, if we considered the whole delegation as frail as their Chief orator, who, if his senses were not more whole than "his boasted body" at the time he made the declaration might well be forgiven, for his departure from truth. For his body was in part at the time at Sandusky; another part at Tonawanda; another part at Buffalo, another part at Grand River in Canada. (Besides two other small limbs, one at Onondaga, and the other who signed the hand-bill at Oneida.)

In conclusion, our minds are drawn to the forlorn and almost hopeless condition of

ourselves and all other red brethren on this continent. The period is but little remote, but few generations have passed away since this whole continent was ours. Now our territory is diminished to less than one fourth of its original space, our numbers are diminishing in a much greater proportion. Unless there be some great improvement in our moral condition, in our policy and in our conduct, such is the appalling prospect, that in a few years our race will be extinct; that last of the aboriginals shall look about him, like Logan, and say like him and with infinitely more of melancholy and despair. "There is not a drop of my blood runs in the veins of any man. "No! And when my blood ceases to flow it shall be the last among the many millions of my kindred and tribes with which that vast continent was but lately peopled."

These considerations have for a long time have exercised our anxious minds, and we have sought a remedy in our own councils, and in the councils of the benevolent and philanthropic. We have sought councils from our friend Mr. Williams. We believe he has sought and advised our good, our confidence in him has been boundless. It still continues so. We wish we had many more as true friends. We wish to be separated and delivered from the vile, interested and false white men who infest us.

Then we might hope to still continue our species for ages and ages yet to come; and not only to prolong our existence but to improve our condition by imitating the examples of the humane, and the good, and the industrious of those from far coming strangers who have succeeded to our territories and who are so much are superiors in the arts of civilization; though not, we hope, in the godlike inheritance of exalted souls.

In general council at Oneida Castle.

Dated, Oneida, July 18, 1826.

Signed in the presence of
N. Davis

Jacob Cornelius, Chief
Thomas Christian, Chief
Antonio John, Chief
Henry Powlis, Chief
Cornelius Baird, War Chief
James Hill, War Chief
Captain Peter, Chief Orator
Thomas Ludwig, Chief
Honyost John
Thomas Nedey
Honyost Steven
John John

Daniel Bread, Chief
John Anthony, Chief
William Cornelius, Chief
Paul Powlis, Chief
Jacob Smith, Chief
William Day, War Chief
Cornelius Steven, War Chief
Peter Augos
Moses Cornelius
Moses Otsequett
Lewis Honyst

July 18, 1826
STATEMENT
about Eleazer
Williams
giving him
support from
Oneida's