

1777 - March?

To the Honorable Jonathan Boscawen - Governor of Massachusetts - by him to be communicated to the Inhabitants of the New England Provinces.

A Speech from the Chiefs and warriors of the Oneida Nation.

As my younger brothers of the New England Indians (who have settled in our vicinity) are moving down to visit their friends and move up parts of their families that were left behind.

By, then with this belt I desire the Road clear of all obstacles - that they may visit their friends and return to their settlement here in peace. We Oneidas are induced to this measure on account of the disagreeable situation of your affairs - and hope by the help of God they may go and return in peace - and we earnestly recommend them to your charity.

Now we more immediately address ourselves to our Brothers - the Governors and Chiefs of New England.

Brothers - possess your minds in peace respecting us Indians - we cannot intermeddle in this dispute between two brothers. The quarrel seems to be unnatural - you are two brothers of one blood. We are unwilling to join on either side of such a contest, for we love you both - old England and new. Should the great King of England apply to us for our aid - we shall deny him - and should the Colonies apply - we shall refuse. The present situation of you, two brothers, is new to us. We Indians cannot find or recollect from the traditions of our ancestors any like case.

For these reasons, Brothers, possess your minds in peace that we refuse joining in the contest. We are for peace.

Brothers, was it an alien, a foreign Nation, that had struck you, we should look into the matter. We hope, thro' the wise government and good pleasure of God - your distresses will soon be removed and the dark cloud be dispersed.

Brethren - as we have declared, we are for peace. We desire you will not apply to our Indian Brethren in New England for their assistance. Let us Indians be all of one mind, and live in peace with one another - and you white people settle your own disputes.

Brothers, we have now delivered our leading sentiments as to the situation of your prayers. Please to write to us - that we may know how you receive it.

Undated. In Kirkland's writing. A very rough draft.

Philip Schuyler to (?)

Albany Sept. 21, 1777

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About 300 Indians (Oneidas, Tuscaroras and a few Onondagas and Mohawks) arrived in Albany September 11. A council was held. After the usual formalities, on the 16th I offered them the war-belt, which was immediately accepted by the warriors of each nation; on the 17th a war feast; 18th and 19th, the Indians are equipped. On the 19th, at 10 P. M., I learned that our army was engaged. The Indians set out, 150 of them, and were with General Gates the next day. They have already taken 30 prisoners, besides scalps; and have intercepted dispatches from Burgoyne to Powell. . . .

(Condensed from a contemporary copy in Wisconsin Hist. Soc.

20. F. 8.)

of the Oneidas demand of Gen. Schuyler their prisoner Askeras to be delivered up at once of those places for exchange, but this the Oneidas preemptorily refused. This morning two runners came from Oneida with a letter from Mr. Dean informing three Senecas had arrived there and the officers on their way with the prisoner. This, says Mr. Dean, has again changed the face of things. I am fully of your opinion that a conference with the Six Nations at Fort Schuyler, if attainable, would be attended with good consequence, but at present, it appears to me to be impracticable, unless you had such a force at this garrison as would strike terror to those haughty, insolent Senecas. Speeches sent there of a like import closing with some words of inclemency(?) and then 'tis my opinion you might effect it. I propose going down the beginning of next week, before which time I expect Mr. Dean will be able to transmit you something decisive as to affairs in this quarter. I can hardly conceive that artifices and bare-faced lies the enemy make use of to brave the force and misrepresent everything you say to the Indians, particularly among the Senecas.

I have the Honor etc.

S. Kirkland.

P. S. Mr. Butler has said, as retaken (reported?) by the Indians, that Sir John Johnson is repairing to Oswego to take part there, and Mr. Butler is collecting the Indians for a conference at that place.

(From a copy in the Sparks Manuscripts, Harvard College Library)

S.K. to Philip Schuyler

Fort Schuyler May 23, 1778

Sir,

Your favor of the 10th instant came safe to hand. I have now the unhappiness to acquaint your honor that things have taken a very different turn from what they promised when I did myself the honor to write you last. I left the Oneidas yesterday. Your agent Mr. Dean requested me to inform you that the reason of his not writing was the uncertainty which attended the result of the meeting at Onondago. However, in his opinion, from what he could collect there remained very little prospect of a reconciliation with the Senecas, that the Oneidas would soon stand in view of your protection, that the German Flatts, Stone Araby and Cherry Valley would be attacked by the Indians sometime next month - was left at Komorsorossa (sic) the first Seneca village west of Cayuga) six days ago when by the way he was met by his son Ensign Butler and a number of Tories. Mr. Butler's address to the Indians and professed design will be transmitted to your honor by your agent the moment the Oneidas determine what measure to take.

I left them yesterday full of resentment against the Cayugas and Senecas. Were then upon the point of giving them up to deserved punishment and immediately call upon your honor for a sufficient force to crush them. The Oneidas now find they have been very much imposed on by their brothers Cayugas, who had the impudence to favor a great part of that speech sent to you with four strings of wampum.

When the Oneida Sachems left Onondago, they could not determine what effects their declarations and advice would have on the minds of the Seneca warriors there convened, whether they would return from thence to meet Mr. Butler or proceed with their prisoner down to Albany. Mr. Butler has strictly enjoined them to go no farther than Onondago, or Oneida at farthest, and then by the hands

File: Letters 1776-1786

Fort Stanwix, October 23, 1784.

Kirkland and Dean were witnesses at the sale of Pennsylvania lands for \$5000.

The treaty was signed by Ojistarare, an Oneida chief, "in behalf of the Six Nations, being duly appointed for the same. S. Kirkland."

(The original is in the Land Record Dept., Pennsylvania. Photostat copy in Dartmouth College Library)

Rec^d Fort Stanwix Oct 26th 1784

of Col. Fra.^s Johnston Twenty one
pounds in full for interpreting at the late
Treaty held at this place on part of the
State of Penn^s----- Sam^l Kirkland

(New York Public Library. Papers of
Prominent Clergymen, Box 2.)

Monroe, Major Peter Schuyler - & James Dean - Interpreter - this is what I
have to say -

My salutations await you all -

Jos. Brant -

Thayendanegea -

Schenondouagh

Niagara August 26th 1785

I hope my friend, that my messengers will be treated with every
mark of civility during their continuance among you --

Joseph Brant to Skenandoah

Niagara, August 26, 1785

My dear friend.

This is to acquaint you, and all the Chiefs of the Oneida tribe, of the situation of the Indians in this quarter - & the present disposition of their minds. - In my apprehension there are some things which greatly obstruct the settling of Peace in these parts. - the fair prospects that opened, on the first promulgation of peace are very much beclouded. - You know how the preliminary articles & cessation of arms were received by many of us - some rejoiced at the event, and thanked you for your exertions in your quarter. - And you will remember, the strong terms & fixed resolution with which we published them in our journey to Sanduske - and our talk with the warriors there when we wrested the hatchet from their hands and confined them to their domestic employments.

You also know there are many among us who do not wish to have any falling out with the white people - for we were not the instigators of the late war.

We are yet of the same sentiments, & wish for the establishment of a peace that shall be just & hon^{bl} for both the Bostonians and us Indians and when this shall appear - all difficulties will remove - otherwise the obstructions will remain.

For this reason, my friend - use your utmost influence with every Oneida Chief, - that Congress, - your Brothers, comply with our request - in attending our treaty - and that it be done with dispatch. There are some things that lie deep in our minds. -

I exhort you to exert yourself in forwarding our speech to Congress - I have but one thing more to mention to you ^{which is this -} I have taken the liberty to nominate three persons whom I could wish to attend, as Deputies - viz - Col^l. James

John Taylor to Samuel Kirkland

Sept. 20, 1789

Sir,

The Inclosed letters one for the Sachems the other for the Warriors of the Oneida Nation were transmitted to my Care by His Excellency the Governor with Directions to forward them to the Nation by the first Conveyance and as it is of Importance to have them faithfully Translated I would request that you should deliver them to the Nation and Interpret them.

The Indians presented Mr. Penet with two small Pots of Ointment which they use^{the} as a Cure for Rheumatism. One of those pots was given by the Marchioness to the Governor and used with some success by his Daughter who is much troubled with that disorder. The quantity not being sufficient to effect a Cure, his Excellency is anxious to give it a fair Trial, and for this purpose wishes to have some sent him. It resembles (at least in Smell) the British oil, and is said to be collected at a certain season from a Lake in ~~the~~ the Seneca Country, but from its appearance rather seems to be a compound of Herbs boiled up with this Oil which is said to be taken on the Surface of the Lake. It is possible that Good Peter or Schonondo may have the Medicine. You will oblige the Governor by procuring a quantity of it and forwarding it to my Care by the first Conveyance, and I will reward the Indians who deliver it to you. I am Sir Your most obed. Servant

John Taylor.

Albany 20th Sept^r 1789

N. B. Let me hear from you soon.

Rev^d M^r Kirkland

Samuel Kirkland to Samuel Phillips

Stockbridge, 15th August 1785

Hon.^d Sir-

Shall I ever express that grateful sense I ought to have for your beneficence to my dear son, who has been for so long a time under your patronage, & partaking of your liberality? I am this moment called upon, by Mr. Sergeant, the Bearer- for my letter- Am sorry the time is so short- have had no opportunity to write you since my return from the Indian Country - Spent the most agreeable season with my poor Indians that I have known for many years - they appear to be attentive to order and concerned for the interest of Religion among them - I expect in a few days to set out again for Oneida- and not to return till the first of Oct^r - I know of no opportunity for my son's visit sooner than Oct^r next- when D^r Sergeant will be at Boston with a horse, which I expect he w^d be glad to have rode back to Stockbridge for two or three weeks - I am very desirous to keep Johnnie at the Academy till next spring - if no longer- that will in some measure depend on my receiving the arrearages due from the Corporation of Harvard College- for the procuring of which, I hope to have your advice, & influence with some of that venerable body - when I come down- which will not be sooner, than y^e last of Octob^r or Novem^r next.

It's in my apprehension, matter of some consequence, even in a political view - that I should be supported by some means or other in the Indian Country, for a few years at least. You have doubtless heard, that the Governor of N. York, in behalf of the State, has made a large purchase lately of the Oneida Indians - to the Am^t of 50,000 acres - beginning at the mouth of Onedella - running from there ten miles northwardly up the river then on a due west line to the Ojineango - or Kaneghsawaghlaysen Branch then down that River to its confluence with the Susquehanna - on the

Pennsylvania line - thence east on said line to the line of Property
run in 1768 - near Delaware - thence along the line of property to the
first mentioned bounds. -- This purchase was made not without great
opposition - the Indians made two public, absolute refusals - but fin-
ally the Government prevailed-

I send 1 guinea & 2 doll.^s to purchase a hat for Thornton - am at
the present straightened for money, or should send you a little matter-
pray excuse me.-

With cordial respects to M^{rs} Phillips - & grateful acknowledgements
to yourself- in utmost haste subscribe myself

Your obed.^t hum^l Serv.^t
S. Kirkland -

Hon.^{bl} S. Phillips Esq.^r

Samuel Kirkland to Jerusha Kirkland

Old Oneida - Capt. Hendricks -

10th Sep^r 1785

My Dear -

It seems almost a short age since I left home - I am now at Old Oneida - preach here tomorrow morning - in the afternoon at Kanonwarohare. The number of small Villages since the resettling the Country has increased my travelling to near thirty miles when I make a general visit. Was last week sent for to visit Abram Simon's wife, who was supposed to be near her end - & under great exercise of mind respecting her future state. -she is since recovering & like to live - The civility & unaffected kindness with which the Stockbridge Indians treat me, is scarcely to be equalled in any place - particularly, the Church members - The Oneidas have consented that I should preach one half the day, on Sabbath days, to the Stockbridge Indians - but on week-days the Oneidas claim my whole attention. I want exceedingly now & then to take a dish of tea with you - or have something more nourishing than potatoes & squash soup - I was obliged on my arrival to pass eight & forty hours on two small meals - before I could bring myself to their method of living - but I can now take a tolerable dinner (that is whenever I eat one) upon a dish of boiled potatoes & milk - or an ear of corn -- Meat, is very scarce among us at this season, I have not eaten any but twice since in these parts - but thro' divine mercy I enjoy health - since I have learned to sleep with all sorts of animals - & such as were never numbered I presume among the common & unclean that appeared in Peter's sheet. - The most of my people are degenerated as much as our paper courency depreciated in the time of the war -- that I shall have a very loud call to preach up reformation, industry & cleanliness - before I can consistently hold up much encouragement of good to them, either as to the present, or future life. They are in plain english - filthy, dirty, nasty creatures - a few families excepted - it seems to me that I should e'er this time, have either starved, or poisoned to

death, had - not now & then visited the Stockbridge Indians. But amidst all these horribles - you may find here & there a family - all attention to religious instruction - & much concerned for precious souls - When I visit these my courage revives & I forget the evils I have passed through. - The apparent attention among the Oneidas - & the order, sobriety, decency & charming musick exemplified among the Stockbridge Indians the last Sabbath in their several meetings were really affecting. It would have done your heart good to have been here, could you have found any place of comfortable rest at night.

You must not expect me home much before the middle of next month - I was in great hopes to have heard from you by Jehoiakin, by this night at farthest, but the day is now far spent. -

I intended to mention something about family matters but they are all now out of my mind - I exchanged the brasses at Albany with some addition - have requested Capt. --ke to convey them safe to you should he find them yet in Albany. - I have found M^r Pepson's gloves, but not the money which he supposed he had left at Esq^r Harpers. The widdow Connequon - Katherina - & Cap^t Hendrick's wife request me to send their love to M^{rs} Sergeant, M^{rs} Edwards & yourself - & with as much apparent sincerity as ever I transmitted anything of the kind.--

Remember me affectionately to the family - I purposed to write to George - but my paper is at Kanonwarohare - I hope his good conduct & his good attention to his Mama will afford her much comfort. My love to my Cousin- don't forget to kiss Sammy & Betsy for their papa --

My love to M^r Sergeant - & please to tell him, that a visit from him to his Indians would be very acceptable, if only for one or two weeks - & I believe would really help the cause of religion in this wilderness --.

Samuel Kirkland to Jerusha Kirkland

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I wish you, my Dear, the constant protection of Heaven, with the supports and comforts of the covenant of grace. Let me have a remembrance in your addresses to the throne, thro' our glorious intercessor - I bid you adieu - & only subscribe,

Your ever mindful & affectionate husband

Saml Kirkland

P. S. The Indians send their love to M^r Sergeant --

M^{rs} Jerusha Kirkland

M^{rs} Jerusha Kirkland

fav^d by

Stockbridge

Cap^t Jehoiakim
Metackson
