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Sir

In obedience to the directions of an Act of the Legislature entitled "An Act relative to the lands appropriated by the State to the use of the Oneida Onondago and Cayuga Indians passed the 11th day of March 1793 We make the following Report of our Proceedings relative to the duties enjoined on us by the said Act

It was our design to have entered on the business for which we were appointed as early as the season would admit but hearing that many of the principal Chiefs of the Nations with which we were to treat were either gone ^{to} or preparing to attend a treaty to be held by Commissioners from the United States we deemed it necessary to delay till ~~they~~ should hear of their Return. ~~Consequence~~ ~~whereof~~ This made it as late as November before we could meet with the Oneidas

Before we met we were apprised of the State of that Nation and of their determinations respecting the disposal of their Land we were told as we afterwards found to be true that the Chiefs and Warriors were divided and that distracted with mutual jealousies that the former had lost all authority and the latter headed by Capt Peter

The greatest passage among them entirely swayed
their Councils - They were ^{well known} ~~informed~~ of the terms
which we were authorized to offer them - And
at the same time as we had reasons to believe
had been instigated by some white people
to reject them as ~~too trifling~~ too trifling to merit
notice compared with the presents received
by our citizens for their lands - Under
those circumstances we supposed that
the only prospect of success in our mission
would depend on the agency of persons of
influence who had influence with them
for which purpose we employed both Mr.
Dean & Mr. Kirkland ^{as interpreters} whose connection &
acquaintance with the Indians are well
known and whose fidelity in cooperating with
us left no doubt that every thing that could
consistently be done was done to obtain the
object of the State -

Nov: 4 After the usual complimentary
introduction - we made to the Oneida nation
assembled in Council ^{at their castle}, the following speech

Brothers - We are happy in having an opportunity of seeing our brothers of the Oneida Nation assembled with us round the Council fire for the purpose of deliberating on what will be for our mutual good and in finding that peace and health continue their abode in this Castle - May the Great Spirit preserve you in the enjoyment of these blessings and enable us to keep the chain of friendship strong and bright between us as long as we endure

Brothers

Brothers - The Great Council of our State here last winter heard the voice which you sent to them and as their ears are always open to the complaints and Petitions of their Younger as well as their Elder brothers they have not been deaf to your Request.

Brothers - You remember all former transactions between our Government and your Nation and we trust that on looking back to them you will find they were all meant to promote your prosperity and to preserve a good understanding between us. We are now sent to you on an errand for a similar purpose.

Brothers - You have asked our Legislature to make a Law relative to the Leasing of your Lands they have complied with your Request and made such a Law as their wisdom dictated to be best this Law directs us to meet you in Council in your own Castle - by which we take upon us all the trouble and expense in order to save you from the fatigues of travelling to a distant place as has been the case in former treaties.

Brothers - This Law likewise directs us to enquire of you which are the Lands you say in your Petition you have a desire to lease and we are authorized to offer ^{to} you in behalf of the State an annual rent forever for the same, not doubting that you will choose to have monies to receive from the State rather than from individuals for the State always pays its debts punctually but individuals often refuse till they are compelled by our laws which you are not so well acquainted with as our white People are.

and which are moreover attended with expenses that would render the recovery of your demands troublesome and difficult

Brothers - Open your ears to us and listen attentive. The great Council of Our State never asked you to sell or leave your Lands before you shewed that you had a desire to part with them - Whenever they saw your desires they were always ready to indulge them in a manner that would preserve peace and friendship between us and so have they done on the present occasion

Brothers - We are now come in consequence of your Petition of last Winter to the Legislature and we request that you open your minds to us and describe the Lands which you have a desire to leave and we will be ready to sign the writings that shall obligate the State to pay you the Rent for it forever

Nov: 5 The Oneidas the Oneidas answer as follows - — Captain Jacob Read Speaker

Brothers - You have ~~now~~ been here for several days - we desire to be excused for delaying an answer to your speech till this time we are now ready to do it

Brothers - Our Nation has been led into an error which was done through the means of the Superintendent of General Chapin. Last fall when he went to New York the Onondagoes and Cayugas had desired him to petition the Legislature for the privilege of Leasing their Lands as their hunting failed and had become insufficient for their support. Gen: Chapin when at New York,

thought the same would be advantageous to the
Oneidas and made the same request in their be-
half - On his return he informed us what he
had done - We then placing confidence in him
and our other friends also petitioned - ~~we~~ are
sorry he is not here to give light on the
Subject -

Brothers - We were misled in our petition
we therefore sink it in the earth & thus annihilate it
Capt. Peter Speaker

Brothers - I hope you will ~~excuse my~~
make allowances for my inabilities on this
occasion I am but a young man, our Old Chiefs
are gone - We must now do the business of the
Nation - The Introduction of your Speech
was very agreeable to us - You congratulate
us on the happiness we enjoy and in our Castle
and invoke the great Spirit to continue his
blessings to us - This is very good - It rejoiced our
hearts to hear it

Brothers - You tell us that you remember
all the transactions between your Govern-
ment & our Nation that you never asked
us to sell or leave our Lands till we
desired to part with them - We also remember
what has past between us ~~since the last~~
~~war~~ At the close of the last war some
of your People spoke to us for purchasing
our Lands - Your People are ^{very} wiser than
we are not half so wise You know how to get
hold of us - Those persons first engaged one of us
and then another for you know how to soften
our

6 Our minds and thus have we been induced to sell
our Lands - Your Government discovered that
we were in treaty for disposing of our Lands and
then interfered You told us that you would take
the Lands your selves and pay us but it seems
you did not disapprove of their Conduct for
you desired to have twenty miles more than
they had agreed for There are the circumstan-
ces of the Sales to You at the German Flatts
We still feel the benefit of what we then got
Some of our People have now Cattle working
in their fields which were bought with that
Money - Some time after that another
Man who appeared to be a great man one of
Your Council proposed to take our whole Coun-
try by Lease and to give us such an income
for it that we should have nothing to do but
to sit in our doors and smoke our pipes in Peace
At the time of that Man one of our Brothers
from Canada advised us to Lease our Lands
as they had done - Our Father M^r Kirkland also
advised us to the same purpose - First we closed
our bargain and then when you found that
we had done so you interfered You came up
and told us that we were about to loose
our Land Country and that you would save
it for us by taking it into your own hands
And in consequence of your Treaty we now
receive 600 Dollars a Year which is scarce
a Dollar for each of us and when we increase
in process of time it will of course become less

Brother Chief of the Chain drawers We are glad
to see you here as you was present at that Treaty
& know what passed there - We are also glad
to see another man here introduced to us as the
friend of Gen. Schuyler We trust he will show
himself to be such by being of the same mind
with his friend - You Chief of the Chain
drawers know what was said that no applica-
tion should be again made to us for hundreds
of Years - Perhaps we have misapprehended
your meaning - Perhaps instead of Years you
meant nights -

Brothers we speak our minds freely to
you and with mildness as brothers ought to
do and hope you will do the same

Brothers we have a Copy of the Transac-
tions of that Treaty and suppose you have
the same and as our agreements have now
been broken by your Application - we will
now make an entire new agreement with
respect to our reserved Lands - We do
not chuse to dispose of any more of our
Lands - It is common for brothers not to
agree when they are about making bargains
~~without breaking friendship~~ - We cannot
think now of selling any more Lands we
therefore hope that you will not Press us
to it -

Brothers - You have come here to treat on
the subject of Lands - We will propose some-
thing for you to do on that subject - Let
the Lands which we have leased to Peter
Smith be made as productive to us as
Lands

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Lands are among You. Then as to the remainder we wish You to fulfill Your agreement and remove every white person from it. When this is done Brothers we will strengthen and brighten the chain of friendship between us —

We were told by at least one of the Chiefs that the sentiments delivered by Capt. Peter were only those of himself and his Party upon which we concluded that the only method to obtain our views would be to hold a private conference with the Chiefs. This we proposed and it was readily agreed to but so great were the jealousies and suspicions of the Warriors that ~~they requested to be~~ when we met we found they had insisted on being present and of course we had again a meeting of the Nation. Thus frustrated in our intentions, we addressed them ^{with} a speech previously digested in substance as follows.

Brothers - We are the Commissioners appointed by the State in consequence of a Petition which You sent to the Legislature last winter for the purpose of treating with You respecting the leasing of Your Lands. Your speech to us of yesterday contained a number of particulars on which we wished to converse with You in a free and candid manner and therefore we requested this conference in preference to the making of a formal Answer.

Yours

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You have represented our People as more cunning and wiser than Yours especially in the business of bargaining for Land by which means You have often been deceived and cheated. This may have been the case when You have dealt with individuals but You have no reason to expect any thing of that nature in treating with us - We are not trading for ourselves ~~but for the State~~ our business is in behalf of the State and it is uncertain whether we shall ever own a foot of the Land which we may lease of You at this time or receive any benefit from it at all - We wish You therefore to consider us as bound to act on principles of honor and Justice friendly to You as well as to the State which we represent - It is the object of the State to consult Your Interest as much as their own and to do what will be for our mutual good - It is beneath the dignity of the State and what they never have done to use intregue or any other indirect means to ~~cheat~~ deceive You and cheat you out of Your Lands -

We informed You the other day in our speech of the business on which we were come - You in Your reply of Yesterday have started several Obstacles and difficulties we are now met to talk freely on the Subject Let us see if those Obstacles and difficulties cannot be removed - We are happy to see so full a meeting of Your Nation
true

10 We hope there will be no reserve in opening our
minds to each other and that we will convince
you that we wish not to do any thing that will
work an injury to you

You have been told by us that we came
here in consequence of a Petition which you
sent to our Legislature last winter. We supposed
this to be the voice of your Nation, and that you
according to your Customs ~~considered it in~~
deliberated on it in your councils and did not
send it till you understood its meaning and
were satisfied with its contents. As such we could
do no less than consider it as the Act of your
Nation. Whenever our Chiefs do ~~public Acts~~
we consider them as binding on us and we must
suppose that your Customs in this instance
are similar to ours -

In this writing (The Petition) we find a
number of names very familiar to us we have
often seen them to the most solemn public
writings which have passed between us and
we had no doubt that they were set to it
by the consent and on behalf of your nation
and that before these names were put to it
you read it as some of you can read English
had it interpreted and fully explained and that
you were by no means deceived as to its ^{meaning} ~~contents~~
This Petition among other things contains a request
that the Legislature should make a law for
the hearing of your Lands - You say indeed
that you were led into an error by those whom
you supposed to be your friends who told you
that it would be for your interest to Lease
your

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Lands but since You have been deceived You
bury and annihilate Your petition - This is
a conduct altogether new and singular - we
are not accustomed to it - Whenever any of us
sign a Petition or any other writing we consid-
er it as a serious act we cannot afterwards
say we undo or annihilate it - A Petition
from Your nation was not considered as a
trifling thing - Our Legislature could not look
on it as such they therefore attended to
Your request and granted it - They have sent
us here to gratify Your desires ~~at a great~~
~~and~~ for this purpose we have incurred a
great deal of cost and trouble and shall
we not be ashamed to return and inform
them that after all this Our brothers the
Oreidas disavow their petition and will
not treat with us on the business on which
we are sent - After seeing such respectable
names as those in the Petition what could
the Legislature do less than they have done
You sent to them for relief and they have
sent us to relieve You and You now tell
us that You did not want us and that You
have no desire of disposing of Your Lands
in any way - It is now a long time since
this Law was passed - Since You have heard
of it and even read it - If You repented of
Your petition why in all this time since
You knew that we were to come up have
You not sent word that the State might have
saved all this cost and trouble

Brothers

We wish to talk freely with You on all the transactions which have taken place between You and the State in order that You may be convinced of their regard to Your Interest.

It is now twenty five years since a Line was drawn between You and us under the Old Government when no one of our People was allowed to purchase lands from You without permission first obtained from the King or his ~~off~~ Governors. When we changed our government last year it became necessary for us to make new Laws and regulations but the Laws respecting the purchasing of Lands from the Indians were like the Old ones for by our constitution no one is allowed to purchase Lands from the Indians without the consent of government. This was intended for ^{your} ~~this~~ benefit in order to prevent individuals of our people whom You say are more cunning than You in matters of this kind from cheating You and getting Your Lands for trifling considerations or without afterwards paying You for them but when the State or ~~any~~ make purchases from You they are binding and You may be certain of getting the stipulated payments. It is therefore better that You should not be allowed to treat with private people but only with the State. The State has never trespassed on Your property beyond the Line which was drawn twenty five years ago —

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Soon after the war we found that some of our people were about to break through the regulations of the State concerning Your affairs. The State therefore interfered and held a treaty with you at Fort Herkimer and we are happy to hear that you are still benefitted by the effects of it. That you can yet see the cattle or the offspring of them which you purchased with the monies then received walk in your fields - The State never applied for that Land untill you showed a disposition to part with it nor have they ever been the first in applying to you for your Lands.

The next application made to you for Land in which the State interfered was made by Mr. Livingston whom you have also mentioned. This was ^{likewise} ~~also~~ contrary to the Laws of the State for which reason a Treaty was again proposed and held with you at Fort Stanwix and we bought your Lands and the monies which it was agreed you should receive for them are regularly and punctually paid to you every year and so it will continue for ever.

The State fearing that this disposition of yours to part with your property would lead you to dispose of all you had took up the matter in your behalf and solely for your good and have so conducted the business that you have a large tract reserved to you

Thos. B. J.

By the covenants You entered into at Fort Stan-
wic You shewed yourselves sensible that You
were in danger of losing all Your Lands if
You had the Liberty of selling them to whom
You pleased - We appeal to Your own Judge-
ments whether if the State ~~were to~~ ^{should} pass a
Law allowing You to sell Your Lands to
whom you please and that anyone might
purchase them whether you would not get
rid of them all and spend all you would
receive for them in a little time -

The State wishes to treat You as Brothers
and studies Your good equally with that of its
own Citizens - Their design in thus guarding
Your property was to prevent one and another
from getting slices time after time from
Your Lands until You should have none
left to hunt upon nor even to set Your
foot on - And as You now complain that
Your reservation is become useless to You
as hunting ground We are sent to do
for You what will be most for Your benefit
for ^{which} purpose we ~~come to~~ ^{are now met in} council with You

~~Our Application to You~~ Our coming
here on this business is no breach of the
agreements entered into at Fort Stanwic
if it can be called a breach it is You who
have made it for You were the first
who made application for the disposal
of Your reservation - The State only sent us
here to treat with you for the Land which
You had requested to Lease - It is not
their desire that You should part with
all

All Your Lands. They wish You to retain as ¹⁵
much as will be sufficient for Your own use.

In Your Petition You point out three Gentle
men whom You desire to be entrusted with the
management of Your Lands. But as they are
liable to die or remove our Legislature thought
it would be best for You and have authorized
us to propose it to You for Your approbation
that the care of the Lands which You shall
finally reserve be committed to three Officers
who are sworn to do all their business with
fidelity and who never die or remove ~~without~~
without having others immediately appointed
in their place. These Officers are The Clerk
of the County The Treasurer of the County
and the Attorney General

We have now Brothers opened our minds
to You freely - We have told You what we
came for. That we came at Your request
and that we wish to ^{do} all for Your good
we desire You to think on what we have
said and to tell us what answer we are to
return to our Legislature respecting the
Subject of Your Petition and what reasons
we are to give why You decline to do any
business with us —

Once as Answer by Jacob Reed
Brothers Attend

We have again brought our
pipes together. Listen to what we say and perfect
Your minds in peace. Altho our Answer may not
be such as You would wish it to be - You have
told us that You have come here in consequence
of our petition from which You supposed
that we were ready and willing to part with
our Lands

Brothers

16 Brothers - We have but a few words to say but they shall be to the purpose - It is true that we have heretofore broken through our engagements and have done what we ought not to have done

Brothers - You insist particularly on the Petition we told you it was true that we had sent it but as we since found that we had been led into an error we wish to have it considered as void - we were led into this measure by one whom we supposed to be our friend but as this was mentioned yesterday we need not repeat it

Brothers you mentioned the agreement at Fort Stanwix - That agreement was never to be broken - we supposed that the Lands which we were then left in possession we should hold forever - We are very sensible that our methods of doing business are different from yours for you are bound ^{as you say} by your engagements and cannot reverse them but we often retract when we find that our contracts are likely to prove injurious to us - You inform us that when our Petition reached you you observed a number of respectable names to it and that you supposed they would not have been set to any thing which did not speak the sentiments of our Nation - At the time when we sent you our Petition we were in treaty with Peter Smith and we sent the petition in order that you might turn your attention to the subject of Leasing our Lands by the time that Smith got to your Legislature with his writings and so give us your advice on the matter

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Brothers - In our petition we mentioned three persons whom we appointed to take the charge of leasing our Lands because we thought that they were men who would attend to our Interest and do us Justice but as the Law you mentioned is different from any Ideas we had we thought our petition was not attended to but that it was dead and forgotten - We did not expect Commissioners in consequence of it - We expected only to have received an Answer in writing pointing out what provision you had made for us if any and directing us how we should act

Brothers You know it is a common case that People undertake business and fail do not succeed in it - that often bargains are almost completed and then drop - Let this be the case now since we cannot agree to part with our Lands let us depart in peace - We wish you to possess your minds in peace - We informed you Yesterday what our determination was and we intend to abide by the same - We think our reservation already small enough we wish not to contract it any more

To this we answered

Brothers - It is not our intention that you should part with any of your Land against your own free will - But we desire to know what you think is best to be done with such of your Lands as you do not want for cultivation and how they can be made most profitable to you if we hear your Sentiments on this subject we can then represent them to our Legislature

Capt. John answers

Brothers We always expected that our Reservation should remain as it now is. It is ours and we have a right to do with it as we please. It is not like clothing and many other things which are liable to be damaged by lying still. Let it remain as it is we do not wish to part with it.

Capt. Peter speaks

Brothers: You have been told that it is our determination not to sell or lease our Lands. in this we are all agreed. You must rejoice with us brothers that we are of one mind. Heretofore we have been divided and could not agree on any thing but we are now all united and we count it a happy circumstance that we are so and can meet our Brothers the Commissioners in Peace.

We then Told them that as the conference we had held was intended for a free discussion of the Object of our Treaty. It would be necessary that we should deliver them a written speech containing the Specific proposals we had to make to them - as well for the sake of their information ~~as well~~ as to enable us to make a Report on our Return to show that we had done all that was enjoined on us by the Legislature. Accordingly we addressed

Capt. John Answers

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20 done touching the Affairs of Your Nation
We have mentioned the destitute condition You
would probably now be in had it not been for
the paternal interference of the State. That
the State has now again at Your request sent
us to Council with You on what will be
for Your interest. We told You that Your
Observations respecting the annihilation of Your
Petition was a language to which we were
not accustomed that the names joined to it
were those we had seen as signatures to
Your most solemn transactions - That we
had no reason to doubt that a Petition ~~from~~
sanctioned in this manner uttered the voice of
Your Nation and that therefore we had been sent
here at Your call by our great Council whose
regards extend equally to all their brethren
whether they are of our own People or of Your
Nation and we have demanded of You. What
Answer we are to return from You to our
Legislature - In Reply You ^{have} told us that our
Customs and Yours are different that when we
execute our Business with the formalities
required by our Laws it is binding and irrevoc-
able but that when You do business however
solemn it may be and afterwards find that you
have been led into it against Your Interest
Your customs permit You to annihilate it
This Brothers is new to us we never have heard
before that any people whatever could consistently
with Justice say we undo what we have done
and

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and more especially when their Brothers who
are ready at their call to appear and help and
advise them come forward at a great expense and
trouble and say what are Your wishes we will
do whatever we can to quiet Your mind and
make You happy - We also told You that we
would be ashamed to ^{go}back and in delivering
an account of our business with You to have
nothing to say but that our brothers of the
Oneida Nation considered as Nothing a writing
to which their principal Chiefs had put
their hands which they had presented to our
great Council and which had occasioned the
Law appointing us to the business on which
we now appear in Your Castle - Would it be
for Your interest that the State should with-
draw its attention from the Concerns of Your
Nation and leave You to dispose of Your lands
to whom and in what manner You please
and say we care not for our brothers Let them
get rid of their property as soon as they please?
If You hereafter send Petitions to our Legislature
How can we know that You will not again say
You consider them as nothing? If we see the names
of Your Chiefs to any writing say how shall
we know if You will not afterwards tell
us You consider it as nothing? - You have
called to us we have come a great distance to
ask You what You desire and You tell us Nothing

Brothers

22. Brothers - We are afraid that some evil minded People have given You advice hurtful to Your real interests, we have known it to be the case on former occasions and therefore have reason to suspect that it is the case now. Those from whom you may have received advice can be actuated by nothing but their own private considerations - That cannot be the case with us - We wish not only to tell You but also to do what will be for Your real good if You would but open Your Ears to us and put confidence in what we would propose as the Means of making You rich & happy - We know better than You do because we are more accustomed to it how to make Lands the most productive and therefore would we wish to give You our advice but You refuse to receive it - We are rich and happy because we always listen to the Councils and obey the directions of our Chiefsmen. If we did not do so but if every one should act as he pleases and shut his ears to the voice of our fathers assembled in the great Council of the State We would be as blind to our own good as You are to Yours We therefore exhort You for the sake of Your own welfare Let there be no divisions among You - reverence the grey hairs of Your fathers and let the Councils of Your Sachems sink deep into Your hearts - You as well as we have Chiefs to study the happiness of Your Nation and if You are not of one mind in following their advice They can do You no good They will be as nothing -

Brothers

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Brothers - We now proceed to make you the proposals which we are ordered to do by our Legislature - If you will quit claim to the State your Right to so much of your reserved Lands as you may think proper to dispose of The State will pay you for the same the sum of five Dollars every Year for ever for every square mile of the Lands you shall quit claim as aforesaid and also give you a sum equal to one Year's payment on the execution of such quit claim -

If these proposals are agreed to we will then farther propose to you to vest the Lands which you shall choose to retain in the Attorney General of the State and the Clerk and Treasurer of the County and their Successors as Trustees to prevent any encroachments on your retained Lands and to bring suits for Trespasses thereon and to prosecute the same to effect for your benefit -

The Lands which you shall quit claim to the State shall be surveyed at the expense of the State in the Presence of such Indians as shall choose to attend and of such persons as you shall choose to appoint to attend to inspect such Survey -

Brothers - We now submit this great subject to your deliberate consideration - It is your Good and the Interest of your Nation which it is your duty to study - We do not come here to ask you to do any thing for our benefit - Shut your Eyes to our advantages if you please but keep ~~them~~ open and fixed on your own happiness

To this Speech the Indians answered that they still adhered to their former resolutions. Capt. Peter alleging that if ~~what~~ ^{rent} the ~~sum~~ which we offered for their Lands was a quarter or half a quarter or even a quarter of a quarter of what our Citizens get for theirs, our proposals might perhaps merit their attention, but they were too trifling to think of - They again expressed their desire that every white person might be removed from their reservation excepting the Schoolmaster and Blacksmith who were placed there by the agent of the United States - Thus ended our Treaty with The Onondas.

After we had finished our business with the Oneidas we immediately proceeded to Onondago whether we had sent word that we were to be ^{there} to treat with them in behalf of the State respecting their Lands.

After our arrival and the usual introductory speeches we addressed them with the following Speech -
 Brothers - We thank the great Spirit for preserving us on our way to the ancient Council fire of the Six Nations and that we now find our Brothers the Onondagoes enjoying health and prosperity - May we all be preserved by that same good Spirit during our stay together and enabled to brighten the Chain of friendship between us and separate in peace
 Brothers of the Onondago Nation

The great Council of our State have heard that you had a disposition of making your Lands productive to your Nation and that you were willing to lease them for rents to be paid to you and your children every year forever hereafter - Brothers - Our great council suppose that you would rather lease your Lands to the State than to individuals because you must know the State always pays its Debts the moment they become due but individuals often neglect to pay till they are compelled by our Laws which are attended with expence and trouble - Brothers - We are therefore sent by our Great council to enquire of you which Lands you

are

are inclined to lease and which ~~to~~ to keep for your-
selves to live upon After we know your minds on this Subject
we will tell you what we will allow you as an annual rent
from the State for the Lands so to be leased and what we will
besides give now pay down to you

Brothers - While we rejoice to see your people living in harmoni-
-my together and reverencing your chiefs and your Old men
who have grown wise through ^{the long} experience of their lives It grieves
-ed us to find our Brothers the Oneidas so divided into parties
that they could not bring their minds together when they were
called to council on the Affairs of their Nation and to De-
liberate on what would be most for their own happiness -

We hope to see a continuance of Unanimity among you
and that each of you in this treaty will lay aside every
other thought but what is Directed to the Welfare of your
Brother People - Brothers - The Great Council of the State has
a particular regard to your Nation. And whatever they
shall judge to be for your Good ^{be ready to do - they will always} they will ^{always} hear him
when you apply to them for Advice or relief - This Bro-
-thers is what we desire you to believe and we trust you
will not Doubt what we say -

(Answer of the Oneidas. Kahikton ^{ton} speaks)

Brothers - You have arrived here among us
sent by the great Council of your State and
have this day made a speech to us We have
taken it into consideration and since we
perfectly understand it it is not necessary for
us to repeat it

Brothers - You laid your minds before us We
now lay our minds open to you - We wish to
remind you of our agreement at Fort Stanwix
we have it here in order to show it to you
We are satisfied with it and never expected
any increase about it - We never sent to
the

the Governon to create difficulties and find ²⁷
fault with it as our Children the Oneidas and
Cayugas have done - You have told us that
you have come here at our call. We will tell
you how this has happened. It was not our
voice that you have heard but that of some
of our Nation who live to the westward
Our Chief at Buffalo Creek wishes to dis-
pose of the whole of our Lands but we are
deaf to him -

Brothers - You told us at the Treaty at
Fort Stanwix that no encroachments should
be made on our reservation Let it be so
in order that our Young men our wives
and Children may remain on it and possess
their minds in Peace. - We agreed that our
Contracts should remain inviolate to the
latest posterity. We are happy to meet with
you at this time to renew those Covenants
between us. Here is the Copy of it, we wish
you to take it and peruse it that your
Minds may be refreshed on the subject
This is all we have to say at this time

We then returned the following Speech.

Brothers of the Onondago Nation attend
Yesterday we heard your voice we thank the
great Spirit that he has preserved us in health
and safety through the Night past ~~and~~ permit-
ted us once more to bring our pipes together
in peace - Brothers. we fully understood
your speech Yesterday attend therefore to
our Reply - You tell us that the voice which
our

Chiefs have heard and which has occasioned our visit to you was not your voice but that of some of your Nation to the Westward that one of your Chiefs in that quarter was disposed to sell the whole of your Reservation but that you were deaf to him that you were satisfied with the bargain you had made with the Governor of the State of New York. that you choose it should remain unaltered that your Children your grand Children and latest posterity might have a place to sit upon in the Land of their Ancestors —

Brothers your words please us well they will please the great men who sent us and will also be agreeable to all your Brothers the People of the State of New York. They will all rejoice to hear that their Ancient Brothers the Onondagoes the keepers of the great Council fire of the Six Nations are determined never to quit the Country which was given them by the great Spirit but to enter the Earth in Company with their Brethren the White People of the State.

Brothers attend. We did not come to buy your Lands. Our Chiefs will never send to you on any such business. No Brothers They wish you ever to Live among us. They Choose rather to strengthen and confirm you in your Seats. The White People know how to make a little Land productive of more than you do They have long been accustomed to matters of that Nature. Your Reservation now produces you but little. Our Great men if you Chuse will take

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take charge of such part of your Land as you do
not want for Cultivation and will pay you an
Annual rent for the same as long as the Earth
shall continue. Thus Brothers our Chiefs are desir-
ous to make your reservation productive to you
after not even a striped Squirrel shall remain
thereon and thus you see that our Chiefs are
willing to confirm and strengthen you in your
present seats for ever by giving you a greater
income annually for your Land than it ever
would produce by hunting - Whenever therefore
Brothers you shall point out to us such parts
of your Reservation as you may wish to Lease
to our Great men we will as observed yesterday
tell you how much we are directed to Obligate
the State to pay you annually for ever and
how much we are authorized to pay you in hand
when our business is closed

Brothers - this is all we have to say at
present - You will consider our words and
give us your answer when you shall have agreed

After deliberating on our last speech
The Onondagas informed us that they had
agreed to lease part of their Reservation
Several proposals were made with respect
to the bounds of the land to be leased till
at length we agreed on those ~~which are~~
described in the deed to which they executed
to us - We proposed to them also to vest
their Land in the attorney General ^{of the State &} the
Clerk & Treasurer ^{for the purposes pointed out by the Law} of the County, to which
they

30 They answered that they would rather hold it under the protection of the State as they had hitherto done. That they considered this in consequence of former covenants already sufficiently bound to guard their property and could not see the necessity or propriety of doing any thing more about it.

They also told us at the conclusion of our business that their only inducement to part with their property was their apprehension that those of their Nation who resided at Buffalo Creek would sell the whole of their reservation and leave no part for them to remain upon. And that a just dividend ^{those Indians} would be made to ~~them~~ if they would choose to attend when the annual payments were made.

They also executed and delivered a deed to us granting half a mile square to ~~the~~ the State in trust for Ephraim Webster a White Man whom they consider as one of their Nation and employ as interpreter with a request that the State should likewise grant him half a mile in addition to it and adjoining his westerly bounds. He now resides upon the Land and has made valuable improvements upon it. He is ^{considered as} a person of good character ^{among them} and has always conducted himself in a manner friendly to the State.

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SW

We have only to review upon the whole
of our business transactions with

We would have proceeded likewise to
the Cayugas but were ^{prevented by a message from} ~~influenced by~~ Gen^l
Chapin, that those of them who were at
Buffalo Creek had particularly requested
that our business with them might
be postponed assigning as a reason that ~~some~~
some there who wished to attend the Treaty
would be prevented by sickness which
then prevailed among them ^{but would be ready to treat in the Spring}

§ We have only to observe upon the whole
of our transactions that we have conducted
them in such a manner as we judged best
calculated to ~~obtain~~ accomplish the views
of that State that no expense has been
incurred which we did not suppose abso-
lutely necessary to the ~~success~~ in the busi-
ness in which we were engaged in order to
obtain a probability of success - And we
trust that from the accounts which will
be delivered to the Auditor it will appear
that all possible Economy has been observed

§ - We lamented the want of General Chapin's
assistance who was ^{also} detained at home by
sickness in his family at the time