

To the commissioners for propagating
the Gospel among the natives of America—
Brothers—

We the Sachems of Oneida Nation together
with our young men. desire to speak and send our voice
to your ears - We desire that you would open your ears, and
listen to us, and exercise patience while we speak - as we
are ignorant we apt to be lengthy -

Brothers—

Brothers— We find it is high time for us we should say
something to you— and to acquaint you something of our situ-
-ation, concern— and desires— As we are told that you are the
kind of benevolent men who concern for poor natives of this
wilderness— we rejoice to have this knowledge—

Our forefathers were for great length of time
lived under clouds of ignorance, in which situation they
were contended ~~and~~ at length (as we are told) the good
compassionate people over the great waters, had knowledge
of the deplorable situation of our Tribes - And good spi-
rit inclines their hearts to extend their charity in this
Island have sent over proper means for which na-
tives of this Land may have some knowledge of the true
good spirit - and the path which leads thereto: In pur-
suance of which - You have sent Ambassadors, among
us, who proclaim good Tidings to our ears.

At length you find Samuel Kirkland and
Lafayette among us. by which means number of our
friends both male and female come to resolution to for-
-sake the old path and endeavour to follow the new - But
when the dark clouds of war hang over this Island - Our

father Grosbeak Oblige to leave us - Then part of our nation became as poor orphans - Our father Kirkland also went away - And after the clouds ~~disperse~~ we then returned to our ancient habitation. and gather the coals to kindle fire - While we viewing the depolation of our Town with sorrow - Behold our father Kirkland come to visit us - and told us that he was very poor. had no salary - therefore could not live among us to teach us as a father to his children - then left us - by which our sorrow aggravated - after several months he visited us again and then he propose this to us. that if he could have piece Land here he would then instruct us - Then we cut flie for his family - on this reason we expected he would perform his promises but our expectations were groundless and vain - scarcely see him - and every time he came to us he would only renew his promises but seldom performed them - But when the great people of this State began to hold treaties with us for our Lands - he then attended faithfully in all the treaties - for which we are in lost - which of these two are his objects - attending temporal affairs or spiritual -

Brothers - We could not avoid from speaking plain for we are in earnest - and how can we withhold our tongue when we hear our women so often crying for want of instruction - and our youth growing in careless ness -

Our father seems discouraged by reason of our wicked ness - we also discouraged concerning him - For how can a man expect to receive much fruit - when he neglects which he once planted in garden - Surely we think in such a case - the evil one ^{will} take the advantage to sow the ^{seeds of} poisonous weeds in such garden -

And further - Some times our ^{father} would come to instruct us - set out from home on Lords day - and reached to.

to our Village when the day is far gone. by which we have
but short discourse - many times we as it were ^{but} dreamt to see
him - but we will omit many other circumstances.

Brothers -

We desire to ask you some things - we should be
glad to know - whether you ^{have} allow him a certain sum of
money? and how many ~~days~~ ^{days} he ought to preach
in one year? whether you gave him particular instruc-
- tions? whether you are well satisfied for the little labour
he has done among us? further we desire to know whether
this is not ^{his} duty to reach the word - be instant in season
- out of season - reprove - rebuke - exhort with all long suf-
- fering and doctrine. - We believe indolent teachers
may find a thousand excuses - but willing mind know
no difficulties -

Brothers - We look upon you as just and wise men - and
of whom our father Kirkland is under inspection - We therefore
ardently desire you ^{would} consider us - if there be any more
provision for missionaries support for us - We earnestly request
you to make another trial in exchanging M^r Kirklands
birth and send M^r Grosvenor to supply his place - as we well
know that he is faithful minister and we think that he preach
- es only the christ and him crucified - or any other who would
be such faithful - As for M^r Kirklands conduct we are
fully persuaded that he would be glad to ^{have} his liberty -
that he might pursue his objects which have been hindered
him in attending us as a Pastor -

We are still maintain this opinion - that
wherever people are neglected by their teachers especially
the natives of this Land they never become any consequence -
though at the same time we acknowledge that we are in great
depths of ignorance which is spiritual death which require
- requires

requires Physician ^{MS 1.} to be very industrious in order to facilitate the patient.

Instances might be brought in. that wherever Indians faithfully instructed = the ministers Labours crowned with Success.

Brothers To conclude we earnestly desire you would give us a positive answer to our speech or letter by all possibilities that we may know what to depend upon for the time to come and find it up such way that we may receive it safe

from your Brothers

John ^{his} + Shannon dogh
Cornelius ^{mark} + Prots ha wat genfe
Lawrance ^{his} + Agentga hgen
Augustus ^{his} + Dea no yon deh
Peter ^{his} + Ome yan ha
Peter ^{his} + Ha na da rok
Crisdean ^{his} + Ha nya nodon
Lodwick ^{his} + Ha sa we da
Cornelius ^{his} + Ha ich to ton
John ^{his} + De yeh lha da ne
John ^{his} + O non te yoh

In behalf of our Nation.

For the Occu-
sation. set on
for. by M.

Onida
& January
29th 1794