

Where is original?

Stockbridge, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1795

175d

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir,

Mr. Kirkland has acquainted me very particularly with the nature & object of the literary institution, on the borders of Canada. What benefit may finally accrue from it to the Indians, it is impossible for us to foresee. For my own part, I have but little hope of any very great good to that poor people, from all the exertions which are made to promote the knowledge of divine truth amongst them. There cannot, however, be a just reason for relaxing our endeavours, in a case of such unspeakable importance as that of christianizing the Indians. It belongs to us to use all the means which may be in our power: The event must be left with God.

That Hamilton Academy may be of great advantage to the new settlements in that part of the Country, cannot be doubted. We may hope, also, that it may prove useful in promoting knowledge and civilization among the Indians. In these views, so far as it may be consistent with the duties of your Board, hope it may be patronized by the gentlemen who compose it.

You will, Sir, excuse my freedom in writing you on this subject,

and believe me to be, with Respect & Esteem,

Your Obedient Serv<sup>t</sup> and Brother,

Stephen West

Rev. Dr. Thatcher,

John Sergeant to Timothy Pickering

New Stockbridge, January 3rd, 1795.

(A long letter in which Sergeant apologises for not repaying money he had borrowed from Pickering when he was in New Stockbridge; reports the fears of David Fowler that a league of white people will get the lands of the Brothertown Indians; indicates ways by which Federal control by legislation could prevent raids on Indian lands under state laws; urges a law to prohibit the sale of intoxicants to the Indians, stating that most of the Stockbridge and Oneida Indians would like such a law.)

"As the success of the present benevolent exertions of Congress toward civilizing the natives depends much on the faithfulness of the missionaries, it will give me particular pleasure to know that you have given my Revd. Brother Kirkland a friendly exhortation upon the subject. By information I understand you are somewhat acquainted with the complaints of his Oneida children. I am persuaded you are also acquainted with the foibles of that worthy Gentleman. Mr. Dean thinks that, as Mr. Kirkland, when he first introduced himself among the Oneidas, imprudently made a public and solemn declaration that he never would own a foot of land this side of the Hudson River, and disappointed them in many promises of faithfulness, that he never can gain their hearty confidence, but I am of a different opinion, that if he would faithfully attend to them, have a home among them, that he might turn to very usefull. but how to make his duty his pleasure is the difficulty.// but this I write in confidence. Mr. Kirkland is much engaged in building up the Indian Academy (as I suppose he is fond of calling it). as to its being of any considerable advantage to Indians, I have not so high an opinion of it as my Brother Kirkland has. I have heretofore told him it would be very well so far to instruct one or two likely youth from each town or tribe to fit them for teaching schools and doing public business. Therefore I would make a distinction in the academical funds, and when the object of Indian education is answered, let the fund be laid out to support schools or some way to civilize them in their towns. In my present opinion, and I think grounded on observation, I would rather give them 20/- to learn them husbandry and the arts of civil life, than 1/- in learning them the sciences. As you are friendly to the happiness and progress of the Indians, I have been thus lengthy. my natural concern for them is my only apology for troubling you with this long letter. It will also give me particular pleasure if you would by letter to Mr. Kirkland, Gen. Chapin, or some other gentleman who may be concerned with the Oneidas, recommend their setting up the English school, as there is plenty of provision made for the support of it. it never would have stopt if the Oneidas had had a faithful friend to have encouraged the business. . . .

John Sergeant.

→ Massachusetts Historical Society. Pickering Papers, vol. 62 11

John Sergeant to T. Pickering

Stockbridge, April 26<sup>th</sup> 1795.

Honorable Sir:

I a pamphlet which contained an account of the claims of the  
Nimham tribe to lands in my State. Cannot find it. - Who is the Com-  
missioner to make a treaty with the western Indians this summer?  
Hendrick will attend the treaty? He will want instructions from you.

Have further to mention that I understand the State of New York  
have appointed new Commissioners to purchase the Onondaga lands -  
that Smith is to have his lands at 12/100 an acre when purchased by  
the State. Unless by your kind & friendly interposition - some-  
how warning the Indians of their danger - they will now by  
Smith or other designing tools be still cheated out of their lands.

I expect this week to set out for New Stockbridge, when  
I intend immediately to go on with the Mills. I ever more  
pray you to write an answer to my last respecting the time of  
the payment of the remainder of the 350 Dollars.

remain in heat your most obliged

humble servant

John Sergeant.

[Pickering Papers (2:226)]

Calendar of Timothy Pickering  
1790 - 1794 - Preliminary

1790

- Sept. - appointed by Washington as Indian Commissioner.
- Oct. 25 - Meeting set with Indians at Tioga Point (Athens, Pa.).  
No Indian showed up on appointed day.
- Oct. 28 - With Col. Wm. Wilson started on trip to view Finger Lakes.
- Oct. 29 - Messenger intercepted T.J. to tell him Indians were arriving -  
Indians would arrive within week.
- Nov. 14 - Main body arrived.
- Nov. 15 - Conference began.
- Dec. 4 & 15 - T.P. reports to G.W. on results of Seneca Treaty.

1791

- April - T.J. named Indian Commissioner with responsibility of keeping  
6 Nations friendly to U.S. Invited Indians to meet at  
Painted Post June 15.
- June 15 - T.P. arrived Painted Post - No Indians. Moved site of  
meeting to Newtown Point (Elmira, N. Y.).
- June 19 - Indians began arriving.
- June 20 - T.P. invited heads of 6 Nations to informal meeting.
- July 2 - Conference formally opened.
- July 17 - Conference (closed Treaty of Newtown Pt.).
- July 19 - T.P. reached Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- Aug. 16 - Appointed Post Master General.
- Dec. - Renewed invitation to 6 Nations to visit Philadelphia.

1792

- March 5 - Rebecca Pickering visited by Indians on way to Philadelphia.  
March 14 - Arrived in Philadelphia.  
May - Indians set out for their homes.

1793

Another attempt made to settle Indian-White problems in Ohio Valley. T.P., Benjamin Lincoln, Beverly Randolph, appointed Commissioners - Allowed to adjust boundaries of Ft. Harmar Treaty - conference to take place in west.

- Apr. 30 - Set off for conference.  
May 16 - Crossed Niagara River.  
May 19 - Reached Navy Hall.  
Late June - British allowed Commissioners to go on to Detroit.  
July 29 - Delegation join Council on Maumee River arrived.  
End of Aug. - Conference ended.  
Sept. 13 - Returned home to Philadelphia - plague.

1794

- Sept. 10 - set out for Canadaigwa.  
Sept. 19 - reached Canadaigwa.  
Sept 25 - First group to arrive were Oneidas - agreed to return to Oneida at end of Conference.  
Oct. 14 - Seneca arrived.  
Oct. 16 - More Seneca.  
Oct. 18 - Conference opens.  
Oct. 27 - Word arrived of Wayne's victory at Fallen Timers.  
Nov. 2 - Indians offered to meet all of T.P.'s terms except grant of 4 mile strip from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie.  
Nov. 11 - Treaty of Canadaigwa signed.  
Dec. - Visits Oneida.