

390.
Lillemorh
Apent-

115.28

Ad. J. J. J.
Cott. Spring
Sept 22. 1838

To His Hon. R. M. Gillet
Commissioner Gen.
Sir

The friends of
emigration among the Senecas after hearing
your explanations of the amendments to the
Treaty made with the New York Indians, requested
the Agent to prepare an assent which might
be used as opportunity offered for obtaining
the signatures of chiefs and warriors who were
willing to embrace the offers of the government.
We adopted this course without consultation
with you under the impression that the principal
object of your mission at this time was to make
full explanations of the amendments, and ^{that} the duty
devolved on the Chiefs to present to you such an
assurance of the acquiescence of our people attending
Council as would be satisfactory to the President.
We have therefore, as we found our friends incli-
ned to assent, obtained the names of both chiefs
and warriors who have been in attendance during
the present Council. The whole number of our chiefs
is seventy eight but we do not think that more
than fifty five have attended Council at any
one time, certainly not more than sixty. The
warriors in attendance have not exceeded one
hundred and fifty. To this paper which we now
present to you, will be found the names of thirty
five chiefs, in good standing, and most of them
well known as principal men in all former negotia-
tions with the government. You will also find
affixed to it the names of more than one hundred war-
riors who have all attended this Council, & many of
them are respectable and influential men.
Whether you should or should not require any more
formal assent, we have deemed it our duty at this

stage of our proceedings to furnish you with this evidence of the assent of our chiefs & people to the treaty as amended by the Senate. We are well satisfied that, but for the peculiar circumstances in which we have been placed by the interference of the whites a very large majority of our chiefs and people would sign at once any assent that might be presented to them. But you have been witness yourself to the unauthorized, and bold interference of white men in our councils - of men whose sole object seemed to be their own personal gain at our expense, and who instigated by the worst motives have sowed the seeds of discord and disaffection even in the ranks of the emigration party. You have also heard, and we assure you that you have heard only half of what might truly be told, how some of our chiefs have been menaced with personal violence if they dared to assent to the amendments. In some instances so malignant has been the spirit of opposition, that we have been threatened with loss of life. You yourself know that such a threat was used to deter the Tuscaroras from assenting. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at, that many of our people have become alarmed - and in the confusion produced by this extraordinary state of things some have shrunk back from the public expression of a feeling which privately and in heart, they entertain; but dare not publicly avow. We have therefore been obliged to talk with our friends, to show them that in the present emergency it became our duty to disregard all threats, that our hopes for the prosperity of our people were all staked upon the present crisis, that if we now ~~have~~ failed we have nothing but confusion & ruin before us, and to urge them by every consideration that should influence honest & firm men to ~~give~~ ^{render} a ready assent to the amendments. We have not been idle - and as our friends have one after another yielded to these persuasions we have obtained their names to the paper which we now offer you. In every particular the assent was given freely and voluntarily - but since

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thence understand that some of them have been tampered with by the opposition. What effect may have been produced by renewed threats or the acts of designing white men upon some few of our number we have not yet ascertained. For ourselves, having but one object which is the establishment of our people in a permanent home under the protection of the government where they may enjoy all the great benefits guaranteed to them by the treaty which we have made, we shall steadfastly adhere to our purpose, and are ready to give any further assurances of our assent which you may require. We take this opportunity to tender to you and to the Commissioner on the part of Massachusetts, our thanks for your patient attention during the meetings of our Councils, for the unwearied pains which you have taken to make us understand the whole matter presented, for your personal kindness to us & the deep concern you have evinced that this negotiation may be brought to a successful issue.

Most respectfully

Your friend

In the presence of

M. J. Strong

N. S. Interpreter

Opener H. Cone

George Fop

Captain Pollard

Captain Strong

White Seneca

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390
Madzworth;
offer of 10 years

No. 30

Buffalo Sep 26th 1858-

To the Hon^{ble} H. H. Gilbert

Commissioner of the U. S. Lands

Sir

In behalf of the
Trustees of the Proportion of the Proportion Bill
to the Lands occupied by the Seneca Indians in the
State of New York, I authorize you to say to the
Chief of that Nation, That ~~Bill~~ with a view to
put an end to the unhappy divisions which appear
to exist in the Council, I will enter an agreement
in the part of the Trustees named to, from whom
I have a power of attorney to act in their behalf,
by which they shall be allowed to retain the occupation
free of rent of their ^{improved} farming lands for ten years
from the date of the Treaty recently concluded
with them. As this proposition is made solely
for the benefit of the Indians, I wish to leave
it upon for their acceptance ~~until~~ until tomorrow
or longer if you consider it necessary -

Respectfully for the Genl. Secy.

L. S. Woodworth