

Buffalo, Oct. 19, 1878.

H. B. Potter, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of the 17th instant, requesting a written statement of what occurred between Gen. Gillett, & Mr. Reuben B. Deacock, when the latter called the former to account for words spoken in Council, is just received. The matter you refer to, took place I think in September last, on the Indian Reservation, near this City, at Mr. Allen's Tavern, where General Gillett & General Deacock stayed during the negotiations then pending with the Indians. Councils were held almost daily, and the Council of that day having been adjourned, I was standing on the steps in conversation with Gen. Gillett, when Mr. Deacock rode up to the Tavern, and having fastened his horse, came up to us in a state of evident excitement, and enquired if this meaning Mr. Gillett, was Gen. Gillett. I immediately introduced him to Mr. Gillett, but without noticing the introduction, Mr. Deacock, in a violent manner, complained that the Commissioner had in his remarks to the Council that morning, made a personal attack on him - that he said that his son, Mr. S. G. Deacock, who was present at the Council had informed him that he, Mr. Gillett had told the Indians that those white people who endeavored to dissuade them from assenting to the amendments of the Treaty by the Senate, wanted more of their shawlogs, and to cut more canals through their land by which expression and particularly the latter, Mr. Deacock understood a direct personal allusion to himself, as he had a short canal through a part of the Reservation, by which water is conveyed by several saw-mills owned by him. Mr. Gillett at once ~~declined~~ ^{denied} having made use of those expressions, and disclaimed all intention of attacking any individual in his remarks.

and particularly Mr. Hancock who was utterly unknown
to him: He asserted however, that in his remarks he had
asked the Indians to ~~imagine~~ continue the character &
reputation of those white men who were opposing the Treaty, &
inquired if they were not men who made money out
of their timber. I do not profess to give the words used by
the parties, but merely the substance of their conversation.
Being appealed to by Sen. Gillett, I confirmed his account of
the remarks which had been misrepresented to Mr. Hancock
Sen. Gillett. Mr. Hancock having retired a little, I left them
for a few minutes, but seeing them in conversation with
some by-standers, I rejoined them. The conversation was then
somewhat ~~general~~ general, being participated in by the
by-standers. Mr. Hancock seemed particularly anxious to ex-
-cuse himself from all suspicion of having ever taken timber
or saw-logs from the Reservation - asserting that he had never
done so - but saying that he had bought saw-logs from the
Indians, at his mill, and would continue to do so. He
spoke highly of the Treaty, so far as the Government was
concerned, and declared it to be highly ^{liberal} advantageous to the
Indians - but he seemed to think the Ogden Company
did not give enough. He said that he had formerly been
opposed to the Treaty, but some conversation he had had
with you, had convinced him of his error, or that he
ought not to oppose it - and he had remained quiet,
until this personal attack had been made. He professed to
have great belief in the veracity of his son, and appeared
unwilling to disbelieve his story, although it was contradicted
by a great number of persons, both Whites & Indians, some
of whom approved & some of whom opposed the Treaty -
who were standing about, & who were questioned concerning
it. I was informed that Mr. Hancock, subsequently, after
the conversation was over, appealed to two gentlemen, who
were in company with Mr. S. S. Hancock at the Council, &
who were understood to be opposed to the Treaty - For they
told him the son was entirely wrong, he came forward
and made an apology to Sen. Gillett, & since which time
he has distinguished himself by his strenuous, violent and

uncompromising opposition to the enforcement of the Treaty.
During the whole of this transaction, General Gillett demeaned
himself with dignity and composure. Mr. Hancock was
evidently in a state of high excitement, and it was in many
places most apparent that he desired nothing more, than
a shadow of a pretext for embarking in the course he
has since pursued.

Feeling a deep interest in the fate of the New York Indians, I
was induced to examine the Treaty and its amendments
with particular care, and I was also, as you will perhaps
remember, a frequent attendant at the late Council.
I paid particular attention to the department of General Gillett
as Commissioner, in the Council, and was also favored
with some conversation with him. It was very evident
that Mr. Gillett was desirous that the Treaty should be adopted
and so was every disinterested person who was acquainted
with the conditions of an Indian, and the beneficent
provisions of the Treaty - but in all his exposition he was
perfectly candid, and I never heard a more fair, plain
and lucid explanation of any subject of so much
complexity, than that made by Gen. Gillett to the
Indians in Council. He has fairly won the respect of
all disinterested persons who have had an opportunity
of observing him during the progress of this most diffi-
cult & protracted negotiation.

You are at liberty to make any use of this com-
munication you may deem advisable.

With great respect

Yours obed^t & devot

W. B. Martin

Buffalo Oct. 16. 1838.

Hon. R. H. Miller
Washington D.C.

Sir,

The undersigned Chieftain
desires to ask your Opinion, whether the Chiefs, or their
people should be permitted to accompany the Surveyors
in passing ^{over} the Country Accorded to the Indians. And
also if the said in the Treaty of 1825, for the
ceding to the Government made by the
Senate of the United States to said Treaty of the
15th of January last.

And further, we would ask, whether the Government
would provide the necessary expenses of the said
Surveying party.

The undersigned also desires, that the Government
that the Country should be so laid out, as will
leave to those people a sufficient quantity of
timbered land, and as convenient as possible for
their accommodation.

And we would further inquire, whether (in the
event of the Confirmation of the said Treaty) the
Government would authorize the laying out
of the said Country, leaving the remaining land
in order to accommodate those of our people
who may desire to remove to that Country the
next season, or even sooner.

And lastly, we would desire to know in
the event the Government authorizing the
laying out of the said Country next - whether
you would accept the appointment of
Commissioners of the said Survey; we are
opposed to have the Country laid out, in such
a manner, as will be most satisfactory to
our people if you should accept it, it
would be a source of much satisfaction and
as we are well assured, that you would do
everything to the satisfaction of all.

I hereby acknowledge that Hon R. H. Gillet, Commissioner on the part of the United States for holding a Treaty with the Six Nations of New York Indians has deposited with me for safe keeping a duplicate conveyance or Deed of Cession from the Chiefs and Headmen of the Seneca Nation of Indians to Thomas Lutton Ogden and Joseph Fellows, bearing date the fifteenth day of January 1838, at the request of the said Chiefs and Headmen, which said conveyance or Deed of Cession is to remain in my possession until after the ratification of the Treaty between the said Commissioner and the said Six Nations, and until the consideration money mentioned in the said conveyance or Deed, and all other moneys which the grantees may be liable to pay to parties interested are actually paid or secured.
Dated at Buffalo February 3^d 1838

H. B. Potter.

I George White, a Seneca Chief, residing on the Buffalo Creek reservation, being confined to my house by sickness, and desirous to have my name affixed to the Treaty between the United States and the Six Nations of New York Indians (Hon R. H. Gillet Commissioner) dated the 15th January 1838, and also to the deeds of conveyance or cession of the same date, from the Seneca Nation to Thomas L. Ogden and Joseph Fellows, Do hereby authorize and appoint White Seneca, a Chief of the Seneca Tribe as my agent and attorney to sign, seal and execute in my name the Treaty aforesaid, and also the Deeds of Cession aforesaid.
Witness my hand and seal the fifteenth day of January 1838.

In the presence of

Orlando Allen

and Andrew B. Larkin.

George White his X mark (G. S.)

I Walter Thompson, a Chief of the Seneca Tribe of New York Indians being prevented by sickness from attending the General Council of the Six Nations now convened on the Buffalo Creek Reservation, and

ventions of having my name affixed to the Treaty between the United
States and the Six Nations of New York Indians (Hon. R. H. Giffel Com-
missioner) dated the 15th January 1838, and also to the Deed of Conveyance
a copy of the same date from the Seneca Nation to Thomas L. Ogden
and Joseph Fellows, Do hereby authorize and appoint Daniel Gou-
viers, a chief of the said Seneca Tribe as my agent and attorney to sign
and execute in my name the Treaty aforesaid and also the Deed of
conveyance aforesaid.

Witness my hand and seal the fifteenth day of January 1838.

Walter Thompson His X mark (LS)

In the presence of
H. P. Willcot -