

1761
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Copy of Sir William Johnson's Letter to Genl Amherst
Dated Fort Johnson 7th June 1761

Sir,

Agreeable to your Excellency's Desire I have considered of, and made out as is inclosed what will be necessary to take along for the use of the Indians, or rather as presents to be given to such Nations of the Western and other tribes, as may prove deserving of it. The sum, or amount will perhaps appear much to your Excellency, but let me assure you, Sir, taking less will be doing nothing.

You have also herewith the account of pay due to the Officers of my Department, for which with a ballance coming to me of about £300. Currency, and a little to have in hand to carry on the service, I should be glad to have a warrant for a £1000 Sterling so as to discharge them debts before I leave home.

If your Excellency approves the former, I shall lose no time in ordering the things to be bought, and made ready.

I hope this will find your Excellency perfectly recovered of your late indisposition, as I am with the greatest Sincerity and Respect,
Your Excellency's Vc.

Copy of General Amherst's Letter, dated Albany 11th June

Sir,

I am to thank you for your Letter of the 7th instant, which I had the favour of receiving on the 9th enclosing a list of goods that you judge necessary as presents to be given to the Western and other tribes of the Indian Nations about the Detroit; as also an account of pay due to the Officers in your Department.

I am, in the first place to observe, that the amount of the goods supposed necessary for the Indians is really large sum;
but

but you are the best judge of what is necessary to give them; I must only desire you will confine it to such only as are absolutely—
 requisites, that no expence may be incurred that can be avoided
 and I must beg the favour of you to prepare accordingly of that sort
 what you think absolutely necessary. I should think the Crowd
 may be taken off, which is a very heavy article, and the other
 things are sufficient to please them, for it is not my intention now
 to attempt to gain the friendship of Indians by presents =
 As to Gunpowder, Lead, & Flint, the Indians will be furnished
 with them from the several posts: Arms they have in abundance
 and I would not increase the Number.

I greatly fear time will not permit me, to make the tour to
 the Detroit, as I intended; the tardiness of the governments, in sending
 the Provincial Troops to their rendezvous here; and the time
 Approaching in which some material Operations are to be carried
 on, that makes my presence necessary this way, will debar me
 having the pleasure of your company in the tour which I intended.
 And I think it of so much consequence to settle all affairs upon
 a good footing with those upper Indians, that I must desire
 you will be prepared for making a visit to the Detroit (and that
 you will let me know, when you can conveniently go; when you
 will have the goods ready, and what Battelans you will require
 to take them to Ouaego.

I have already acquainted you I am building two Vessels
 on Lake Erie, and I purpose immediately sending a Detachment
 of about 300 Men to help forwarding the building of the Vessels,
 and afterwards to proceed with the same to the Detroit, to assist
 Capt. Campbell the Commanding Officer there in relieving the
 several advanced posts, which could not be effected in the
 Winter (in case Capt. Campbell should not already have done)
 and for Exploring Lakes Huron, Michigan and the Country
 round about.

If these Vessels should not be ready by the time you arrive at
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I shall nevertheless put the Officer under your Command, to obey such orders as he shall receive from you, and to proceed with you in his whale boats & batteaux from Niagara to the Detroit, and I judge the sooner this can take place, will be the better for the publick good.

As you desire a warrant of a thousand Pounds, I enclose you one for that sum, and beg the favour of you to have your account made out including the things which you will purchase for the Indians, that a warrant for the ballance may be granted; accounting for the sum you received in Febry last, and that now granted you.

I have yesterday received here twenty one children, that Genl. Gage has sent from Canada, who were still remaining there, hid by the inhabitants; amongst these I find one Daniel taken on the Mohock River in 1756; his parents dead; a little boy his cousin taken at the above place. Jacob Miller of the German flats, taken there in 1759.

I beg the favour of you to acquaint the relations of the above children, that they are here, and if they will come & receive them they shall be delivered to them.

I send Capt D'Arcy with this, and am, with the greatest regard,

Sir &c

Sir William Johnsons Letter in answer to the foregoing dated,
Castle Cumberland June 12th 1761.

Sir I am honoured with yours of yesterday by Capt D'Arcy, inclosed I have a warrant for £1000 sterling for paying the Officers still in the Indian services.

When I made out the list of goods for a present to be given to the Western and other Nations of Indians who will attend a Meeting at Detroit; - I do assure you, Sir I used all the frugality which I judged the good of the service, and the end intended thereby would admit of, and as I observed to your Excellency in my letter at that time, that

that taking less would be doing nothing, I can't help being of the same opinion still; and as to Shrods, it is the main article next to ammunition, as I have nothing in view thereby, nor more at heart than his Majesty's interest and my own credit, by rendering him what service I can; I would choose by all means to go in such a manner as will best answer that end, and I flatter myself if I am properly supported, and allowed what is necessary, I shall be able to settle matters with all the Nations of Indians that way, to your Excellency's satisfaction, and the interest of the government; but this I am to observe to you, Sir, and you may depend upon it, that unless all our old, as well as new Indian allies are allowed ammunition for their livelihood, or hunting, all treaties held with, or presents made to them, will never secure their friendship, for they will in such case ever be jealous of us, as I find they are a good deal so already, by reason of their not being able to get, or purchase any from us. I therefore think it will be absolutely necessary to have it in my power to give them what I may see requisite, they may at present do with what arms they have, but should they request Smith's among them, to repair and keep in order what they have, as well as their working utensils, I should have it in my power to allow such if I find they deserve it, which when among them I shall soon be able to judge.

I expect to have every thing necessary for my Journey ready in about a fortnight, when I shall use all the dispatch possible to get there. I think I shall want at least five large battoes well manned and a good whale boat for myself.

I doubt not Sir, but you will furnish me with such orders, as will prevent any delays, or my being at aloft at any of the ports along the way, for provisions for my party, Boats, Carriages, or any necessary assistance I may have occasion for, you may depend upon it Sir, I shall abuse no power you may think proper to invest me with.

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As I have not time to have my account drawn out now, without
delaying Capt Darcy, I shall have it done, and sent down in a few
days. If the children whom Genl Gage sent from Canada,
were here at my house, their parents and Relations could very
soon have them. If you think proper to order them here, I shall
think it no trouble to keep them until taken away.

As Lieut. Guy Johnson of the Independants would be very
serviceable, I should take it as a favour, if your Excellency
will allow him to accompany me the Tour.

I have the honour to be &c

Copy of General Amherst's Letter dated Albany 24th June 1761

Sir
I am to own the receipt of your Letter of the 16th Instant,
which I should have immediately acknowledged but as I had
transmitted you warrants for one thousand pounds ster, there was
nothing that required a direct answer.
I am last night favored with your letter of the 21st inst enclosing
a letter from one Herchheimer, giving an account of one of the
Inhabitants being killed by an Indian; I am extremely sorry
for this affair, and can't but think it absolutely right, that the
Nation to whom this Indian belongs should be instantly obliged
to give the Murderer up, that Justice may be done. Had one
of the Inhabitants committed a Murder on one of the Indians,
I should be for bringing that Inhabitant to Justice in like
manner. This is my way of thinking in which I shall never
alter.

The great slothfulness of the Provincials arriving here,
and other services that will soon call for my presence, obligeme
entirely to give over the thoughts of accompanying you as I
should have been glad to have done; but I will try to make
every thing as convenient and agreeable to you in the essential service
you are going on, as is in my power.

When

When I had the pleasure of seeing you here, I acquainted you I should order three hundred men of Gages under the command of Major Gladwin, to explore the upper lakes, and to assist Capt Campbell in the relief of the outposts, in case the latter party is not already effected. These orders are sent to Major Gladwin, and I enclose you paragraphs of them that you may be fully informed of what I have done thereon. I have ordered the 300wt of powder with the Horsemen tents you desired, to be delivered to Messrs Kennedy and Lyle, that they might forward them to you: and as I find it is likely you will be ready the latter end of this week, I send orders to Capt Wallers, who was directed to take up some artillery to Oswego, to quit that service and to be ready to attend you; a copy of the orders to him is enclosed. When you arrive at Oswego, you will be pleased to continue him with his Detachment with you, or to take any others, in his room, as you shall judge proper, for which I enclose you a Letter for Major Duncan.

I am sorry to find that you are apprehensive, that the Indians are brewing some thing, privately amongst them: if it is mischief, it will fall on their own heads with a powerfull and heavy hand: and I am hopefull they are not so blind as not to see the protection they enjoy from the King, that they are sure of being well used, as long as they behave well; and I trust you will take every necessary measure for convincing them of this; and of setting any thing right wherein they may have been misinformed, that they may not contrive their own ruin.

I enclose you a copy of a paper I have received from Genl Gage, by which you will see the unwarrantable and scandalous behavior of Monsieur de Beaujeu; for Michillimackinac as well as Detroit, and every post depending on those places, are included in the Capitulation of Canada; and Monsr de Laudrecill's Letter to Monsieur Beaujeu was very explicit on that head.

I also enclose you a copy of part of the orders which were given to Major Rogers; and paragraphs of Letters I have wrote to Capt Campbell with

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With all such other papers as I judge can give you any useful intelligence; that you may be informed of the full state of every thing that has been done regarding those posts - it is likewise necessary that you should be furnished with a Letter to the Commanding Officer at Niagara; which is also enclosed.

I shall not attempt to point out to you the measures that you will take with the several Indian Nations; the thorough knowledge that you have of them, with the Reason, Judgment, and Abilities, which you have so often exerted for his Majesty's service, will now best guide you, in doing every thing that may be conducive thereto, and you will please to give to Capt. Campbell, the Officer commanding at the Detroit, all such orders and Instructions as you judge necessary, for permitting and continuing an open and free trade, with the Indian Nations. (for tho' these posts were, when in the hands of the French, the Kings posts, and trade was carried on in the Kings name, Exclusively of all others) the commerce is now open, and will continue so, until his Majesty's Pleasure is known thereon.

I must likewise desire you will give Capt. Campbell such orders as you shall judge necessary for ensuring a quiet possession of the Detroit, Michillimackinac, and all the outposts, which are for the Defence & protection of the Indians, as well as for keeping the whole Country in a proper subjection to the King.

I have nothing further to add, but to wish you a pleasant & successful Tour to the Detroit - I shall be glad to hear from you when any occasions may offer; and when you have Effectuated the service you go on, You will please to return when you judge proper.

I am, with great truth and regard &c.

Sir William Johnsons Letter to General Amherst, dated
Fort Johnson 27th June 1762. in answer to the foregoing

Sir
Yours of the 24th inst. with the several enclosures, I was
last

Last night honoured with; they give me a very clear idea of what you intend I should know, and I shall endeavour all in my power to do every thing for the best, as far as I am able, and should be so lucky as to answer your expectations in sending me; I shall look upon my time well spent.

Mr Croghan delivered me the inclosed, by which, and what he tells me, there is a very considerable number of the Chiefs of these Nations (who were to compose the intended Meeting at the Detroit) called down, and very likely now on their way to Pennsylvania by repeated invitations from that Government, this agrees with what the five Nations told me last winter, that they had received three Belts from thence entreating them to attend a great meeting which was proposed to be held at Philadelphia this summer; notwithstanding this Mr Hamilton in his letter to me of the 12th May which I shewed you lately, when I had the honour of seeing you at Albany, declares most sincerely that he never did since his arrival to the Government send the least message or belt of invitation to them, for any purpose whatsoever, neither had he the least expectation of a visit either of friendship, or business from them, and that if any other persons of the province had presumed to send messages to them, it was quite unknown to him; and that he would be glad to be made acquainted with their names, that they might be dealt with according to their Deserts. As that Government has acted in this manner several times since my appointment, and in open opposition to measures ordered to be taken by former Generals, particularly in the Earl of Loudoun's time, if these People are not stopped, and brought the other way (I mean to Detroit) the end of my going there, will not be at all answered, wherefore, thinks it best to send Mr Croghan by the way of Fort Pitt, in order to let all the Indians he may meet going to Philadelphia, or elsewhere, know of my being on my way to Detroit, on purpose to settle all matters necessary for

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for their welfare with them; which I am of opinion (as is also Mr. Broghan) will have the desired effect.

I must beg leave to refer you to Mr. Broghan for a more particular account of the conduct of that Government in this affair.

Capt. Watters arrived here last night with some Artillery which he secured at one Mr. Camps, within a mile of my house, and is gone this morning with his party to Schenectady for the five Mattoes, I am to take along. as soon as he returns, shall load and set them off, which, as the water is so very low, will not be, I believe before Monday, or Tuesday next.

Mr. Broghan tells me that by the rendezvous of the French Troops, and Indians at Detroit in 1759, the Inhabitants were plundered, and left destitute of every thing, particularly provisions, and livestock, that I cannot depend on purchasing any thing from them for the maintenance of the Indians while they attend the Treaty; this I doubt not your Excellency will consider, as you well know there is no keeping them without provisions, and that not a small matter.

I am &c

Copy of General Amherst's Letter

Dated June 29th in answer to the foregoing, &c.

Sir

I conclude you will be set out on your Journey, but as your loaded batteaux, I fear will take sometime to get up the River this dry season, this will easily overtake you, and I therefore can't omit Acknowledging the favor of the receipt of your Letters of the 27th and 28th Instant.

Mr. Broghan delivered me the first, & came very opportunely to have a Talk with some Canasadaga Indians, who came to

to see you; he has settled every thing with them: I shall send them back in good humour, and desire General Gage to furnish them with some things, that otherwise should have been given them here, that they may not be too fond of taking this route.

I think you do perfectly right in sending Mr Croghan back by the Pensilvania route, to take back any of the Indians that may be coming that way who undoubtedly will be of their Chief; and it would in a great measure, destroy the intent of your journey in having them about, when you assemble the several Nations at the Detroit. The behavior of the people of Pensilvania, on this occasion, is very unwarrantable, and I hope the Governor will punish them as he has promised you, and finding out those who are concerned in inviting of the Indians down.

I have wrote to General Monckton to acquaint him of your assembling the Nations at the Detroit; and that as fresh provisions are, what you would chuse on that occasion, I think the best way of sending of Live Cattle will be by Pittsburgh; Mr Croghan will speak with General Monckton on this and settle it.

As you desire to have a warrant for twelve hundred, and fifty pounds sterling, and that you tell me the accounts already amount to that sum; I have signed one for the same, in favor of Mr Fenall Wade, and delivered it to him; that he may discharge the several Bills, agreeable to your desire to me for that purpose; and I shall be glad to have the accounts as soon as you conveniently can, that I may clear the whole off. As I hear nothing of Lieut Johnson, I imagine he may be gone across the country from Fort Edward to meet you: if he should come this way, I shall send him after you.

I am, with great truth, and regard &c

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July 1st Previous to Sir William Johnsons departure for the Detroit he assembled the Mohocks at Fort Johnson and after acquainting them with the cause of his Journey he in the strongest terms recommended to them to preserve a friendly behavior towards their brethren the English, and upon all occasions to manifest their Love for his Majesties subjects during his absence. To be industrious and follow their Hunting as formerly by all which they would recommend themselves to his Majestys favour and protection.

To which they answered that they were much pleased with Sir William's acquainting them with the cause of so long a journey, and wished him all imaginable success, but, could not avoid expressing their uneasiness for his safety, as he must pass thorough, and meet with several Nations of Indians, some much attached to the French, and that there were likewise some of the Six Nations who could not be much confided in, However, for their parts he might be convinced of their intentions to pay an implicit obedience to his advice, by their earnest endeavours to prevent any irregularities between themselves and the English, and by their firm resolution to live with them as Brethren, and Allies. They then entreated that as they might be put to any farther encroachments of ours upon them, as they said, we had now hemmed them in on every side, and yet were still soliciting for more Land, which they begged we would not continue to do, they having scarcely left for to hunt upon.

Sir William assured them that no more Land should be taken from them without being fairly purchased, his Majesty having expressly ordered the several Governors to prevent any persons from settling on their Lands, without obtaining the Indians consent, and legally purchasing it from them. At which the Mohocks expressed great satisfaction, and took their Leaves.

Sunday

Sunday July 5th Sir William Johnson, attended by several gentlemen left Fort Johnson in order to proceed to the Detroit.

On his arrival at Onajoharee he assembled the Indians of that Village, and acquainted them with the cause of his journey, as he had done the Mohocks, to which he received an answer to the same purport as the former, they greatly enlarging upon our encroachments upon their lands, to which having received a satisfactory answer they concluded with telling Sir William they purposed to send some Sachems and others to represent their Nation, and speak in their names to the Western Indians at the intended Meeting, which Sir William highly approved of and took his leave of them.

After which he proceeded to the German flats where he found above 30 Chiefs of Oneida, and Tuscarora who were on their way to Fort Johnson, in order to make up a murder committed by an Oneida Indian about a month before on one of the German inhabitants of that neighbourhood, but upon Sir William's arrival they requested to have a meeting with him there on.

At a Meeting held at Burnettsfield Tuesday July 7th

Present

The Hon^{ble} Sir William Johnson Baronet

The Rev^d Parson Occum

John Johnson Esq^r

Lieut Rich^d Smith of his Majesty's Independent Comp^y
Justice Herkimer, and several of the principal Inhabitants

Lieut Guy Johnson of his Majesty's Independent Companies
acting as Secretary

Upwards of 30 Sachems, Sen^{rs} of Oneida & Tuscarora

Conoghquieson Speaker, asked if Sir William was ready to hear what he had to say, on being answered in the affirmative he proceeded,

For other Warraghtigagey

We are come hither to wipe away your tears, dear your speech, and condole with you for your late loss, & therefore with this string, we clear the darkness

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Darkness from your eyes, that you may see clearly, and look upon us as Brethren —
Gave three strings of Wampum,

Brother

We are now assembled together to condole with you according to the ancient agreement between us, that whenever a mischance should befall either of us, the other should condole with them on their loss, take the lice out of their Heads, and cover the Deceased's grave, so as to bury every thing in an amicable manner, all which we now perform, and hope it may be understood as we mean it,

Brother

Gave a belt of 9 Rows

We acknowledge ourselves extremely concerned at the late Murder committed by one of our Nations; wherefore we now dig up that great Tree, which reaches to the Clouds, beneath whose root runs a stream in which we will bury the late accident, so as it may never more be remembered, and hope that when you recollect that two of our Nations were sometime ago murdered by one of your people, for which we never received any redress, you will be the readier induced to bury it in oblivion —
A belt of 9 Rows

Brother

By taking these measures we keep up the ancient custom, subsisting between you, and the five Nations of immediately condoling with each other on any mischance, whereby we preserve the Covenant chain bright, and lasting; but we are sorry to observe you look so coolly on us, and are very uneasy lest, should the Covenant chain not be preserved in like manner on your parts, it might prove of fatal consequence, and end in the destruction of one of us. Therefore, with this belt we wipe away all your tears, and renew and strengthen the Covenant chain of friendship, which shall not be broken by us, and we therefore hope you will forget what hath passed, and not let slip the Covenant chain —

Gave a black belt of 7 Rows

Brother

Brother

As the Sachems of the Oneidas, and Tuscaroras frequently cautioned our Young Men, against committing any violence on any of the Inhabitants, or their property, but unfortunately for us we are not (more than you) exempt from bad people, who will not hearken to advice, but get frequently in liquor which your people furnish them with, and as that was the cause of the late Murder we beg you will think more favourably of it.

Brother

A belt of 6 Rows

Having finished what I had to say relative to that melancholy affair, I shall now begin on another subject.

Brother

This Land which was given us by the Divine Being, we love as our lives, and therefore hope you will secure the possession of it to us, which has been ours from the beginning, by preventing any more of your people from settling higher in the Country, agreeable to the desire of all the 6 Nations, least, should we give the German Inhabitants who reside here, a kick, we should drive them into the Sea, and should you on the contrary kick us in return, we know not whether we should be driven, therefore, and to prevent any such ill consequences, we beg you'll secure our property to us, by complying with our requests.

A belt of 6 Rows

Brother

At the commencement of this war, great promises were made to, that we should have a reasonable, extensive trade, and that at the end thereof, you would demolish all your Outposts, and Fortifications erected in our Country, but as it seems, the war is not yet ended, and that many of the commanding Officers at the several posts, have used us very unfriendly, and not as heretofore, we request that whilst you keep up these Forts, you will post Officers at them who may behave in a brotherlike manner towards us, as we shall do to them. And as to the advantageous trade

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Trade promised us, we are sorry to observe that instead thereof every thing is dearer than formerly, neither can our Young Men procure powder for hunting as we find it is prevented from being sold to them.

Brother

In consequence of your requests to us, we have sent Messengers amongst the most distant Nations to engage them to enter into a peace between us, and you, which we are glad to inform you has had the desired effect.

Adelt of 7 Rows

Brother

Here is a paper which was sent to the Council at Onondaga, and as we are illiterate, we beg you will explain to us the purport thereof.

Delivered a printed Proclamation from the Governor of Pennsylvania

The Speaker having finished, Sir William informed him he would consider on an answer to what he had said, which he would deliver them in the afternoon.

P.M. Sir William Johnson having sent to inform the Indians he was ready to answer them, they accordingly met.

Present as before

Whereupon Sir William addressed them as follows
Brethren of Oneida and Tuscarora

Your coming down at this time carries with it a good appearance and also prevents my sending for you to meet me at the Oneida Lake as I purposed to do.

You have now (agreeable to your custom) condole the loss of the poor man who was lately murdered by one of your people near this place, and as I know it to be your custom, I imagine (from your behaviour) that all of you present are a good deal concerned thereto, I therefore thank you for this part of the Condolence.

Gave three strings of Wampum

Brother

Broethren

In the next place you say you are come to take the Hatchet out of our Heads which you lately struck into it, and to cover the grave of the deceased so as it never more may be seen or remembered.

I am very sensible this has been your manner of acting on like occasions heretofore, but I am now to let you know that the General and Commander in Chief in America (who does not understand one mans murdering another without suffering death for the same, or without being delivered up to justice for a trial of his offences) expects, and insists, upon your delivering up the Murderers, and as your Friend recommends a speedy compliance with his demand. That it may shew how disagreeable his crime appears to the Nation to whom he belonged, I therefore again desire you will comply therewith by this belt of Wampum.

Abelt

Broethren

I take it well of you that you are desirous to take all measures whereby we may forget the late accident, but I must observe that what you mention concerning two of your peoples being murdered some time ago by one of ours can be no mitigation of the present offenders guilt, the cases having been apparently different, as those persons of whom you speak were found plundering the House, & destroying the property of the person who killed them, which behaviour would have justified his proceedings even by the equitable laws of Great Britain, and the many murders since that time committed by your people should in my opinion have sufficiently cautioned you against so frivolous a palliation of the crime.

Abelt

Broethren

I am glad to hear it is your intention to preserve the Covenant Chain bright and lasting, and I hope you will consider it as your interest to adhere to your present promises, for be assured should anything hereafter occasion a breach therein it must prove fatal to you, as well as disagreeable to us, if necessitated to act contrary to our present friendly intentions towards you.

Abelt

Broethren

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Brethren

You are all sensible that the imputing the late murder to drunkenness can be no extenuation of the Offenders crime, a precedent which tolerates murder, should never be admitted of, neither is it for your advantage more than for ours, I therefore insist on your immediate compliance with the Generals demand of delivering up the Offender to justice.

Abell

Brethren

With regard to what you have desired concerning your Lands which you chuse not to part with, I am to inform you that agreeable to a former remonstrance made on that head to the Court of London, his late Majesty was graciously pleased to send orders to his several Governours in America, whereby they are positively restricted from granting lands to any person whatsoever without your permission, and a legal purchase from you as proprietors, so that you must blame yourselves, should any farther grants be made contrary (as you say) to your inclinations, and that of the said Nations—

Brethren

Abell

We have taken all measures in our power to render the Indian trade as extensive, and as advantageous as possible for you, and I am assured you have not already felt the effects of our endeavours, from the number of traders, well furnished with goods who daily resort to your Country, for the promoting of which trade, and the preservation of goods and Merchandize; as well as for our mutual security and protection, those posts which you seem to wish destroyed are so essential that I am astonished you should wish their demolition; and if any misunderstanding should have happened at any time to arise between the Officers at any of those posts, and you, it must either have been caused from your ignorance of each others Language, and Customs, or from the imprudent behaviour of some of your people, who when in liquor take the most extravagant liberties, to prevent which for the future, I earnestly recommend it to the Sachems to exert themselves

upon

Upon all occasions by putting a stop thereto.

Being now on my way thro' the country, in case I discover any extortion or frauds committed by traders, the offenders shall be severely punished, (tho' I imagine from the number of traders now amongst you, that goods can neither be scarce, or extravagant,) and shall not fail to transmit your request concerning powder to the General.

I am glad to hear you have sent Messengers to procure a peace with the distant Indians; as I have always had your welfare at heart, and have considered your union as so essential thereto, that I am pleased you have embraced my repeated advice on that head.

Brothers

Abelt

The printed paper which you desire to have explained contains a Proclamation from the Governour of Pennsylvania, setting forth, that several persons from the Neighbouring Colonies had taken possession of some lands near Bushy Run, and in the upper parts of Northampton County, against which Teedyuscung had remonstrated, declaring, that if they were not removed, the Indians would do it by force themselves; the Governour therefore issued the proclamation ordering them off, and forbidding any persons from settling thereon, or on any lands not yet purchased from the Indians, on pain of being prosecuted for the same.

Sir William Johnson having answered the several points contained in the speech of the Indians. The Speakers desired to withdraw, having something to deliberate upon, which he would communicate in a few minutes, whereupon he withdrew.

On his return he addressed Sir William Johnson as follows.

Brother

It gives us great concern that we have it not at present in our power to comply with the Generals desire of delivering the Offender up to justice, he having made his escape to some distant part immediately after perpetrating the crime; but we are determined whenever we can apprehend him to give him up immediately and

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And in the mean time we hope that this crime committed by an Individual may not prove the occasion of our forfeiting your friendship or be deemed a national act; and we could heartily wish that this accident might be made up in an amicable manner, without an infringement of that ancient agreement by which our Ancestors & Yours were mutually engaged to settle such mischances — without farther bloodshed —

The Conference being ended, Sir William Johnson called in the Chiefs of the Indians to his quarters, then introduced the Revd. Mr. Occum to them inform, as a person sent to them for their instructions in the principles, and practice of the Christian Religion, earnestly recommending it to them to treat him with the respect due to one of his sacred function. which they sincerely promised to do, returning hearty thanks for this proof which the English gave of their regard for their future happiness — After which the Meeting dissolved —

July 13th Sir William Johnson being on his journey as far as Canada Creek received by the hand of Col^d Byres a Letter from his Excellency General Amherst enclosing, another from Capt Campbell Comd^r at Detroit, with one from Major Walters at Niagara Copies of the two former of which are hereinafter inserted
Copy of his Excellency Gen^l Amherst's Letter
Dated Albany 8th July 1761

Sir I enclose you a copy of a Letter I have received this Moment from Capt Campbell at the Detroit, with also one — from him to Major Walters; and one from Major Wetherstone; I doubt not in the least but you will have received intelligence of a part of this, which I look on has proceeded from what
Yours

Your acquaintance some time ago, was bruising amongst the Indians, but as there is something more particular in regard to the Six Nations, in what Capt Campbell writes to me, than in what he has mentioned in his intelligence to the Commanding Officer at Niagara; I therefore transmit you a copy of his Letter, that you may take such measures as you judge proper for totally suppressing every part of the Indians intentions, which seem to me to be so very wild, that I cannot give credit to them.

I am &c

Copy of Capt Campbells Letter to General Amherst
Dated Detroit 17th June 1761

I had the honour to receive your Excellency's Letter of 12th April the 8th Insto —

It gives me the greatest satisfaction that you approve of my endeavours for the service —

I wrote you fully by the Officer that went to Niagara with the batteaux the 22. May, whom I daily expect with provisions —

I send this by express to Niagara that you may be informed of a very important piece of intelligence which I have learned —

I have had several reports of the bad intentions of the Indians against this place, and the English in general and have been at all pains to find out from whence it proceeded, and can now inform your Excellency for certain that it comes from the Six Nations who have sent Deputies, and belts of wampum to all the Nations from the bay of Gaspe' to the Illinois inviting them to take up the hatchet against the English; two of their Deputies (leading men of the Senecas) are in the Wiandot Town just now, who have communicated their intentions to several of the Chief, and demanded a council with the different Nations of which I was informed by the Wiandot Interpreter to whom the Senecas told their business in confidence, he immediately informed me

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Me of the whole affair, upon which I thought it was of the greatest importance to call a Council of the different Nations, which I did to day before some of them knew what these Indians came about; I told them we were already informed of the designs of the six Nations, particularly the Senecas, and that I knew there were Deputies from them to endeavour to involve the Nations here in a War which would certainly be their ruin. The Wendots owned in Council that the Deputies were in their Town, and that they believed they came upon no good intention, they all promised they would by no means be concerned with them. By the repeated intelligence I have had from people who are much in our interest, the scheme is, That the Chiefs of the Nations here, should go to a Council at Vandourky, where they would meet with several Chiefs of the six Nations, Delaware, & Shawanese, who are principally concerned, and that the six Nations had fixed upon a certain time to assemble at the head of French Creek about 25 Leagues from Presqu'Isle, and expected to be joined by a great many of the Nations who are gone to Niagara by Toronto; and at the same time the Delaware and Shawanese are to assemble upon the Ohio, & both commence hostilities at the same time by cutting off the communications and endeavouring to surprise the forts every where, and if the Nations here could be prevailed upon, they were to endeavour to surprise this place; the time fixed upon for beginning is about the end of this month. As there was several Traders from Pennsylvania with considerable quantities of Indian goods and ammunition at Vandourky, and which I understood they intended to seize upon, I sent last night a party of Traders Servants consisting of 50 Men armed to bring the goods here, which will be a great disappointment to them. I have put the Fort in the best posture of defence I could, and taken every method to prevent a surprise. I sent an express last night to Colonel Bouquet at Fort Pitt to advise him of this intelligence, and

And wrote to the Commanding Officer at Presque Isle to communicate it to the different posts upon that quarter.

I hope as this plot is discovered, they will not be able to do much mischief; but it is certain their intentions are bad.

There has been more Indians here this year than ever was known to be; in one season; a great many of them go to Niagara, as I allow no Rum to be sold here.

There are a good many traders here from Niagara, who have brought little else but Rum; the only supply of Indian goods has been from Fort Pitt.

I have the honour to be Sir

Immediately after Sir William Johnson's receiving the before mentioned Letters, and intelligence, he was overtaken by three Mohocks from Conajoharee, which place they had left in the morning with a belt of Wampum, and messages from their Nation to inform him that one of their people who had lived for several years at a Village beyond Chenusio had been told in confidence by one of the People where he resided that the Indians intended immediately to fall upon all our back settlements, and even to destroy the two Mohock castles as looking upon them to be entirely in the English interest. upon receiving which intelligence he fled away in order to give the Mohocks notice thereof. The Conajoharees therefore by a belt of wampum begged Sir William rather to return from prosecuting his journey than to expose himself to the dangers he must meet with in passing through a country of Indians, Enemies to the English, and whose faith could not be relied on. To which Sir William by another belt returned them for answer "That he took kindly of them to give him the before mentioned information, but hoped the Western Indians would consider well the consequences thereof, before they engaged in a design which must end in their ruin. That at any event he was determined to obey his orders by prosecuting his journey, & hoped by his timely arrival, to be able to put a stop to, or frustrate their designs." Upon which the Messengers were dismissed.

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July 17th Sir William Johnson being then at Fort Brewerton the West end of the Oneida Lake. Sequarisere Chief Sachem of Ganagsarageys came to his Tent in order to beg some powder to hunt with for the supports of his Family, and complained greatly of the dearth of goods, and the low prices of Beaver, & other furs after which Sir William asked him "whether any Deputies had been sent by the 5 Nations in the spring or Summer either to the Indians living about Detroit or to any other Nations of Indians;" to which he answered that there were some sent by the Senecas, and that the Cayugas were to have sent some also, but that on the arrival of a Cayuga Indian in the Senecas country, he was told it would not be prudent for him to go so far alone, and accordingly the Senecas went without him — whereupon Sir William asked Sequarisere the purport of their embassy. he replied that they were sent on behalf of the six Nations to perform the ceremony of condolence for the Indians who were killed in the battle near Niagara in 1759, after which ceremony they were to strengthen and renew the old Alliance subsisting between them — that as the Senecas alone were sent amongst the Western Indians, the Cayugas were to perform the same ceremony, & renew the Alliance in like manner at Cadarackqui with the Northern Indians — Inhabiting that quarter, and that on the return of the Deputies, a Meeting would be called at Onondaga, at which the result of both embassies would be made publickly to all the Indians of the Confederacy — After which Sir William finding him to be an intelligent Man told him that the Senecas who went to Detroit had acted a different part, but that we had discovered their plot, the particulars of which he informed him of, so far as he judged necessary and after laying before him the madness and folly of such an attempt, concluded with advising him

him, and all the Nations to exert themselves in frustrating any such measures should they still remain in agitation, otherwise His Majesty would be under the disagreeable necessity of making war upon them, which must inevitably end in their ruin.

The Indian seemed much surprised on hearing of the conspiracy, declaring in the most solemn terms that no such design had ever been agreed on by these Nations, neither had there been any such messages sent by them to the Detroit, or Cadarachqui meetings. That if there was any such thing in agitation it must come from the Senecas; and concluded with promising he would on his arrival at his castle acquaint the rest of the Sachems therewith, who without doubt would consult on the best measures for a discovery thereof, and for the preventing of its ill effects.

✓ Sir William then sent a string of Wampum by an Indian, to desire the Hunt, and other Chiefs of Onondaga to meet him at Oswego in order to talk over some business with them, as also to deliver the Medals sent by General Amherst, to all those of that Nation who accompanied the Army last year to Montreal. But on mentioning some particular chief he was informed by the Saccarora Sachem that they were gone on the Governor of Pennsylvania's invitation to attend a meeting in that Province, adding that his Nation, & the Oneidas had refused sending any Deputies thither.

July 19th Sir William Johnson arrived at Oswego.

— 20th Several Mississaga and other Indians came to his Tent, whom he informed, that the intent of his journey to Detroit, was to establish a lasting peace & friendship, with all the Nations of Indians, who should incline thereto, or desire His Britannick Majestys protection; as also to regulate, & put the trade on the best footing for the Indians, which the present state of Affairs would permit; and desired they would acquaint all their People, ^{to} what

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he told them — they seemed very well pleased with what they had heard, and promised to acquaint their Nation thereof on their return home — asked the reason of so many Men, and so much artillery passing by, Sir William informed them that some of the Troops were sent to finish the forts not yet completed, and the rest for garrisoning the Outposts surrendered to his Britannick Majesty by the Capitulation of Canada, which from the lateness of the season could not be effected the last Campaign, and that the Cannon, were for the several forts, and also for the Vessels on the Lakes —

Sir William sent a Spring of Wampum by Hagenguiragoa, a Chenusio Indian to desire a few Sachems of his Nation would meet him at Niagara in five, or six days at farthest — the Indⁿ set off in the afternoon, promising to be at Chenusio within 3 days — On his departure Sir William gave him a present —

P.M. — Onondagas arrived, and acquainted Sir William that 40 of their Nation were encamped about a mile from thence, & would attend him next morning. The Vessel on board of which Sir William was to proceed for Niagara being ready he desired the Messengers to return and acquaint the Sachems that he impatiently waited their arrival —

At a Meeting held at Oswego Tuesday July 21st with several Sachems, and Warriors of Onondaga —

Present

Sir William Johnson Bart^l

Major Duncan

Capt Grey & 50 Officers

of the

55th RegtLieut Guy Johnson acting as Secretary for Indⁿ Affairs

Upwards of 40 Sachems Warriors of Onondaga with Interpreters

Sir William Johnson opened the Conference by welcoming them to

to Oswego, and after proceeding thro' the usual ceremony of condolence, acquainted them with the reasons for his not calling them to a general Council since his return from Canada - Informed them of the pause of his Journey to the Detroit, of his discovery of the Indians evil intentions and proceedings there, which he cautioned them against having any hand in - and that he expected the five Nations would have attended the Meeting which he was going to call - Advised them to mind their hunting, and trade, and to behave friendly towards the English during his absence, and by no means to pay regard to any idle reports which might be circulated about the Country, tending to create a misunderstanding between the English and Indians -

Gave a belt of Wampum

Then proceeded as follows -

Brothers

His Excellency General Amherst being desirous to shew his regard to merit, having taken notice of the behaviour of all those Indians who, as became faithful Allies continued with the Army after the reduction of Fort Lewis, and proceeded with them to Montreal, has thought proper to have Medals struck in commemoration thereof, to be by me distributed amongst them as an honourable Mark of his approbation of their conduct, and which will entitle the wearers to some provisions, and good treatment at all the posts. It is with pleasure I now present you with those ordered for your Nation, and I flatter myself that you will on all occasions manifest the same zeal and attachment to his Majesty's ^{Service} which hath intitled you to this public mark of distinction.

Then delivered out the Medals for the Indians of that Nation -

After which they withdrew to consider on an answer, with which they returned in about an hour, whereupon the Speaker stood up & after returning many thanks for what Sir William had said to them, he went thro' the usual ceremony of condolence -

Gave three strings of Wampum -

Then

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Then pulling out a large belt which had been given them by Sir William, when they were called to go against Niagara, he proceeded—

Brother Warraghiyagey

On your setting out with the Army to the siege of Niagara you then promised us in a meeting with our Nation, that after the reduction thereof, and of the rest of the Country you would be enabled to regulate trade so as to reduce the exorbitant prices of goods, and likewise promised us good treatment for ever, should we exert ourselves in conjunction with the Army against the Enemy, which we cheerfully agreed to, and accordingly conducted you to Niagara and assisted you in taking it, as a value for the bounds which you had received— Notwithstanding which we find ourselves very much wronged, and ill treated by your people in trade, as well as frequently ill used without cause at the several posts— This proceeding so contrary to your promises, and our Expectations has greatly alarmed us, and been the cause of much uneasiness; we therefore entreat you that we may meet with better usage from the English for the future, otherwise, we shall be induced to believe what the French so often told us would be the consequence of your reducing them— Give a large belt

Brother

We are surprised to find you are going to call a Council at Détoit, as you know that the Chief, and the only Council fire burns at your House, excepting that which we have at Onondaga, beside, the Western Indians as Agrebow ought rather to have attended on you— You recommended it to us to mind our hunting and trade, and to live on good terms with our Brethren at the several posts, than which nothing would be more agreeable to our inclinations, but we are sorry to observe that our Brethren don't seem desirous of living on any good terms with us, from their frequent acts of Violence offered as well to us as to our women;

As

As also from their hindering us from fishing, or hunting about the
ports altho' in our own country, and frequently taken from us what
we have killed or taken, contrary to promise, and to the friendship
subsisting between us and you, We therefore beg Brother that you
will interpose, and see Justice done us, that we may a free, and
reasonable trade with powder allowed us, and that there may be
also Interpreters fixed at the several ports who may prevent any
future misunderstandings which otherwise may happen thro' our
not understanding the Language of each other

Brother

With regards to what you spoke to us concerning the intelligence
sent from Detroit, and to your kind cautions to us on that head,
whereby you advised us to avoid intring into any such idle project,
we can truly answer that we know nothing of any such plot, neither
are we, nor shall we get drunk, and suffer our heads to grow giddy,
being determined to hold fast the Covenant Chain, and hope you
will do the same on your parts so that we may live together to be grief
This belt which you have delivered us shall be sent to the several
Nations, our Allies, to acquaint them with what you say, and
with our resolutions thereon which we hope will be a precedent
for them to follow, and when they are all acquainted therewith
you will receive a belt in return

Brother

We esteem it a great favour that the General hath thought proper
to remember those Indians who attended him last year to Montreal
by rewarding them with Medals, and we return you thanks for
delivering them to us, assuring you that you may always depend
on our remaining true allies to the English; and altho' through a
misunderstanding which arose at that time several of ours, and
of the other Nations returned back after the taking of Fort Lewis
you may with great truth acquaint the General that it was
in no wise owing to their want of zeal and inclination to serve
the

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the English, as you must know that several of them have particularly distinguished themselves in your cause during all the rest of the war — Gave a Belt

Brother

Here is one of our People present named Kanadacta who has his hunting house near this place plundered (during the spring whilst he was absent hunting) of thirty buck skins, two kettles, Gun, Axes and other things by some of the English then going to Fort Williams Augustus, he therefore hopes you'll get him some redress, being greatly reduced thereby, and not having wherewithal to purchase cloathing &c — Gave a string

Brother

I now speak at the request of the Warriors who came here to see and wish you a good journey and safe return, and I am in their names to let you know, how much they are distressed for want of powder (which renders them unable to procure skins for trade and for the maintenance of their families) not being able to procure it even for their money, they therefore by this bunch of Wampum entreat you to consider their wants by letting them have a couple of barrels of powder, with a proportion of balls until your return, which they shall look upon as a favour never to be forgotten. Gave a large bunch of Wampum

The Speaker having ended, Sir William Johnson addressed them as follows

Brethren of the Onondagas &c

The belt which you just now laid before me with design to remind me of my former promises to you, I look upon as needles, since I have it on record, as well as all your promises, & conduct which can never be forgotten — The behaviour of many of your People last year in returning home and leaving the general and me at Isle Royale after the reduction thereof, has set you before

before us in so bad a light that neither the General, nor myself can think of serving you after such an unbrother like step; which, as well as some other parts of your Conduct, has occasioned our not entirely fulfilling all the promises made to you. However, if the promises you now make of preserving entire the Covenant Chain for the future be sincere (which will be your own interest) you may in that case, expect we shall treat you as friends, indulge you with a plentiful trade, and not permit any of our People to molest, or ill treat you undeservedly without meeting with punishment; the General being determined to act with the utmost impartiality, and not permit either the English, or you to commit crimes with impunity.

Brethren

Yours abt

Our conquests in this Country being at present very considerable, our trade and Alliances must of course be more extensive than heretofore. It will therefore be necessary to have other meetings and places of trade than my House, & Onondaga, neither can you be in the least surprised, when you observe that we have Agents for the Management of Indian Affairs in several quarters namely Pittsburgh and Montreal, the better to keep up a good understanding with, and strengthen the extensive Alliances which continue to encrease by the acquisitions of Nations, who are daily coming into, and uniting themselves with us, which they are induced to from our Clemency, as well as from a Consideration how much it is their Interest so to do. I therefore recommend it to you to live on the best terms with all such Indians.

With regard to any ill treatment which your people may receive at any of the Posts, I am induced to think it must be chiefly owing to their own ill behaviour when in liquor, for which reason, I now recommend it to you to lay aside the immoderate use thereof, which, if you do, I am certain you will meet with no ill treatment undeservedly. I would likewise advise you not to waste away too much of your time about

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about the posts, which you can so much better employ in hunting for the maintenance of your families, and on my return I shall provide Interpreters to reside at the principal Forts, who I hope may be a means of preventing any further disputes, arising between the English and you, from the want of understanding each others meaning —

Brethren

I am very glad to hear you profess yourselves strangers and enemies to the plot we lately discovered, — if you act wisely you will continue in that disposition, nor readily engage in an affair which must prove your ruin, and I make no doubt but on your communicating your resolutions to the other Nations of holding fast the Covenant Chain, and living in friendship with us, they will readily follow so laudable an example, which will be the only way of living to be grey-headed, and which I heartily wish you may do —

Brethren

If the person who robbed Ganadacta's hunting house could be found, or was known, he should be punished in such manner as the nature of the crime deserves, and proper satisfaction made to the sufferer, but until he be discovered, he can have no satisfaction therein — I shall however on my return consider his losses by giving him some clothing &c. —
Gave a spring

Brethren

As I am pleased with your professions of friendship & behaviour at this Meeting, and being sensible of your distresses, I shall speak to the Commanding Officer of this Garrison to let you have two Casks of powder for your families support, and hope you'll shew yourselves deserving of that, or of any other favours which may be conferred on you, and which your conduct alone must entitle you to hope for —
gave a large bunch of black & white Wamp.

Mr William Johnson then informed them that soon after his return home, he purposed to call a Mutt of the 6 Nations in order to strengthen the Covenant Chain settle all matters on the best footing, after which he took leave, & the Conference ended,

Before Sir William Johnson embarked for Niagara he received a Letter from his Excellency General Amhurst, of which the following is a copy—

Sir

Albany 11th July 1764

I have this morning received the favour of your Letter of the 7th Instant, from the German flatts, where I see you have met the Chief Men of the Oneida, and Tuscarora Nations, who were on their way to your House, to settle matters relative to the Murder lately committed by an Indian. Their excuse of not knowing where the Murderer is gone, I take it, is a made one, to avoid giving him up which I must persist in, as far as depends on me, that he may be brought to justice, and that the civil power may bring its Jurisdiction in force—

As to what they say of two of their People being heretofore murdered, for which they have met with no redress, there seems to have been a Neglect in that, but that is no reason why the present Murderer, is not to be brought to justice; at that way of going on there will be no end to these mischiefs—

The Indians may be assured I will protect them in their Lands; whether they dispose of them, or not, is intirely at their own options; I shall never force them to dispose of any, but will secure them in what they have; and not otherwise—Interfere with their Lands, than by taking such posts as I may think necessary, for ensuring the protection of this country for the King; this I will always do as far as I shall judge proper; and the Indians may be assured I shall always use them as they deserve; Reward them as far as it is in my power, if they merit it, and punish them if they deserve it.

Their complaints of the dearth of Indian goods, must be greatly owing to an Abuse in the traders, which I am glad to find

Yours

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You intend to regulate in the best manner you can; Fear the people to whom you give ~~papers~~ ^{papers} misuse the liberty you give them of carrying of small quantities of rum, and that they take nothing else; If this was better regulated, I should think, it would greatly help to supplying the Indians with things that are proper for them—

You will see by a letter I sent you from Capt Campbell that he complains that the Traders from Niagara, which of course, go from Oswego, carry nothing with them but rum—

I do not doubt but all the Nations will complain of not having powder sufficient; but I am for giving it to them, with as sparing a hand as possible—

General Monckton writes me words that he has sent orders, for forwarding Cattle from Pittsburgh to the Detroit for you; that Mr Brogham set out from New York, on the 4th for Pennsylvania; I hope he will meet you in time and that you will be supplied with as much fresh provisions as you will want—

There is a report in New York, that Lord Bollo has taken St. Dominick which probably may be true—

The lowness of the waters must certainly render your journey tedious; but I am in hopes you will be able to get all your Battcaus on, without damaging your presents, and I sincerely wish you a successful and pleasant Journey—

I am with great regard &c

P.M. Sir William Johnson, Col Dye, John Johnson Esq^r and Lieut Guy Johnson, &c embarked on board of the Anson Schooner for Niagara, where they arrived the 24th July in the Morning, when Sir William ^{he} landed, and was received by Major Walker of the R. American Regt. who delivered him a letter, together with Minutes of a Conference held at the Detroit, of which the following are copies—

+ Copy of a Letter from Capt Campbell, Commandant at the Detroit
to Sir William Johnson Bart - Dated Detroit 17th July 1761 -
Sir

I take the liberty to send you a copy of a Council held with
the Indian Nations of Detroit at the desire of two Seneca Deputies
from the six Nations, by which you will easily see that the six
Nations have for some time past had very bad designs against the
English - They came here about three weeks ago, and invited the
Nations to a Council at Sandowisky, with the Delawares, Shawanes,
and other Nations, but as I had been informed before of their
designs, I prevented the Nations here, from going there; upon
their refusing to go with them, they went back to Sandowisky,
where they met with the other Nations, who refused to take up the
hatchets without the consent of the Nations here, upon which
they returned and held the Council, the copy of which will inform
you fully of every particular of the affair - Before I had this
information, I was frequently alarmed with the reports that the
six Nations spread amongst the Nations here, who were at
Niagara by telling them that they were soon to strike the
English, and in general giving them a bad opinion of the English.
If there is any merit in the discovery, I owe it entirely to the
Wiandot, and Ottawa Interpreters who I beg leave to recommend
to you for their behaviour in this affair - After all we could do
there was a strong party amongst the Wiandots whom you know
leads the other Nations here -

I am hopeful this discovery will disconcert their project,
I have been at all pains to satisfy the Indians, but beg leave
to mention to you, that without our being at some considerable
expence with them, till matters are a little more settled, it will
be impossible to keep them in our interest. As they have been in use
to

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to be entirely supported by the French — several party have gone to war against the Cherokees, but I am told have been stopped by the Shawanees, and sent home without doing any thing — The Senecas tell me there are Deputies from the Cherokees, and other Southern Indians in their Country, who wait for their return to know the sentiments of the Natives here — When we took possession of this Country M^r Croghan at the desire of the Indians employed the Smiths here to mend their Arms & hatchets which, as we had immense numbers of Indians here — will amount to a larger sum than we expected, but at sometime it would be of bad consequence to retrench that expence in our present critical situation —

The great quantities of Rum brought to Niagara, and here by the Albany traders is of the most pernicious consequence — I allow none to be sold here, which obliges the Indians to go for it to Niagara from whence they bring it in great quantities — which makes them troublesome and ill to manage —

As I am certain this abuse is without your knowledge, I thought it my duty to let you know of it, and notwithstanding of the Number of traders from Albany, we should have little else but Rum, had it not been for the traders from Pennsylvania, and Mr Sterling from New York, who are the only people that have brought any considerable quantities of goods for the Indians —

I am with the greatest respect &c

Copy of the Conference sent by Capt Campbell
to Sir William Johnson Bart

At a Council held at the Wiandot Town near Fort Detroit
3^d July 1761. by the Deputies of the six Nations with the Ottawas,
Wiandots, Chipewighs, and Pointe-aux-Lacs —
Sahaworis

Tahaiadoris, and Hayachston Senecas, and Deputies from the Six Nations delivered twenty strings, and three belts of Wampum to the above Nations, with several speeches, tending to accommodate all differences between them, and particularly that the actions between them at Niagara (in which they say many warriors were slain on both sides) might be entirely forgotten, they then delivered four strings of Wampum with the following speech—
When the English took possession of Detroit they willingly permitted your young Men to go to war against their ancient enemies the Cherokees, but we now desire and request that they may not go to war against them but remain at home for sometimes: we have now finished all we had to say with respect to Affairs between you and us—

They then produced a large red belt, by them termed the War hatchet, and addressing themselves particularly to the Wiandots, made the following speech—

As you are the leading Nation here, you have only to say the word the others will follow your example; we invite you by this belt, to cut off the English at Fort Detroit, to which if you agree, it will give us the greatest joy and pleasure; with cheerfulness we will return home to our Nation, and endeavour to do the same with the Garrison at Niagara and Fort Pitt— The English treat us with much disrespect, and we have the greatest reason to believe, by their behaviour they intend to cut us off entirely; they have possessed themselves of our Country, it is now in our power to dispossess them and recover it, if we will embrace the opportunity before they have time to assemble together, and fortify themselves there, there is no time to lose, let us strike immediately, our Warriors are all ready prepared and impatiently wait till they hear from you—

The Nations declined giving them a direct answer, but came with them the following day being the 4th Inst to Fort Detroit, and

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And in open Council in presence of Capt Campbell, Commandant and several other Gentlemen, declared the whole of the Conference, that had passed between them the preceding day, and delivered up to him the Warbelt, in presence of the Deputies of the six Nations to their great astonishment — Sahaiadoris one of the Deputies on seeing the belt given up, stood up, and in great fervour expressed himself in the following manner — Being it is thus far discovered I myself will declare the whole affair from the beginning, and accordingly after relating what had passed in Council between them the day before, continued repeating farther grievances — against the English, and said that the belt which he had delivered to the Wiandots &c and they had now given up, was not the real war hatchet, but a copy of the true original one which was left with the Onondagas —

Capt Campbell then addressed himself to the Wiandots and other Nations with them in the following manner —
My Friends and Brethren

I return you my hearty and sincere thanks for the important discovery you have made of the bad designs of the six Nations against the English, your prudently rejecting their proposals of war, & the means you have used to put a stop to it, yields me the greatest satisfaction, I shall immediately acquaint his Excellency Gen. Amhurst of your good behaviour, and friendship to the English, and shall take particular care that you be constantly treated as friends & Allies, which I hope you will always continue to be —

He then delivered a belt of wampum to the Deputies of the six Nations with the following speech —

I am very much surprised at this extraordinary behaviour of the six Nations, who have been always hitherto esteemed our greatest Friends, and are now not only threatening to become our enemies, but inviting other Nations to take up the Hatchet against us —

You see your designs are discovered, and will be disconcerted every where, by this belt of wampump I advise you with all my heart, and in the most friendly manner, to return home, and ardently recommend it to your Chief, and those of other Nations in concert with you to quit their bad intentions, and live in peace, for, if they proceed in their designs against the English, it will terminate in their utter ruin and destruction.

The Council was then dissolved for that Day. On the 5th they assembled again, when each of the several Nations delivered four strings, and a belt of wampump to the Deputies of the six Nations, and addressed themselves in this manner.

We return you thanks for the agreeable proposals of friendship you offered us, and forgetting the grievances that have happened between us, but by no means approve of your proposing to go to war against the English, we desire you will desist from your design as it is contrary to our inclinations that there should be any disturbances, we now think ourselves happy being in peace and quiet, but if you go on to engage in conjunction with other Nations against the English, we shall look upon you as disturbers of the public tranquillity, and will be obliged to interpose to put a stop to your proceedings, and restore peace and quiet again in the Land.

Sahadadoris answered and thanked them for the friendly advice they had given him, said notwithstanding the six Nations had great reason to be angry with the English, that peace was best, that the Nations and the English had now opened their eyes, that he would bury all bad thoughts and forget the injuries done against them by the English, that he would return home and acquaint the Chiefs of the six Nations, and all others in conjunction with them, of the desire, and intentions of the Nations at Detroit and would recommend it to them in the most ardent manner to lay aside all thoughts of war, and live in peace.

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He then addressed himself in particular to Capt Campbell, told him that if he had the good fortune to get home before any hostilities were committed, he would endeavour to put a stop to their bad intentions, would recommend it to the Chiefs to go and assemble at Sir William Johnsons in order to hold a Council with him, and make up all differences, and after it was finished would immediately return to Detroit to acquaint Capt Campbell and the Nations here with whatever should pass between them, and Sir William Johnson at the Council. The above is a true copy of the Council as it is explained to me by the Interpreters —

Donald Campbell
Capt R. A. Regt.

July 25th A.M. some Senecas complained to Sir William Johnson of their having been robbed of 4 Horses &c. by the Garrison of Niagara, and that one of their people was shot in the breast, and arm, by a shot from one of the soldiers at Little Niagara. Sir William thereupon made them a present in order to satisfy them. Another Indian complained of his brothers having been killed by some of the Garrison at Venango without any cause, which occasioned the rest of the people of that settlement to break up, & go to Chenusio very much discontented.

P.M. Major Gladwin with 300 men of General Gages Regt of Light armed foot, who were ordered to explore the Lakes Huron and Michigan for which purpose Vessels were building near Lake Erie to accompany them.

27th Sir William settled with Major Walters & Gladwin the Number of men necessary to be sent for taking possession of, & garrisoning the several outposts. Viz. 2 Subalterns & 60 Men, with what Number Capt Campbell might spare from Detroit, being judged sufficient for 3 posts which were as many as Major Gladwin apprehended he could visit, from the lateness of the season. Sir William gave Major Gladwin a letter for Capt Campbell at Detroit to acquaint the Indians there, of the Troops being on their way, and the cause thereof, to prevent their being alarmed at their

their appearance; also a Letter to M^r Broghams, with orders to proceed to Deboits with the Indians — These letters were to be sent with any Officer, in a boat to Sandousky, where he was to wait until M^r Broghams arrived.

At a Meeting held at Niagara Tuesday July 28th

Present

Sir William Johnson Bart.

Col. Dyre of the 14th Regt

Major Walters

John Johnson Esq^r Lieut Guy Johnson as Secretary

Duboyne Interpreter

Wabicomnicott Chief of the Shipeweighs, with several others of that Nation.

Sir William addressed them as follows

Brethren

I take this occasion of calling you here, to welcome and shake you by the hand, as also to return your thanks for your good behaviour and friendly inclination towards the English, of all which I have been informed since my arrival at this place; I therefore now give you this public testimony of my satisfaction at your behaviour.

Brethren

Gave a string of Wampum

See many belts of Wampum, and Calumets of peace which hang in this Room, convince me of your, and of the Neighbouring Nations good intentions, and the just sense which you all entertain of the blessings arising from peace and our friendship — continue still firm in these sentiments so essential to your own happiness — keep up a good correspondence with this Garrison, behave yourselves soberly and peaceably whilst here, or at any other place where you may meet with your Brethren the English, by which means you may be always assured of their favour and protection.

Gave a belt of Wampum

Brethren

1. The Command^{rs} Room in the Fort where conferences are held, & where all the Belts on which the Indians spoke were hung up.

1761
July

Brethren

As I am now on my way to Detroit where I hope at a meeting of the several Nations there, to establish a firm, and lasting peace, and put all matters on the most permanent footing, I shall be glad to have some Sachems present from your Nation, in order that they might communicate to your people, the business which may be transacted at that Conference, and the mutual engagements there entered into between the Indians and us. — after this General Meeting I shall to the best of my judgment regulate the trade there, and endeavor to the satisfaction of both Indians, and Traders, and I make no doubt but your future good conduct will sufficiently testify the sense which you have of our friendship, and the assistance which we afford to render your flourishing people —

Sir William having finished what he had to say, Wablicoind returned him hearty thanks for the speech which he had delivered to them, which he said they would always have at heart, & take particular notice of. — He then produced their pipe, or Calumet of peace, which he presented to Sir William and all present to smoke out of it, saying that the smoke arising therefrom, would reach the clouds and be seen by the most distant Nations —

He then begged Sir William would look at his appearance, that the dress then on him, and which was his best would scarcely cover him, and hoped he would not be surprised that they were not able to cloath themselves by reason of their being debared the liberty of purchasing ammunition to kill game for their food, or of trade; and concluded by requesting Sir William would take their case into consideration, and also order them some provisions, of which they stood in the greatest need; and that as soon as they had considered on a proper answer to what he had said, they would attend him therewith —

The Conference ended for this day

An Onondaga Indian just arrived from Detroit, who had been present at the Meeting held there between the two Seneca Deputies.

and

And the western Indians, informed Sir William that what had passed thereat was chiefly spoken in Chabert Soncains name, who before he was made prisoner recommended it to the Senecas that in case the French should be conquered, they were to propose to the other Nations to unite, and fall upon the English. The Indian was of opinion that many of the Ottawas were not yet well inclined towards us, — but that the Wiandots seemed to be entirely our friends. — That they asked him whether his Nation was concerned in the affair with the Senecas and on his declaring they were not, the Wiandots seemed vastly pleased.

Copy of Sir William Johnsons Letter to Gen Amherst
Dated Niagara July 29th 1761.

Sir / Altho' I did myself the honour of writing your Excellency the 24th of June, of the traders, I would not let slip so favourable an opportunity as this of Col Pipes return, to inform you that since my last, I had a meeting with several chiefs of the Chipewigh Nation & some Missagies to whom I expressed my satisfaction at the good character I had received of them, and after communicating their intention of my journey recommended it to them to continue to deserve our friendship & protection which was so essential to their own interest. — Desired them to send some of their Sachems to be present at the gen^l meeting at Detroit, who might be able to acquaint their Nations with what might pass at said meeting, and inform them of the mutual engagements entered into thereat by the several Nations of Indians and us, & concluded with promising to use all my endeavours for the better regulating of trade, & with assuring them of our friendship so long as their conduct deserved it. — The Chief of the Chipewighs returned many thanks for what I had said, and after smoking out of one pipe together, according to their custom, the smoke of which they prayed would ascend so high as to be seen by all the Nations over the Lakes. — they begged I would consider their necessities, having scarcely cloaths to cover them, not being able to trade as they were deprived the liberty of buying powder, shot, and