

came here Some time ago, as far as in my power, that I expect they will not Seek any revenge after w^t. they promised, & that I desire they will Send this Belt to all their Villages & acquaint them with what has been done in the Affair, and that they will not look upon what one Man does as a Sufficient reason to break with a People who disapprove of that Action as much as they do, & on whom they depend for every necessary of life. concluded with desiring them to keep in mind what engagements their Cheifs have from time to time entered into with me.

A Belt—

After I had finished ³ rose up & returned many thanks for the friendly Advice I had given them, promised to do every thing I required faithfully, & Said he was certain My Words would afford y^e. greatest Satisfaction, & the Steps I had before taken when y^e. other Deputies were here, would be a healing Balsam to y^e. wounds they rec^d. —

He then with 3 Strings of Wampum requested I would provide properly for their return, such as Cloathing them their Wives & Children, [finding] Supplying them wth. provision for their long Journey, paying for riding their Boats &c^a. over the Carrying places, and above all to let them have plenty of Rum for their Journey, and some to drink wth. their Cheifs on their return. —

All which I promised Should be done & that every thing Should be ready next Morning, also a p^r. of Colours. — for wth. they returned many thanks.

Paupinash the Cheif of y^e. Messissagaes w^h.
Tes, capuech, y^e. 1st. Cheif who came here.

³ Blank in the manuscript.

FROM DANIEL CLAUS

A. D^y.¹

Montreal 8th. July 1772

DEAR & HONORED SIR

The bearer [— my last] W^m. Johnson having been unlucky enough as to burn his Leg last Winter in such a Manner & very near to loose it and obliged to be brought to this Place by Sr. John who he says has saved his & several Traders lives in the Neighbourhood where they wintered, and is just now able to walk a little & on his way to where he lives. I embrace the Opportunity of writing by him and to acquaint you that I was in my way hither to go to Quebec but the night before my leaving this was seized with a slight fit in my left Foot, w^{ch}. stopd me & for w^{ch}. I am sorry there being [a] great Doings here between some Traders of this Place (Mr. Chin being at the head) and the Indians of the Lake or Caneghsadagey. The latter after several Years Application to prevent Traders from coming among s^d. Indians (them) to their hunting Grounds³ w^{ch}. they have always occupied & claimed from the Long Sault or fall in Outawa or grand River, to Lake Nipisin where no Traders ever resorted to in the time of the french and seeing their Ruin drawing near and no Prospect of Redress the 3 Nat^s. agreed in Council to send 3 Canoes manned to the Number of 25 Men and bring down 2 or 3 of those Traders with their Merchandise and w^{ch}. was executed & the Frontiers safely & quickly conducted to the End of the []
Montreal. The Reasons the Indians give of their disliking Traders on their hunting Grounds are, Their bringing Liquor with them by which they prevent them to follow their hunting and their [young] people knowing [where] Liquor [is to be had] being so near to be had whenever they have a Beaver Skin &c^a. they go and drink it & thereby their families are left destitute of

¹ In Canadian Archives, Claus Papers, Vol. I.

² Words italicized and in brackets are crossed out in manuscript.

³ On the margin at this point is written: "for me as well as for the Govr. of the Pro^v. himself."

1772/7/11

The Papers of Sir William Johnson Vol XII
Albany: University of the State of New York, 1957.

ML E95 S63 A4 192 v 12

Necessaries throuout the whole Year, the Love of Liquor also tempts them to rob their Neighbours hunting Ground & [getting] has occasioned several Murders among themselves [hunting game out of season to the prejudice [of trade] of their hunt & a Family being last fall detained by Drunkenness could not reach their hunting place [were overtaken] on acct of [by] a deep Snow had nothing to live upon & Necessity obliged them to devour [some] their Children &c^a. so that thro the pernicious practice of these Traders they are exposed to the greatest Miseries & Calamities, their Village in Confusion many of their People [not having] being ashamed to [come] home these several Years past being naked & nothing to bring to Market. These and many more are their Reasons of Complaint all which I have laid before Gov^r. Carleton, & last Year Lt. Gov^r. Cramahé⁵ seemingly to no purpose so that the Ind^s, at last were compelled to the above Expedient in their own Defence; but the Traders abuse them and defy them to hinder them & that they would go there armed & repell love by force, w^{ch}. are silly Expressions and have been told the Ind^s, who are very warm about & dare them in their Turn, so that if Govern^t. dont interfere [hose] such perhaps may [get] draw an Indⁿ. war upon them w^{ch}. these Runsellers dont care for so their Interest is served [suffers] [and] was it even all the Trade in the upper Countries knocked up and the Crown put to a great expense w^{ch}. soon would be the Case if any [thing should happen] Insult should be offered the Arundan & Skaghaere Nations at Caneghsady, who are connected with all the upper Nations. I plainly foresee that the Trade must soon be confined to the Posts after all the Lies of the Canada Traders to the contrary tho they brag away that they will cut out all the other Colonies in Ind^a. Trade & if the Ottawa River should be stopp up it would be all over with them; they carry immense Quantities of Ammunition

⁴ Governor Guy Carleton.

⁵ Hector Theophilus Cramahé, appointed in 1771 lieutenant governor of the Province of Quebec.

⁶ "I have cautioned them and they have promised me not to be the Aggressors." Footnote at bottom of the letter.

never heard of before among the Ind^s. w^{ch}. seems impossible the Latter all consume but must hord it up, and Billy Johnston may give you some particulars about, there should I think [be] some Notice taken of it as there seems to be some thing brewing among the Ind^s. [about Detroit] some french Traders coming from the upper Countries being asked by some Indians in their way if the Ind^s. ab^t. Detroit had not given a Blow as yet. They robbed a Canadian Trader near Cataragui of his Cargo consisting of Rum & provisions & sent him home again. A English Trader I hear was shot at Sandusky

D. CLAUS

FROM TIMOTHY WOODBRIDGE

A.L.S.¹

Stockbridge 15th. July 1772

HONRBLE. SR.

I am desired to write to you by one Mr. Shepard and others who are concerned in procuring a patent of a Tract of Land lying in the Colony of New-York lying about Sixteen miles east of what is Called the New City, containing, I am informed by the plat of the Survey about 4000 acres: This Tract of Land This Mr. Shepard and other partners have been along Time in persuit of obtaining a title from the Governor and council of New York. Those people who are endeavouring to obtain a patent of the Said Tract, say it lies unpatented and is certainly crown Land and Their only obstacle is about the Indian title. Your Honor may remember, some, Six or eight years ago I waited on you at Johnsons Hall in order to ascertain the different claims of the Mohock and M'ihkekun Tribes, and afterward you procured a Settlement and division between the Two Nations under your Own Seal and the Seals of the said Tribes which compact or agreement came to my hands but I am not able to find it, whether

¹ In New York State Library, Taylor-Cooper Collection, property of William Leland Thompson.