



Letter to the Indians Assembled at the Rapids of the Miami

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DATE: 1793

LOCATION: Swarthmore College

AUTHOR:

SUMMARY: Letter written at Detroit by the delegation of Friends appointed to attend the Treaty of Sandusky encouraging the peaceful settlement of differences with the government.

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Detroit June 15th 1793

To the Indians

Assembled at the Rapids of the Miami

Brothers;

We who send you this Letter are of the People called Quakers, and have left our homes and Families in Pennsylvania & New Jersey and taken this long Journey to see you purely from motives of Love and good will, and to endeavour to promote peace. We have been now five Weeks at Detroit waiting for the opening of the Treaty at Sandusky, where we expected to have seen you all, but as we have heard a number of your People are gone to Niagara to meet the Commissioners, we do not know but the business may be so concluded there, as that they may come no further

Brothers,

We have brought with us ~~from~~ an Address to you from our Brethren at Home, which we are very desirous of presenting to you with our own hands, if an opportunity can be had. — It is also in our Hearts to acquaint you that we consider all Men as the Children of one common Father, and think it our duty to Love all as Brothers. — We believe it displeases the Great & Good Spirit when Men injure and kill one another, therefore we ~~can~~ ^{but when any dispute arises, we leave it to be settled by disinterested & impartial persons and never go to war on any occasion} endeavour to do justice, ~~and never go to war~~ — We have been made very sorrowful on account of the War and Bloodshed between the United States and our Indian Brethren, and want much to see you, that we may open our hearts more fully than we can do by writing, for

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Transcription

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we are fully convinced that by looking up to the Great Spirit for Counsel, all differences may be settled without fighting and killing one another, which we think is very cruel, and attended with many distressing circumstances both to you and the White People. Our Society have experienced for more than One hundred Years great advantage and satisfaction in living peaceably with all Men, and are very desirous you may enjoy the same benefits, and to that end were made willing to expose themselves, — encounter hardships and spend our substance to promote Peace and Love between you, and the Government of the United States.

We pray the Good Spirit that He may put an end to the ravages of War and unite all Men as Brethren, that being bound together by one great Chain of Love and Friendship that cannot be broken, we may all seek the happiness of each other in this life, and be prepared for the enjoyment of everlasting happiness in the Life which is to come

Copy of Address to the
Indians
Oct. 17th 1793

Transcription

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