

MEMORIAL

OF

THE CHIEFS AND PRINCIPAL MEN OF THE ONEIDA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN,

PRAYING

To have secured to them the quiet possession of their reservation.

APRIL 8, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

ONEIDA INDIAN RESERVATION,
Oneida, Brown County, Wisconsin, February 23, 1872.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, chiefs of the First Christian Party of Oneida Indians, residing near Green Bay, Wisconsin, together with the principal head-men and warriors of said party, desire to solicit the protection of the Indian commission of our church against the efforts of those persons who are trying to disturb the present prosperous condition of our tribe.

Some of our friends wish to divide our land to us in severalty; many of our people are willing this should be done, providing it can be done fairly and justly, and to the satisfaction of all our people, and by some plan whereby we should still continue a tribe, and still continue to hold our reservation entire, as we do now, by the treaty already ratified and confirmed; but we think that, as our farms, houses, and barns, of which we each have the undisputed use and control of his or her own, are already located; and as more than half of the valuable timber has been cut from the lands which are held in common, the proceeds of which the tribe has received in common, and many large tracts of land entirely stripped of all timber by the tribe in common, and thus is now of no value; and it is plainly unjust to deprive a part of our people, as division in severalty must do, of the benefit of their share in the balance of the timber; and as division must make some of us rich, while it makes others poor; and as we are now prospering finely as we are; and as we shall continue to prosper more and more when we are satisfied that we can remain in the undisturbed possession of our reservation, we think that it is better for us to hold our lands as we do now, and therefore we ask you to help us hold our lands as we now do.

Again, some of our friends wish us to become citizens of the United States at once, and the legislature of Wisconsin has passed, or are about to pass, a resolution to petition Congress to pass a bill making us citizens, without our knowledge or consent. Not twenty of our people desire to become citizens, and not over one-half of them are capable of the duties of citizens; and we prefer to judge for ourselves of the proper time when we ought to become citizens, and desire to have secured to us the right to think and act for ourselves in our own affairs.

From many efforts that have already been made to deprive us of our reservation here, and from threats and wishes that have been openly made, we fear that serious attempts are soon to be made to disturb us in the

quiet possession of our reservation. We are too poor to send delegates to Washington to look after our welfare, as the whites have done to promote the efforts being made against us; we therefore earnestly appeal to you to use all your influence with the President and the Government, as well as with the Congress, to defeat every effort that may be made to disturb us in the quiet possession of our reservation; we do this the more confidently, because you are members of the Episcopal Church, to the influence of which, in our behalf, we owe it, in a great degree, that our title to this reserve was confirmed to us in the first place.

We are, very sincerely, your brethren in the bonds of Christian love.

<i>Chiefs First Christian Party.</i>			
DANIEL WEBSTER, his mark	1	LOUIS HILL, his mark	3
CORNELIUS HILL	2	HONYOST STEVENS, his mark	5
BAPTIST DOXTATOR	5	Per C. HILL.	
MATINAS KING, his mark	6	LEWIS WOODMAN, his mark	6
HENRY POWERS, his mark	8	JOHN THOMAS	5
PAUL POWLESS, his mark	3	JOHN REED, his mark	4
Per HENRY POWLESS.		Per C. HILL.	
HENRY SMITH	7	CORNELIUS BAIRD, his mark	6
HENRY K. COOPER	8	JACOB HILL, his mark	6
ISAIAH COOPER	4	PETER SWAMP, his mark	2
Per H. K. COOPER.		JEMISON HILL, his mark	2
JOHN HILL, his mark	8	JONATHAN SMITH, his mark	6
HENRY JOHN, his mark	3	ABRAM KING, his mark	10
WILLIAM HILL, his mark	5	HENDRICK SMITH, his mark	2
KATHERINE ANTONE, her mark	6	ADAM PETERS, his mark	6
SUSAN ANTONE, her mark	2	ADAM BAIRD, his mark	8
ISAAC ANTONE, his mark	6	GEORGE BAIRD, his mark	4
ELIZABETH JOHN, her mark	1	LOUIS CALERY	18
KLEEKE WEBSTER, her mark	6	ELIJAH POWLESS, his mark	3
PHEBE JOHN, her mark	10	PETER POWLESS, his mark	7
MARGARET HILL, her mark		Per E. POWLESS.	
Name taken off by husband's compul-		SOLOMON JOHN	4
sion.		CORNELIUS DOXTATOR, his mark ..	9
JANE REED, her mark	6	Per B. DOXTATOR.	
JOHN BAIRD, his mark	7	PAUL DOXTATOR, his mark	5
Per WM. HILL.		Per B. DOXTATOR.	
ELIZABETH DOXTATOR, her mark ..	2	HONYOST SMITH, his mark	8
JOHN ARCHEQUET	5	Per B. DOXTATOR.	
DANIEL A. NIMHAM	5	LEWS ELM	9
MARTINUS ATSIQUITTE	3	PETER HUFF, his mark	1
WILLIAM ARCHEQUETTE, his mark ..	6	Per B. DOXTATOR.	
NICHOLAS ATSIQUETTE, his mark ..	5	PETER POWLESS, his mark	5
AARON ARCHEQUETTE, his mark ..	2	PETER WEBSTER, his mark	7
HENRY CHRISTJOHN, his mark	1	ANTHONY DOXTATOR, his mark ..	6
THOMAS JOHN, his mark	4	CORNELIUS SMITH, his mark	3
DAVID CHRISTIAN, his mark	2	PETER WEBSTER, Jr., his mark	2
Per H. CHRISTIAN.		Per P. WEBSTER.	
JOHN CHRISTIAN, his mark	3	ABRAM HILL, his mark	5
SALLY HONYOST, her mark	2	Per P. WEBSTER.	
Per T. JOHN.		AARON SMITH, his mark	6
COBUS PETERS, his mark	2	JOHN STEVENS, his mark	2
Per H. CHRISTIAN.		ABRAM ELM, his mark	3
PETER HILL, his mark	6	ELIZABETH SWAMP, her mark	5
		HENRY BEAR, his mark	6

Names signed and marks made in the presence of—

LOUISA BREWSTER.

NOTE.—The figures refer to the number of persons represented by the signers.

FRANCES A. GOODNOUGH.

EDWARD C. KEMBLE,

Secretary of the Executive Committee,

Indian Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church,

22 Bible House, New York.