

INDIANS—STOCKBRIDGE, WISKONSIN.

PETITION

OF THE

STOCKBRIDGE NATION OF INDIANS IN WISKONSIN,

FOR

*Remuneration for the expenses of their removal from New York; and
that the title to their lands be guarantied to them by the United States:*

FEBRUARY 6, 1840.

Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States in Congress assembled:*

The memorial of the sachem, counsellors, and principal men of the Stock-
bridge nation of Indians, resident in the Territory of Wiskonsin, on
behalf of themselves and their people,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That about a century ago, the Miami tribe of Indians, who then owned
and occupied an extensive tract of country in the present States of Indiana
and Ohio, made a grant of a tract of land situated upon White river, in the
State of Indiana, to the Delaware, Stockbridge, and Munsee tribes. From
the time of making that grant until its purchase by the United States, it
was frequently referred to, and confirmed by, the Miamies in their councils.
In the year 1808, an instrument was drawn up, in writing, in conformity
with the custom in such cases adopted by the United States, which was
duly signed, and sealed, and witnessed by the late Thomas Jefferson and
Henry Dearborn, then President and Secretary of War: this instrument
was filed in the War Office. This grant was subsequently recognised and
acknowledged by the Miamies, in the second article of the treaty, made and
concluded at Fort Wayne, on the 30th of September, 1809; and the right
of the Stockbridge or Mohecan tribe to an interest in the lands on White
river has never been disputed; but, on the contrary, has at all times been
recognised and deemed valid by the agents of the United States.

The Stockbridge or Mohecan nation, being then resident in the State of
New York, finding the tract of country which they then owned too limited
in extent for their wants, determined to seek in the west a new home
and a resting-place where they would be farther removed from the many

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temptations which then surrounded them, and from those evils under the influence of which their people were fast diminishing.

While thus deliberating upon the propriety of a removal to the lands upon the White river, (where a number of their people had several years previously resided,) they received, in the year 1818, from the Delawares, information that the United States had proposed to purchase the country, including the White river lands, and advising the Stockbridges to be present at the treaty: on receipt of the information, a sale of a part of the lands, which the tribe then owned in New York, was made to the State, to enable a part of the tribe to remove to the country. But, from the delays incident to the removal of a party of fifty or sixty, for the most part composed of aged or young persons, the difficulties which they had to encounter in providing means for their expenses and subsistence, and the few modes of conveyance in existence at so early a period, the party did not reach its place of destination until a few days after the conclusion of the treaty of St. Mary's, of 1818, between the United States and the Delawares. By that treaty, the Delawares alone ceded to the United States the country embracing the White river tract; and this was done without the knowledge or consent of the said Stockbridge or Mohecan tribe, and in direct violation of the previously acknowledged right of that tribe to those lands. The party which emigrated in 1818, entered upon the lands on White river, and remained there until their removal to Green Bay, some years afterwards. Finding that they had been thus wrongfully deprived of their just rights, but relying upon the good faith and friendly disposition of the Government of the United States, the Stockbridges, in 1819, sent delegates to Washington for the purpose of laying before Congress their grievances and obtaining redress. In this, however, they were disappointed; and, after much delay and many ineffectual attempts at negotiation, finding themselves in great embarrassments, and knowing the wishes of their people to emigrate, the delegates entered into an agreement, in 1821, with the honorable John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War, by which they agreed that their nation would relinquish to the United States all their claim to the lands upon White river which had been (as already stated) sold by the Delawares. This relinquishment was made, however, upon the following conditions: the United States was to pay to them the sum of three thousand dollars; to use *every influence to enable the Stockbridges to make a suitable purchase of land for their use*, from the western tribes; and at the same time the assurance was given to them *that their claim upon the Delawares was still good*, and that the United States *would induce the latter to do ample justice to the former*. Immediately after this arrangement was entered into between the Stockbridge nation and the Secretary of War, permission was obtained from the Government to negotiate a treaty with the Menomonies and Winnebagoes, for a tract of country of sufficient extent to accommodate the people of the tribe, and other nations then residing in New York. It is unnecessary for your memorialists, at this time, to state the difficulties which attended that negotiation, and the expenses and labor which those tribes were subjected to in order to attain their desires. It is sufficient at present to show that, by the sanction and under the solemn pledge of the Government of the United States to use its influence to obtain for them a permanent home, the Stockbridge nation sent several deputations to the west, during the years 1821 and 1822, and, with much difficulty and at great expense, at last succeeded in making a purchase of a

tract of land adequate to their wants ; and they then hoped they had obtained a home where they could repose in safety and peace. But in this expectation they were again disappointed. Disputes arose between them and the Menomonies and Winnebagoes. These differences continued until 1832, when a treaty was concluded between the United States and the latter tribes, by which a large tract of valuable land (included in the purchase previously made by the New York Indians) was ceded to the United States. By this treaty the Stockbridges and Munsees (about 450 in number) were allowed but two townships, or about seventy square miles of land ; and the remainder of their purchase, situated on the east side of Fox river and Green bay, was ceded by the Menomonies to the United States. Although much has been said in respect to the title of the Stockbridges to the country by them purchased of the Menomonies and Winnebagoes in the years 1821 and 1822, yet it has never been denied that they paid a valuable consideration for those lands, and that their treaties were the basis upon which was founded the subsequent purchase by the United States of a valuable tract of country. From the sale of a small portion of the lands ceded by the treaty of 1832, the Government has already derived a sufficient revenue to reimburse the whole amount expended in its purchase, and by far the largest portion of the country still remains unsold.

Your memorialists would further state, that they are now far advanced in civilization and improvement ; that, long since, they have quitted the hunter's state, and adopted the customs of the whites. They have abandoned the Indian habits, and now obtain their livelihood by agricultural pursuits. They have exchanged the barbarous customs of their ancestors for those which are congenial to Christianity and civilized life. At the time of negotiating the several treaties with the Menomonies and Winnebagoes, they hoped they would be permitted to settle and remain upon their new purchase, so long as they were a nation ; that, after having once abandoned their homes and the lands made sacred to them, as containing the graves of their fathers, they would at last be suffered to live in peace. But in this they were again disappointed.

After having sold the whole of their possessions in New York, and expended the last dollar of the consideration money in the removal of their people and the improvement of their homes ; after having relinquished and abandoned their claim to the White river lands, upon the solemn pledge of the officers of the Government to use their influence in obtaining for them a permanent home in the west ; your memorialists have been compelled, from necessity, to sell to the United States one-half of all that remained to them of the extensive purchase by them made from the Menomonies and Winnebagoes. In negotiating the several treaties, and in the removal of their people, the Stockbridges expended, not only the whole of the three thousand dollars which they received for their claim to the White river lands, but also the money which they received from the State of New York for their lands in that State. And they have long been involved in pecuniary embarrassments, which compelled them to sell half of their lands on Winnebago lake : even this has not entirely released them from their difficulties ; they are still in debt. The land still reserved by them, being held in common with the Munsees, contains but a sufficient quantity to allow to each individual little more than 50 acres.

In February, 1838, a treaty was made and concluded between the United States and the Oneida nation, now at Green Bay. By this treaty, the

Oneidas relinquished their right and claim to all lands by them acquired under the several treaties of 1821, 1822, and 1832, to the United States, saving and reserving to that tribe a sufficient tract to allow each individual one hundred acres. As a consideration for this relinquishment, *but more especially to reimburse the said Oneida nation for the money expended in the purchase from the Menomonies and Winnebagoes, and to remunerate their chiefs and agents for their services in effecting those treaties*, the United States agreed to pay to them the sum of thirty thousand five hundred dollars; which sum has been since apportioned, under the direction of the President.

Your memorialists heard, with pleasure, that such a treaty had been made between the United States and their brethren the Oneidas. They were well pleased, because they believed it was right, and that the Oneidas were entitled to all they received; and they rejoiced, because it opened to them a prospect that their just claims would not be entirely overlooked by the same Government which had thus so liberally answered the demands of others similarly situated with themselves.

And now your memorialists, having made known to the great council of the nation a few of their grievances, appeal, with confidence, to its justice, its magnanimity, and its humanity. They ask with humility, but, at the same time, with a firm conviction that their demands are *reasonable* and just, and they believe that the justness of their claims need only be made known to insure redress from the representatives of a great nation.

The Stockbridges are the remnant of a once powerful and warlike people. Like snow before the noon day sun, they have dwindled down to less than a moiety of what they once were. Although always friendly to the United States, still they have shared the common lot of their race. They have been driven before their white brethren from the east to the far west. From necessity or compulsion have they been obliged to abandon their old fires. The ties of kindred and country have been severed, and their old homes, rendered sacred as containing the ashes of their friends and the graves of their ancestors, have been transferred to a different race, so that scarcely a vestige remains to remind them of their once happy homes.

Several years since they abandoned their old possessions, and removed to the west, under the protection of the United States, and acquired from the Menomonies a tract of land in the vicinity of Green Bay, hoping that the purchase made under the sanction of the Government would be secured to them, and they be permitted to rest in peace. They accordingly sold out their lands in New York, and turned the avails of said sale to the removal of their people. Having removed from well-cultivated lands, surrounded by both grist and saw-mills, and every other thing necessary to supply their wants and contribute to their comforts, they settled upon their new purchase. They were then happy; but, finding the encroachments of their white neighbors to be troublesome, and not being possessed of sufficient land to supply the necessities of their people, they resolved to remove to a country where both these objections might be obviated. Scarcely had they reached their destined homes, and commenced the cultivation of the soil, ere they were again called upon to remove. By the treaty of 1832 the Stockbridge and Munsee tribes were restricted to two townships of land, which lay on the east side of Lake Winnebago, several miles from their then residence. They were, in this case, obliged to abandon all their improvements which they had made in the course of ten years; and, after hav-

ing expended much labor and all their means in building mills and houses, and improving their farms, they were obliged to remove to their new location. For the improvements thus abandoned they received from the United States barely sufficient to reimburse them for the money expended in their erections. The nation was compelled to contract new debts, to enable them to live until, by their labor, they could again clear and improve their farms. To discharge these debts, they have been compelled to make an entire exhaustion of their only national fund; and, finally, have been obliged to dispose of half their lands at Green Bay, to discharge old debts which were pressing upon them. Thus are they reduced to a condition worse than when resident in New York. They have left to them a tract of country barely equal to their old possessions, with this disadvantage: their old lands were good farms, well cultivated; they had mills, a church, and other advantages; here, they are in a new country, with land which, although good in quality, requires much labor and time to bring it into a good state of cultivation.

And now a statement of a part of their expenses in removing and purchasing the lands at Green Bay is herewith presented, viz:

GREEN BAY, MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

August 18, 1821. To goods advanced to the Winnebagoes and Menomnies on the treaty concluded with them of this date	\$537 17½
Cash and other outfits furnished the delegates (six persons, including one Munsee delegate) attending said treaty	1,000 00
Sept. 16, 1822. To paying the Winnebagoes and Menomnies, agreeably to last year's treaty, in goods	1,257 75
Sept. 23, 1822. To paying the Menomnies agreeably to a treaty concluded with them of this date	1,006 00
To expenses attending the delegation, support and maintenance of said Winnebagoes and Menomnies at said payment and treaty	1,018 89
To expenses for the maintenance, transportation, and supplies of the colony left at Green Bay immediately after the last treaty	1,670 99
[NOTE.—Near the close of the year 1822, the nation borrowed of individuals, to meet the foregoing expenses, at 7 per cent., cash \$4,000.]	
Jan. 1, 1834. To cash paid up to this time, being the interest of the public debt	2,800 00
To cash paid on the principal of the public debt	1,000 00
Jan. 1, 1838. To cash paid on the interest of the public debt up to this date	840 00
June, 1839. To cash paid on the balance of the national debt	3,540 00
Amount of moneys expended in the removal of the Stockbridge tribe to White river and Green Bay, commencing the year 1818, to the present time; including cost of supplies, implements of husbandry, agents, &c. &c.	66,343 13

Upon this simple statement of facts your memorialists believe they may confidently rest their cause, and that it will not fail to obtain for them the

relief which they so much require. Yet they cannot close without recurring again to the treaty of 1838 with the Oneidas. It cannot be denied that the Stockbridges were amongst the first tribes who visited the west, in 1821; and that their delegates were mainly instrumental in obtaining the cession of lands from the Menomonies and Winnebagoes in 1821 and 1822; and were at much more trouble, and bore a larger share of the expenses of that purchase, than either of the other tribes. Neither will the Stockbridges lose any thing in comparison with their brethren, in point of civilization, improvement, or in devotion and friendship to the American Government.

Your memorialists would, therefore, ask your honorable body that a law may be passed, making an appropriation of a sum equal to the sum allowed to the Oneidas under the treaty of 1838, to remunerate the chiefs and agents of the Stockbridge nation for their services and expenses in obtaining a title to the lands now owned by the United States, and originally purchased by them and the other New York tribes; and to reimburse the said nation for the moneys they have advanced in making the treaties of 1821 and 1822. And they would further ask that a provision may be made, either by law or otherwise, that the said Stockbridge nation *shall be forever secured* in the possession of their present reservation on Winnebago lake, in the Territory of Wisconsin.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Done in council, at Stockbridge, this 4th day of December, A. D. 1839.

Austin E. Quinney, (sachem) his x mark.

John N. Chicks

Timothy Jordan

Jacob Chicks,

his x mark.

Benjamin Palmer,

his x mark.

Captain Porter

Counsellors.

John Metoxen

John Turkey

William Garder

Harvey Johnston

Simon S. Metoxen

Garret Thompson,

his x mark.

Benjamin Pye,

his x mark.

Abram Pye,

his x mark.

'Thos. Scanando

John Littleman

Jeremiah Johnston,

his x mark.

John W. Quinney

Benjamin Pye, (1st)

his x mark.

Isaac Jacobs,

his x mark.

Isaac Littleman,

his x mark.

James Joshua,

his x mark.

John Killsnake,

his x mark.

Moses Charles,

his x mark.

Peter D. Littleman

Aaron Nimham

Benjamin Pye, (2d) his x mark.
 Aaron Turkey
 Benjamin Yoocum
 Joseph M. Quinnukkuut
 Jos. L. Chicks
 Jeremiah Slingerland
 John W. Abrams
 John X. Pickway
 Josiah Chicks
 Daniel David
 George Bennett
 John Wilber
 Samuel Miller.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Green Bay, certify that we have perused the foregoing memorial of the sachem and chiefs of the Stockbridge nation of Indians, and that we believe the facts therein stated to be a true statement of their case; and we cheerfully recommend the passage of a law or a treaty being made as therein prayed for, believing them fully entitled to such relief, as well from the exertions made by them in obtaining a title from the Menomonies, as from their good moral character and deportment.

GREEN BAY, *December 13, 1839.*

H. S. BAIRD,
 DANIEL WHITNEY,
 A. J. IRWIN,
 WILLIAM MITCHELL,
 JOHN LAWE,
 THOMAS GREEN,
 CHARLES TULLÉN,
 PETER B. GRIGNON,
 GEORGE McWILLIAMS,
 GARDNER CHILDS,
 D. P. BUSHNELL,
Act'g Ag't Ind. Aff's at Lapointe, W. T.
 JOHN P. ARNDT.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
 Comptroller's Office. }

I certify that, from an examination of the books of this office, it appears that the sum of sixty-six thousand three hundred and forty-three dollars and thirteen cents has been paid to the Stockbridge Indians in pursuance of the provisions of the several treaties held with said Indians for the purchase of their lands from the 1st day of January, 1818, to the present time.

A. C. FLAGG, *Comptroller.*

ALBANY, *January 31, 1839.*

STOCKBRIDGE, WISCONSIN TERRITORY,
December 12, 1839.

SIR: Your red brethren of the Stockbridge tribe have requested me, who am their present sachem, to forward to you their petition to Congress, which you will herewith receive. They wish, and do respectfully ask, through me, your kind attention to it.

I would also avail myself of this opportunity to express to you my hearty approbation of the choice they have made in selecting you for their friend in reference to the matters contained in said petition, and confidently hope that you will certainly comply with the wishes of your red brethren, by making it your special charge in its passage through the present Congress. Notwithstanding the length of this petition, still the half is not shown. The actual expenses incurred by the tribe for nearly one hundred years, in and about our White river grant, are all passed over. In like manner have been the losses sustained by those individuals who arrived at White river immediately after the land was sold. They remained on the land for nearly four years, and were obliged to sustain themselves, (because the tribe was too poor to afford them any pecuniary assistance,) and afterward removed themselves to Green Bay. As I happened to be of this unfortunate party, so I do know that, aside from bodily sufferings, we actually suffered the loss of all our private property, for which twelve thousand dollars would hardly make restitution. But these have been passed over, because we had no written accounts of them. I have mentioned them for this purpose—to show that we have suffered losses, in the sale of our land at White river, more than persons unacquainted with our history, or with those facts above alluded to, may naturally suppose; and yet these and all our other troubles would never have been mentioned, had not our subsequent arrangements with the Winnebagoes and Menomonies, for lands at Green Bay, been deranged. But enough is already given to show the necessity with which we are compelled to make the present application for relief. To the end that you may be furnished with every necessary information, I have deemed it proper to send you a copy of the speech of the delegates for the Delaware, Muh-he con-new, or Stockbridge and Munsee tribes, to President Jefferson, in the year 1808, upon the subject of our White river grant. It is in the handwriting of Captain Hendrick, who was one of the principal chiefs of the Stockbridge tribe. As a public document, it is much to our present purpose, as showing, in the most conspicuous and disinterested manner, the original understanding of that grant, and the anxiety manifested by those tribes to have it secured to them and their posterity forever. I deem it sufficient to say, in addition, that nine days afterward an answer was given, (which was very kind,) and the instrument, acknowledging the equal right of these three tribes to the White river lands, was at the same time signed, sealed, and witnessed by the President and Secretary of War, being the same instrument adverted to in our memorial, and as being left on file in the War Department. If this instrument cannot be found, as was intimated by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs in the Senate the last winter, see document on file in the War Department, bearing date March 17, 1821, signed by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) and Jacob Kenkapot and Solomon Hendricks, Stockbridge delegates, where the same is particularly referred to.

I wish to tell you a little about the blank space at the end of our memorial, or between it and our signatures, which happened by the following circumstance, viz: After the same was signed by the majority of the people, it was proposed to insert the account of our national expenditures for and on account of the lands at Green Bay, together with the expenses attending our removal thither, &c., &c., into the memorial; which was finally agreed

to, and, in doing which, that happened; but, as already intimated, by the knowledge and consent of all the signers.

In reference to the sundry payments stated to have been made to the Winnebagoes and Menomonies, I believe they will compare with those acknowledged by them in their treaties with us. If we could have access to our agents—say Mr. John Sargeant, (who accompanied our deputies, and assisted in holding the treaty of 1822: we could have substantiated by him the other items of expenses we were at in furnishing supplies of provision to the Winnebagoes and Menomonies which came together at that time) Messrs. Nathan Davis, John Hadcock, Samuel Hubbard, all of the State of New York, who were employed, at our expense, by the government of the State of New York, to superintend our removal into Green Bay—by each of these gentlemen we could have substantiated, officially, the sundry amounts of money employed by them to effect our removal; supplies of provisions, &c., purchased by them, and the amount they were paid for their services; but as we could not have access to them, for the reason that they have scattered off into the different States and Territories of the United States, we procured the last winter a certified statement from the Secretary of the State of New York, showing the amount, in gross sum, that had been paid to the tribe by that government for lands, commencing with the time of our emigration to White river and Green Bay, in the year 1818, which is the same set down in our memorial. This document is also herewith sent to you, in the hope it will be of service.

I wish it to be clearly understood that we are alone in this petition. The Munsees from the State of New York, whom we have always borne upon our backs, have not, and cannot, set up a claim like ours, for they have never done any thing themselves, or paid any thing; and the Delawares are willing that they should have lands with them on the Missouri, but are not willing that we should have any, or a share of the annuities arising from the sale of the White river lands. This fact we could prove by the Reverend J. F. Schermerhorn, in whose presence this was decided by the general council of the Delawares on the Missouri, in 1837.

In regard to the plan of memorializing Congress for the privileges of citizenship by the tribe, I deem it proper to inform you that a majority of the tribe are opposed to it. The ostensible reason, that deserves mentioning as against the measure, is *poverty*. They have an example set before their faces. The Brotherton Indians have obtained the privilege, at an expense, as far as they have gone, of one thousand five hundred dollars: say those opposed, "we can never pay." But one thing is certain: the people will not, and cannot, remain long in their Indian state. I think if their neighbors (the Brothertons) prosper under it, it will have a great tendency to change their minds.

For your information, I will here just add that our Stockbridge friends, to the number of about fifty or sixty, old and young, together with all the Canadian Munsees and Delawares, have gone off for Missouri. They left here near two months since. How far they have gone we have not heard. If any change has been experienced since their departure, it is for the better.

I have now stated, in the best manner I am capable of, and in my own way, all that appears to me necessary, and which I think may contribute to a fairer understanding of our case. I have only to regret that our petition could not have been sent to you sooner; but still, in your hands and under your charge, I can yet hope for the ultimate passage of a bill in

answer thereto. I conclude with hopes of your continued health and prosperity in all business committed to your charge, and subscribe myself

Yours, very respectfully, &c., &c.,

his
AUSTIN × E. QUINNEY,
mark.

Sachem of the Stockbridge tribe.

Hon. J. D. Doty.

Speech of the Wapanakeh and Delaware chiefs to President Jefferson, in 1808.

To the President of the United States of America :

FATHER : The chiefs of Wapanakeh, (to wit : Delaware, Muhheconnuh, and Monsey nations,) have sent us here as deputies to talk with you in their behalf. They sent their salutations to you and to your great wise men, who are sitting around the great council-fire to deliberate upon the welfare of your great nation.

We are glad that the Great and Good Spirit has given us such a father, who always condescends to listen to the cries of his red children.

Father : Our duty, in the first place, is to mention something of the situation of our ancestors in their days ; also, our situation at this present period.

We are the descendants of those tribes which your forefathers found on the banks of the Delaware and Hudson rivers. They were the original owners of that country. They were then powerful. Your forefathers at that time were small as children ; at which time our forefathers had pity on them, and put them in their bosom, and gave them land to live on, when your forefathers had no land.

Father : We are sensible that you have great business before you every day ; therefore we will endeavor to shorten our talk as much as in our power. We omit to mention the causes and circumstances which took place since that time until this period, which produced this great change, and the means used by which the white people were enabled to obtain the whole of our native country ; by which means we were compelled to move from place to place. And since the different tribes have made peace with the people of the United States, we have had convenient time to reflect on the rough path which we have been induced to follow ; we wish to follow it no further.

We have been seeking a habitation for our tribes for a number of years, and at last have settled down on the lands along the White river, or Wape-kommekeke, a number of years past, where we wish to collect all our scattered friends, to promote each other's welfare, and to maintain peace and unity among our grandchildren—the different tribes about us—over whom we have great influence, who are apt to listen to our counsels.

The land which we now inhabit was granted by the Miamies and Pottawatomies, which they renewed last September, in their general council held at Fort Wayne, in presence of the agent of Indian affairs, Captain Wells, and the commanding officer of that place. They granted to us

to occupy and possess said land for the benefit and behoof of our tribes and their posterity, but prohibited the right of selling the same—but took us in as joint-owners of said land or country. Lest this grant should fall into the hands of the white people, they gave us no writing at the time this took place; but, for better security, they have given us wampum, instead of a written deed. Our chiefs are doubtful with regard to such pledges in such a case; and, indeed, experience ought to teach us the weakness of such a measure.

By observing the population of the United States, it appears to us that all Indian claims on that country will be extinguished by the white people before long. The land on which we wish to dwell all our days will inevitably be sold from under the feet of our poor children after us. In that case, what will become of them? (if this be the case.) They will assuredly be compelled to disperse once more. We dread that evil very much. In spite of the pledges of wampum which were given to us, we may yet, in our day, see the evil consequences we so much dreaded, unless something should be done to prevent it in time.

Father: What we have stated above has induced us to lay our case before you as your children. We know you are wise; your laws are just and strong. We likewise believe that you will not see us suffer, when it is in your power to assist us; for we are now small and poor: we have no sure habitation, and we are in about the same situation (in some cases) as your ancestors were when they first found our forefathers. You are now great—very great. You reach almost to the heavens in eminence. You are known from all over the world. You claim almost the whole of this great island, and other riches. Therefore, we earnestly request you to take pity on us; to give us such a writing as would prevent the evil consequences which we have stated above; or such other measures as you, in your wisdom, may point out to that effect.

Father: We wish to follow the path which you have pointed out for your red children to follow. But you well know that a little child cannot walk without the assistance of its parents; therefore, we trust that you, as our father, will assist us, so that we may be enabled to walk.

May the Great and Good Spirit bless you and your great counsellors with unity of sentiment in all your deliberations.

In behalf of the chiefs of Wapanakeh:

HENDRICK AUPAUMUT,

Chief of the Muhheconnuh Nation.

TOMAQUA BEAVER,

Chief Warrior of the Delawares.

Signed in presence of—

WILLIAM WELLS, *Indian agent.*

CITY OF WASHINGTON, *December 12, 1808.*

A true copy from the original, which I delivered to the President on the 13th.

HENDRICK AUPAUMUT.