

BESIAH, AN INDIAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 184.]

JUNE 7, 1844.

Mr. COLLAMER, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred a bill entitled  
"An act for the relief of Besiah, an Indian," report :*

That the land reserved to said Besiah, by the treaty with the Pottawat-  
omie Indians, and which he now asks privilege to locate, has all been  
located and at his disposal, agreeably to said treaty, as said committee are  
informed by the accompanying letter of T. H. Crawford, and therefore  
report that said bill ought not to pass.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Office Indian Affairs, March 13, 1844.

SIR: As a reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, in which you ask to  
be informed respecting the action that has been had on the subject of  
Besiah's reservation, I have the honor to state, that, from the land ceded to  
the United States by the treaty of October 27, 1832, with the Pottawat-  
omie Indians of Indiana and Michigan, a reservation of four sections was  
made for Besiah.

On the 5th of October, 1835, the President conditionally approved the  
location of two of Besiah's sections, viz: sections 13 and 14, in township 31  
of range 4 east, Indiana; and in January, 1839, they were unconditionally  
approved by the President.

On the 29th of March, 1837, section (fractional) 36 in township 37 of  
range 8 west, 2d meridian, and section 6, in township 36 of range 7 west,  
Indiana, were allotted by the President of the United States to Besiah,  
in lieu of sections 18 and 20, township 31, of range 11 east, Illinois, which  
had been previously selected, but the selection set aside.

It appearing that the two sections first above named had been sold, either  
in whole or in part, by the United States, as public lands; and Besiah, the  
reservee, through his agent, alleging that the two other sections were use-  
less to him, the land being worthless, application was made to me, at  
various times, to permit a relocation to be made of the entire reservation.  
I duly considered the proposition, and decided that, as (under the con-  
struction given to the grant by the Attorney General) the reservee can sell  
only to the United States, it is inexpedient to change the selections. That

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decision was communicated to the attorney of Besiah on the 3d of August, 1840, since which time no further action has been had by this office upon the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

**T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.**

Hon. S. C. SAMPLE,

*House of Representatives.*