

## 'The Speech of the Schaacticook Indians.'

FATHER

We are glad that the Governor sees his Children now before him,  
We are small in Number but next time we hope we shall be more.

Your Honour may see that we are but young and unexperienced,  
our Antient people being almost all Dead, so that we have no  
Body to give us any advice but we will do as our fathers have  
done before us. Gave a Belt.

FATHER

This Belt came from our Forefathers and we will be true  
and faithfull, to the King as they were. Gave a Belt

They gave also to the Governor a small Bundle of Skins &  
desired that the Sale of Rum might be Stopped at Schaacticook  
and that if they want it, they will come and buy it at Albany.

## The Speech of the River Indians.

FATHERS.

We are greatly rejoiced to see you all here. It is by the  
Will of Heaven that we are met here, and we thank you for this  
Opportunity of seeing you altogether as it is a long while since  
we have had such a one.

FATHERS. Who sit present here We will just give you a short  
relation of the long Friendship which hath Subsisted between the  
white people of this Country and us. Our forefathers had a Castle  
on this River, as one of them walked out he saw something on  
the River, but was at loss to know what it was, he took it at first,  
for a great Fish, he ran into the Castle and gave Notice to the  
other Indians. Two of our forefathers went to see what it was,  
and found it a Vessel with Men in it. They immediately joined  
hands with the People in the Vessell and became Friends. They  
white people told them they should not come any further up the  
River at that time and said to them they would return back from  
whence they came and come again in a Years time. According  
to their promise they returned back in a Years time and came as  
far up the River as where the Old Fort stood, Our forefathers  
invited them a Shore and said to them, here we will give you a  
place, to make you a Town, it shall be from this place up to such  
a Stream (meaning where the Patroons Mill now Stands) and from

the River back up to the Hill. Our Fore fathers told them tho' they were now a small People they would in time Multiply and fill up the Land, they had given them. After they were a Shoar sometime, Some other Indians who had not seen them before, looked feircely at them and Our Forefathers observing it & seeing the white People so few in Number, lest they should be destroyed took and Sheltered them under their Arms; but it turned out that those Indians did not desire to destroy them, but wished also to have the said White People for their Friends At this time which we have now spoken of, The white People were small, but we were very Numerous and strong. We defended them in that low state, but now the Case is altered. You are Numerous and strong we are few and Weak, Therefore we expect that you will Act by us in these Circumstances as we did by you in those we have just now related.

We view you now as a very large Tree which has taken deep Root in the Ground, whose Branches are spread very wide, We stand by the Body of this Tree and we look round to see if there be any who endeavour to hurt it, And if it should so happen that any are powerful enough to destroy it we are ready to fall with it.

Gave a Belt

FATHERS

You see how early we made Friendship with You, We tied each other in a very strong Chain, that Chain has not yet been broken, We now clean and rub that Chain to make it Brighter and stronger, And we determine on our part that it never shall be broken, and we hope you will take care that neither you or any one else shall break it, And We are greatly rejoiced that Peace and Friendship have so long subsisted between us

Gave a Belt

FATHERS

dont think strange at what we are about to say, We would say something respecting our Lands when the White People purchased from time to time of us, they said they only wanted to purchase the low Lands, they told us the Hilly Land was good for nothing and that it was full of Wood and Stones; But now We see People living all about the Hills and Woods altho' they have

not purchased the Lands—When we enquire of the People who live on these Lands what right they have to them, they reply to us, that we are not to be regarded, and that these Lands belong to the King, but we were the first possessors of them, and when the King has paid us for them, then they may say they are his. Hunting now is grown very Scarce and we are not like to get our livings that way. Therefore we hope our Fathers will take care that We are paid for Our Lands that we may live.

Gave a Belt

Make a present of a bundle of Skins.

The Board then Adjourned to 3 o Clock this Afternoon.

At a Meeting &c Monday 8 July  
1754. P. M.

**PRESENT**

All the Commissioners except Colo Atkinson, Mr Norris, and the Commissioners for Maryland.

The Board proceeded in their Consideration upon the plan for a Union but did not go thro' with it.

The Speech proposed to be made to the 6 Nations was returned to the Board from his Honour with the Alterations and Additions proposed by the Board this Morning.

**ORDERED**

That the said Speech lay upon the Table till some further matters relating to it be agreed on by the Board.

The Committee Appointed in the Morning to be present with the Lieut Governor of New York at a Conference with the Connojahery Indians returned from the same and Reported as follows

That his Honour enquired of the Indians whether they had not expressed themselves Satisfied with the Measures he had taken concerning their Lands and the Promise that he would enquire further into the Affair when he came to New York. To which they replied. That they were sensible his Honour was at Albany when they made their Complaints at New York last Year—that he had told them he had now left the Papers there, but would enquire into it when he came there—That they were

willing to try one Year more and if matters were not made up by the Governor whom they looked upon as their Elder Brother, but neglected as they used to be, they would send to all their other Brothers (pointing to the Commissioners) for their Assistance— And that they agreed to this the rather as there were French Indians in Town and they did not think it convenient to have any Difference before them. Upon which his Honour again assured them he would enquire into their affairs in order to their being Satisfied especially as he had the Kings orders for it.

The Board receiving a Message from his Honour that the Sachems of the Six Nations were attending to be spoke to.

The Board adjourned to 9 oClock to Morrow Morning and waited upon the Governor.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany  
on Tuesday the 9 July 1754. A. M.

**PRESENT**

Joseph Murray and William Smith Esq<sup>rs</sup> of the Council of  
New York

All the Commissioners Except Coll<sup>o</sup> Partridge & M<sup>r</sup> Hopkins

The public Conference between his Honour the Lieut Governor of New York and the Commissr<sup>s</sup> from the Several Governments with the Sachems of the Six Nations Yesterday Evening was read and ordered to be entered as follows.

**BRETHEREN**

You told me your Hearts were deeply concerned at the sad effects which may arise from Selling Rum in your Respective Countries. I will give Orders, that the Laws already made for preventing the Sale of this Liquor among you shall be Strictly put in Execution and whatever further provision in the Law is necessary I will endeavour it shall be made, that you may see I take care of your Health and your peace, which are hurt and disturbed by the use of this Liquor among you of the Five upper Nations. And as to what you of the Mohawks have said, I shall consider how far it may be necessary to restrain the people living round you from selling Rum, and if I can think of a proper remedy for this evil, I will endeavor to apply it.