



Letter to Western Indians from the Meeting for Sufferings

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LOCATION: Swarthmore College

AUTHOR:

SUMMARY: General epistle to western Indians promoting peace and encouraging the education of Indian youth.

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To the Indians living on the North western, and
western borders of the United States, and all others to whom
this writing may come
Brothers,

Hearken to the speech which your friends, called Quakers,
assembled in Philadelphia from several parts of Pennsylvania and
New Jersey &c. now send to you, by their brethren John Parrish,
William Slavery, John Elliot, Jacob Lindley, Joseph Moore, and
William Harkshorne.
Brothers,

When our grandfathers came with Onas over the great waters,
to settle in this land, more than one hundred years ago, they kindled a
large Council fire with your grandfathers, and sat together round it, in
much good will and friendship; smoking the Calumet pipe together,
and they told your grandfathers, that they were men of peace, and desired
to live among you in peace and love, and that their children might also
be careful always to live in the same love one with another, as brothers
of one family.

This Council fire was kept burning with a clear flame
many years, which gave a good light all around the Country; and the
chain of friendship, which was made at the same time, was kept clean
from rust by our fathers, and your fathers; until about forty years ago
an evil spirit whispered bad stories in the ears of some of your people,
and ^{of} some of the white people; so that the light of the ancient council fire
was almost put out, and the old chain of friendship was made dull and
rusty,
Brothers,

Our Grandfathers told your grandfathers that the great and
good Spirit, who made them, and all people, with a design that they might
live on the earth for a few years in love, and good will one towards another,
had placed his law in the hearts of all men; and if they carefully attended to
its inward voice, it would keep them in love and friendship; and teach them
to shun and avoid every thing that would occasion them to trouble and
hurt one another.

Brothers,

Do you not find, that after you have been angry, & quarrelsome,
and done any bad action that you are made uneasy and sorrowful, and that
when you are sober and serious, and do good actions, that your minds feel
pleasant

Transcription

yt f ytf Philadelphia ytf the 19th day of the 4th month, 1793yt f ytf To the Indians living on the North western a
western borders ofyt f the United States, and all others to whom
this writing mayyt f come.

Brothers,yt f Hearken to the speech which your friends, called Quakers,
assembled inyt f Philadelphia, from several parts of Pennsylvania and
and New Jersey Y. nowyt f send to you, by their brethren Johnyt f Parrish,
William Savery,yt f John Elliot, Jacobyt f Lindley, Joseph Moore, and
yt f William Hartshorne.yt f ytf Brothers

When our grandfathers came with Onas over the great waters,
toyt f settle in this land, more than one hundred years ago, they kindled a
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much goodyt f will and friendship; smoking the Calumet pipe together,
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from rust by our fathers, and youryt f fathers; until about forty years ago
an evil spirit whispered bad stories inyt f the ears of some of your people,
and of some of the white people; so thatyt f the light of the ancient council fire
was almost full out, and the old chainyt f of friendship was made dull, and
rusty,yt f Brothers,

Our Grandfathers told your grandfathers that the great and
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its inward voice, it would keep them in love and friendship, and teachyt f them
to shun and avoid every thing that would occasion them to troubleyt f and
hurt one another.yt f Brothers,

Do you not find, that after you have been angry, &yt f quarrelsome,
and done any bad action that you are made uneasy and sorrowful,yt f and that
when you are sober and serious, and do good actions, that youryt f minds feel

pleasant easy and comfortable? It is the Law from the good Spirit, who is all love, and placed it in your hearts, that gives you such peace and comfort when you do well, but when you do evil things, it reproves you, and makes you full uneasy and sad.

Brothers,

We wish you to consider and remember, that the Great Spirit, sees and knows all the thoughts of your hearts, and the hearts of all mankind, and all their actions; and when their bodies die, such men of all colours, and all nations, who have loved, served, and obeyed the holy law of the good Spirit, placed in their hearts, he will receive their Souls, which are never to die, and they will live with him in joy and peace for ever; but the souls of bad men, who have lived wickedly in this world must live, after their bodies die, with the bad spirit, in a state of distress and misery.

Brothers,

We make profession of the same principle with our Grandfathers, which teaches us to love you and all men, and in that love we feel our minds drawn to send you this speech, with a great desire for your good; and we were made glad, when we heard that the sober good people among you, were disposed to promote peace, and brighten the old chain of friendship with the white people of the United States: and that many of you have a desire that you may be instructed in settling the ground, to live after the manner of the white people, which we believe you will find to be more comfortable for you and your families, than to live only by hunting; and we think it will be also good for your young people to be taught to read and write, and that sober, honest, good men should be sent among you for teachers.

Brothers,

We have often told some of your chiefs, when we have had the opportunity of taking them by the hand in this city, that we are not concerned in the management of the affairs of Government, which are under the direction of the president of the United States, and his counsellors; but that we should, at all times be willing to do any thing in our power to promote love and peace.

Brothers,

We greatly desire that the Commissioners who are now sent by the president, and your counsellors and chiefs, may look up to the great Spirit for his wisdom and help; that you may all be made wise and strong, to light up the council fire, and brighten the chain of old friendship; that all things may be settled to satisfaction, and all logs taken out of the road, and a lasting peace established; so that there may be no more difference and war between your people and the Inhabitants of these States.

And we desire you may receive our friends, by whom we

said

Transcription

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We have often told some of your chiefs, when we have had theytf opportunity of taking them by the hand in this City, that we are notytf concerned in the management of the affairs of the Government, which areytf under the direction of the president of the United States, and hisytf councillors; but that we should at all times be willing to do any thing inytf our power to promote love and peace.ytf Brothers,

We greatly desire that the Commissioners who are now sentytf by the president, and your councillors and chiefs, may look up to the greatytf Spirit for his wisdom and help; that you may all be made wise and strong,ytf to light up the council fire, and brighten the chain of old friendship; thatytf all things may be settled to satisfaction, and all logs taken out of theytf road, and a lasting peace established; so that there may be no moreytf difference and war between your people and the Inhabitants of theseytf States.ytf

And we desire you may receive our frien

send this writing in Love, as brothers who are disposed to encourage
you in all good things. And in the antient love which our Grand
fathers and yours felt for each other, we salute you, wishing your
happiness in this life, and in that which is to come, and remain,

Philadelphia the 19th. day of
the 11th. month, 1793 }

Your Friends and Brothers,

Isaac Tane

James Moon

Richard Lawrence

Charles West.

James Pemberton

Samuel Smith (Bank)

John Pemberton

David Bacon

George Churchman

Thomas Lightfoot.

Robert Holliday.

John Simpson.

Simon Meredith

Nathan Cogges

Warner Mifflin.

Nicholas Wain

Joseph Bringhurst.

John Drinker.

David Evans.

Thomas Walsley.

Benjamin Mason.

Samuel Smith.

Samuel Clark.

Owen Biddle.

Daniel Offley.

Mark Miller.

Olivier Paxson.

John Field.

Caleb Carmalt.

Syrhine Mendonhall.

Jesse Foulke.

Thomas Morris.

William Wilson.

Joseph Shotwell.

John Pierie junior.

Abraham Cadwalader.

Thomas George.

Thomas Gaskill.

John Roberts.

Jonathan Evans junior.

David Cumming.

John Wistar.

James Emble.

John E. B.

Examined & compared with the Original, and certified to be
a true Copy — by John Drinker

Transcription

sendytf this writing in love, as brothers who are disposed to encourage
you inytf all good things. And in the ancient love which our Grand
fathers andytf yours felt for each other, we salute you, wishing your
happiness in thisytf life, and in that which is to come, and remain,
Your Friends andytf Brothers,ytf ytf Isaac Zane.ytf James Moon.ytf Richard Lawrence.ytf Charles West.
a true Copy--by John Drinkerytf ytf